

October 3, 2021 – World Communion Sunday
(Fourth Sunday of Creation/19th Sunday after Pentecost)

Leading worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Organist: Amy Daziel
Soloist: Glenda Winsor

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

We extend words of greeting in Inuktitut, Arabic and English.

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We light the candle as a sign of Christ's spirit both with and within us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We take time to give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who continue to steward it; we also commit to be an inclusive community for all.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In different people, different lives, different histories,

All: we affirm the living presence of Christ.

One: In varied colours, varied cultures, varied customs,

All: we affirm the living presence of Christ.

One: In diverse nations, in diverse species, in diverse worlds,

All: we affirm the living presence of Christ.

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Holy Mystery, beyond our imagining yet so close to our hearts that Jesus called you Abba, on this World Communion Sunday, may we see the gift of this name. May we recognize that if you are like a father or mother, then all the world is one family. Through the gift of your all-embracing love, may we come to have minds broad enough to celebrate our differences, hearts big enough to love everyone of your children, hands open enough to set a table with space for us all! We pray in the name of Christ who prayed that we be one with you and each other. Amen.

HYMN: "God Who Spread the Boundless Prairie" *More Voices* 53

God who spread the boundless prairie when the ancient oceans died;
brought to birth the tribes and nations born in dignity and pride;
now as one we seek your spirit, reaching for your loving hand,
called by you our great Creator, sharing in this sacred land.

God who came to us in Jesus, loved us, suffered, dies and rose;
guide us well and give us wisdom as the pace of knowledge grows.

Lord remind us when you call us to decisions, ways unknown,
once for always you have promised that we do not walk alone.

God who forms a diverse people, call us to a common task,
grace and strength you freely give us when in prayer we humbly ask.
Races, genders, you have made us different, yet your great intent joins us in

one loving Saviour, sharing Word and Sacrament.

God who raised our rolling foot-hills crowned with mountain peaks beyond;
call us now to love and serve you, joyfully will we respond.
God whose glory past and present lights us on your future way,
now baptize us with your spirit, build tomorrow's church today.

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK

We acknowledge the connection between our work and our worship as we take time to announce what is going on in our congregation and community.

RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS

We acknowledge the ways people contribute to the community of faith and wider community, especially by way of supporting St. James UC financially.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison)

God of the Nations, on this World Communion Sunday, we are reminded of how much we share with others around our world, how much we share in all of creation. As we prepare to share at the table, we give thanks for the many ways we have shared our gifts in service of a more peaceful and united world. In the name of your Christ, we pray. Amen.

SOLO: "Canticle of the Sun"

We Listen

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

We prepare to hear readings from the Bible and other sources of wisdom, lighting candles as a sign that it is God's Wisdom that we seek in our hearts.

READINGS: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Mk 9:38-50

Excerpt from "*Earth, Our Original Monastery*" by Christine Valters Paintner

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

MESSAGE: "Whoever is not against us, is for us"

We Respond

HYMN: "We Gather Here" *Voices United* 469

We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving son God fashions us as one:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
No one is a stranger here, - everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the One we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come share the Lord.
We are now family of which Christ is the head;
though unseen he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come take the bread, come drinks the wine,
come, share the Lord.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: Welcome to this table from tables across our community. Wherever you are, be assured that you are at Christ's table.

All: A table where there are no divisions, where everyone belongs, where everyone is family in God's love.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(see insert)*

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

SHARING IN COMMUNION

One: As we share communion... the bread before you.

All: We share the bread of life, a gift of love that brings life to the world.

(Everyone eats their piece of bread.)

One: I invite you to pick up your cup.

All: We share the fruit of the vine, blessing of love poured out that all may truly live.

(Everyone drinks their wine or juice.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison):*

Bountiful God, through the gift of bread and this cup, you have made us one with you and each other. May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your world. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "O for a World" *Voices United 697*

O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
With justice and with praise.
O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,

where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.

We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

BENEDICTION (Adapted from "Gaelic Blessing" by John Rutter)

The blessing of the running wave to you.

The blessing of the flowing air to you.

The blessing of the quiet earth to you.

The blessing of the shining stars to you.

The blessing of God: Abba, Christ and Spirit
to you and all creation, this day and evermore. **Amen.**

ORGAN POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Lead Minister:

James Ravenscroft, OM

Youth/Christian Education Minister:

Susan Sheppard, DLM

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown

Music Director:

Amy Dalziel

Office Administrator:

Tracy Bishop

Church Custodian:

Bruce Winsor

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: We gather in the presence of the Holy.

All: God is around us and within us.

One: So, we open our hearts.

All: We open our hearts to Love.

One: Let us give thanks.

All: It is good to give thanks and praise.

One: Holy One, God of Gracious Love,
we give thanks for your abundant blessing!

We live in a world touched by your hand.

Wherever we turn, there are treasures to behold

– vast fields and mountains, lakes and rivers, plants and animals – each adapted to its corner of creation.

In this part of your world, the air grows colder
and we wait for a time of withdrawal and reflection.

The creatures around us respond to this invitation

– birds migrate to warmer lands, bears prepare to hibernate, leaves turn colour and begin to fall.

We too prepare as farmers bring in crops
and many of us move indoors for study and contemplation.

You made us self-reflective creatures,
able to ponder our place and consider our impact on one another.

And so, we turn inward once again,
take time to give thanks

and to ponder the connections between us,
to consider our connection with all of creation

with whom we join in praise:

All: O Holy, holy, holy, God,

O God of time and space.

**All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heaven,
creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always!**

(More Voices 203)

God of Liberating Grace,

in this spirit of gratitude we pray as a worldwide community, committed to share your love
for all creation

as lived out in the vision of Jesus.

His witness calls to us over the ages,
inviting us to stand with the vulnerable, overcome divisions
and seek the peace that you alone can give.

Trusting that he is with us even now,
we remember how on the night before his death,

he gathered with his disciples.
While at table, he took bread, blessed and broke it.
He gave it to them saying, "Take, eat, this is my body."
In the same way he took the cup and gave it to them saying
"Take, drink, this cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this whenever you come together in remembrance of me."

**All: Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

(More Voices 204)

God of Abiding Peace,
we give thanks for Jesus' commitment to your vision,
even to death,
and for his risen presence with us as we live into your reign.
May the same Spirit that he breathed upon his disciples
be present now, shared with us and these gifts,
that the meal which we share be our communion in him,
our communion with one another,
our communion with all the world.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour are yours, now and forever.

**All: Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!**

(More Voices 205)

Life and Work – October 3, 2021

We gratefully accept the following donations to the General Fund:

*In memory of Albert Styles from Aubrey and Ruby Hill.

*In memory of Albert Styles from Vera Marshall.

*In memory of Albert Styles from Menetha and Sid Dyke.

*In memory of Albert Styles from Shirley Burse.

We gratefully accept the following donation to the Memorial Fund:

*In memory of Albert Styles from Betty Patey.

We gratefully accept the following donation to the Choir Fund:

*In loving memory of Father and Grandfather Al Penney forever
loved and missed from Linda, Tim, Zoiey, and Lyndon.

We gratefully accept the following donation to the Cemetery Fund:

*In loving memory of mother Mildred Blackwood and brother
Walter Blackwood Jr. from Lorna Jamieson.

Worship Notes:

This Sunday we celebrate World Communion Sunday. Be assured that you can share in communion whether you are in the sanctuary or joining at 11:00 am online. This is possible for two reasons.

First, we understand the gathering at the table to be in time as well as in place, and so a virtual gathering across multiple devices is equally the whole church as people who are in the sanctuary.

Second, while we need for a minister to preside at the table (either an ordained minister, or a diaconal or designated lay minister given permission to officiate the sacraments), we understand their role at the table to be one of connecting the congregation to the wider church. Authority to bless the elements of bread and wine belongs to the whole community and not just the minister.

So, if you are at home, be sure to have some bread and wine/juice so that when everyone in the sanctuary takes part in communion, you can as well. The one restriction is that you need to be online at the same time as the worship service if you wish to share.

Meeting our New Minister:

Now that (Rev.) James has settled into St. John's, he is looking forward to meeting members of our congregation. There are a couple of options for this:

1. A Virtual Mug-Up: Beginning October 6, James is scheduling Zoom meeting on Wednesdays at 10:30 am and again on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in having a virtual chat, connect with Tracy via email (info@stjamesuc.org), or call the office (722-1881) for Zoom invitation details.
2. A Masked Face-to-Face: Alternatively, James is open to come see you for a visit (while maintaining proper health protocols). To arrange a visit, email him at james@stjamesuc.org or give him a call at 351-0983.

The St. James Visitor:

Notice to All Zone Captains: Your mail is ready to be picked up at the church office.

Calling on all members for "OPEN SUBMISSION" of your work.

Do you have a story to tell?

A poem that you have written?

Artwork that you have been working on?

How has your faith helped you through these unrepresented times?

Do you have an announcement that you would like to include for our members?

Submissions will be accepted by the *Administration & Communications Committee*.

Email submission to St. James Office at info@stjamesuc.org with the

subject "Visitor Submission" or drop by the office with your submission. Office Hours: 10am - 2pm Monday - Friday.

Please note: This is a file of submissions we are building for future issues of the "St. James Visitor."

*All entries will be reviewed and edited for grammar and spelling.

*Submit only your own work.

*By submitting, you agree to allow St. James to publish your work.

*All copyright remains with the author.