**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024**

**9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to Covenant United Church …

 A special thank you to our coffee hour volunteers each month! Coffee time is taking summer vacation…..back in September. We are looking for volunteers to host the coffee hour. If you are willing to help, please contact Heather.

 Office hours are Wednesday from 9:00 – 3:30.

  You are all invited to “Lunch on the Lawn” – beginning on Thursday, July 11th, you may bring your lunch, or if you prefer, bring something to share, and a lawn chair to the south lawn of the church for fellowship and refreshment.
Lemonade and water will be provided (Thank you Laura). This will be weekly on Thursdays through the remainder of July. In case of rain, we will meet in the foyer. All are welcome.

 A reminder that there will be no church service August 4th and August 11th. Sunday services will resume August 18th.

(the ringing of the chime)

**INTROIT – VU # 400 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cls9MJkDbgo>

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace!

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE -** *the candle is lit in silence*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND PEOPLE –**

Here in Timmins, the land we call home is the traditional territory of the Mattagami First Nation, Flying Post First Nation, and Matachewan First Nation, home to many Ojibway, Cree, Oji-Cree, Algonquin and Métis people.

**With grateful hearts, we are learning to live sustainably and respectfully in this place.**

**CENTERING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to this summertime place of gathering and of witness.

**We come to worship God as revealed in the risen Christ.**

Open your hearts to the movement of the Spirit within.

**We come to live our faith in a world of need and of opportunity.**

Widen your understanding of the movement of God within and without.

**We come to pray in mind, in body, in spirit, and in action.**

*Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont. Used with permission,*

*Gathering Pentecost 1, 2024*

**PRAYER OF APPROACH –**

**God who seeks justice and abundance for all, we yearn for but have not lived up to your vision of the world. Some live in abundance, while many remain in poverty. Some are treated with dignity and respect, while others are rejected. God of passion and compassion, do not let us be comfortable with the way things are. *(a time of quiet reflection)***

**Help us be part of your work of feeding, empowering, and transforming our communities and our world. Amen.**

*Beth W Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask.*

*Used with permission, Gathering Pentecost 1, 2024*

**HYMN –VU # 625 I Feel the Winds of God**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJnqWONlNT4>

I feel the winds of God today;

today my sail I lift,

though heavy oft with drenching spray

and torn with many a rift;

if hope but light the water’s crest,

and Christ my bark will use,

I’ll seek the sea at his behest,

and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries

my vain regretful tears,

until with braver thoughts shall rise

the purer, brighter years;

if cast on shores of selfish ease

or pleasure I should be,

O let me feel your freshening breeze,

and I’ll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love

and how that love was shown,

lift high the blood-red flag above;

it bears your name alone.

Great pilot of my onward way,

you will not let me drift.

I feel the winds of God today;

Today my sail I lift.

**A QUESTION FOR TODAY:** based on today’s scripture

**HYMN – MV # 92 Like a Rock**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvoAFG5eaRw>

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.

Like the starry night sky God is over our head.

Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.

Like the river runs to the ocean,

our home is in God evermore.

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

**Restoring Lost Languages**

Working hard to keep the Inuinnaqtun language alive

These days, most of us have access to technology that allows us to learn the world’s common languages. But countless languages—including many Indigenous languages—can only be learned from their few remaining speakers.

Revitalizing a lost language, as one of our partners in Nunavut is doing, is an important way to preserve not just the language but also the culture that surrounds it.

The Inuinnaqtun language is the cultural foundation of the Inuinnait people, who live in the central Canadian Arctic. The literal meaning of the word Inuinnaqtun is “to be like an Inuinnaq (a person).” Today, fewer than 600 people can still speak Inuinnaqtun fluently. Many lost the language when they were removed from their communities and sent to residential schools.

Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq/Kitikmeot Heritage Society in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, is working hard to keep Inuinnaqtun alive. One-on-one language immersion sessions with mentors inspire reconnection. Through everyday conversations at home and on the land, mentorship is helping to heal the wounds of systemic oppression.

In partnership with Mission and Service, Inuinnaqtun language mentors get resources to allow them to spend 300 hours a year working with their apprentices to begin to restore the language.

Your gifts to Mission and Service help partners continue to restore language and culture. Thank you.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Ephesians 2:11-22** – The Voice Translation

 Herein is Wisdom.
  **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Mark 6:30-34; 53-56** – The Voice Translation

Herein is Good News.
 **Praise be to God.**

**HYMN – VU # 595 We Are Pilgrims**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbnFjAdF1i8>

We are pilgrims on a journey,

fellow travellers on the road;

we are here to help each other

walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,

let me be as Christ to you;

pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you

in the night-time of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you,

speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,

when you laugh I’ll laugh with you;

I will share your joy and sorrow,

till we’ve seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,

we shall find such harmony,

born of all we’ve known together

of Christ’s love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,

let me be as Christ to you;

pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my servant too.

**REFLECTING ON THE WORD**

**HYMN – MV # 1 Let Us Build a House** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eA_NK4OIQow>

Let us build a house where love can dwell

and all can safely live,

a place where saints and children tell

how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,

rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

**All are welcome, all are welcome,**

**all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where prophets speak,

and words are strong and true,

where all God’s children dare to seek

to dream God’s reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness

and as a symbol of God’s grace;

here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: **(R)**

Let us build a house where love

is found in water, wine and wheat;

a banquet hall on holy ground,

where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,

is revealed in time and space;

as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **(R)**

Let us build a house where hands will reach

beyond the wood and stone

to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,

and live the Word they’ve known.

Here the outcast and the stranger

bear the image of God’s face;

let us bring an end to fear and danger: **(R)**

Let us build a house where all are named,

their songs and visions heard

and loved and treasured, taught and claimed

as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries of laughter,

prayers of faith and songs of grace;

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **(R)**

**OFFERING** -- What we offer as a community of faith is diverse and varied. Bless, O God, our multiplicity of gifts—of time, of talent, and of treasure—that we may engage the world’s complexity with grace and with love. Amen.

**DOXOLOGY -- VU # 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhlFWr897WU>  *(instrumental video)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures high and low;

give thanks to God in love made known:

Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**God, as we offer our time, talent, and treasure;**

**We ask that you bless it and direct it to help the church and its ministry and missional work in the community and the world.**

**From generous and grateful hearts, we offer our gifts for your glory, on earth as in heaven. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**HYMN – MV # 182 Grateful** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cNT8NSG2QE>

**Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,**

**joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.**

**Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,**

**joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.**

You are more than we imagine,

Ancient, Holy, Living Lord.

Even when we doubt your presence

you are faithful to your Word. **(R)**

May our lives proclaim your justice,

may our voices sing your praise.

May our hands work in your service

to the glory of your name. **(R)**

**COMMISSIONING – VU # 648 A Prayer for the Journey** *(spoken in unison)*

God of the Way,

 you are the road we travel,

 and the sign we follow;

 you are the bread for the journey,

 and the wine of arrival.

Guide us as we follow in your way,

 holding on to each other,

 reaching out to your beloved world.

And when we stray,

 seek us out and find us,

 set our feet on the path again,

 and lead us safely home.

**SUNG BLESSING – MV # 209 Go, Make a Diff’rence**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VBWsFrV_G4>

**Go make a diff’rence. We can make a diff’rence.**

**Go make a diff’rence in the world.**

**Go make a diff’rence. We can make a diff’rence.**

**Go make a diff’rence in the world.**

We are the salt of the earth,

called to let the people see

the love of God for all to see.

We are the light of the world,

not to be hidden but be seen.

Go make a diff’rence in the world. **(R)**

We are the hands of Christ

reaching out to those in need,

the face of God for all to see.

We are the spirit of hope,

we are the voice of peace.

Go make a diff’rence in the world.

**Go make a diff’rence. We can make a diff’rence.**

**Go make a diff’rence in the world.**

**Go make a diff’rence. We can make a diff’rence.**

**Go make a diff’rence in the world.**

So let your love shine on,

let it shine for all to see.

Go make a diff’rence in the world.

And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.

Go make a diff’rence in the world. **(R)**

**EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*This service was adapted from a Gathering\* Worship Resource Service 2024. \*Gathering and GatheringWorship.ca, The United Church of Canada.*

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