

United Church Women's Rally

St. James United Church

A Community of Friends in Faith
330 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9
April 22, 2017



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April 22, 2017: United Church Women's Rally

Minister:

Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

Pianist:

Vickie Styles



Musical Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn: *Worship the Lord* 401

Scripture: Isaiah 58: 1-12 Daphne Coish

Reflection: Worship and Work Betty Pilgrim

Prayer to our God

Prayer of Confession: (unison) God, sometimes we think we are in charge. We forget that You are our Shepherd. We allow fear and worry to overtake us. We make plans, not trusting in Your guidance. Forgive us, we ask. Help us to trust Your love.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

One: God's love is so wide, so broad and so deep that we are forgiven, accepted and offered a new beginning.

All : Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face* 459

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (responsive)

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us lift up our hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.



One: It is indeed right to praise You, O God, for You are the creator of all things and in Your holy wisdom You have given us the gift of visions and the gifts of roots and wings. You opened a path of healing and wholeness for all people. From Sarah to Ruth, to Debra and the prophets, You renewed Your promise of never ending love. In the fullness of time, You sent Your son Jesus Christ to share our human nature. He healed the sick and preached good news to the poor. He proclaimed release to the captive and enslaved.

All: We praise You, O God, for Your word made flesh in Jesus Christ. Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Today we greet the Christ who comes in bread and wine. We shout for joy. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: We now do as Jesus did on the eve of His suffering and death. He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to His friends, saying: *"Eat, this is My body, broken for you; each time you do this, remember Me."* He poured a cup of wine, offered thanks and gave it to His friends saying: *"This is My life. poured out for you; remember Me."* Great and Gracious God, we offer You this loaf and this cup, remembering Christ's death and celebrating His resurrection.

All: Christ has died and Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
One: Send, O God, Your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts that we may be Christ's light in the world.
All: Amen. Amen. Amen.

**Invitation
Distribution**

Prayer after Communion: (unison) May we become what we have received: bread and wine for a hungry world, a blessing for those whose hearts are empty, a light in the darkness.

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* 375

Commissioning and Benediction: (unison) We go out to reveal God's love for all people. We go with renewed hope, inner peace and joyful hearts. Hallelujah!

Musical Postlude



A Brief History

The UCW's mission is to love God; foster Christian commitment, faithfulness, and spirituality; and promote respect and love for all God's creation.



In 1962 the UCW (United Church Women) was created as the successor to the Woman's Missionary Society (WMS), a world mission-oriented service and study group that supported almost 100 active missionaries around the world. The Woman's Association (WA) at that time focused on work in the local church and community. Guilds and Ladies' Aids were the WA's forerunners; in the early years, these units went unrecorded, just doing what needed to be done, spiritually, financially, and socially.

Today, that spirit of generosity continues in active UCWs in congregations, presbyteries, and Conferences from coast to coast to coast, united in expressing their devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

2017 celebrates our 55th anniversary.

Any woman *"willing to contribute her prayers, gifts, and services for the work of the Church"* may join the United Church Women (UCW). Along with providing important networking and social bonding opportunities, the UCW has led discussions on, for example, feminism and restorative justice. *"Indeed", says Moderator Jordan Cantwell, "United Church Women are the 'hands and feet' of the church."*