**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024**

**10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**WITH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**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.With no services on August 4th or August 11th, the office will be closed on July 31st & August 7th.

 The foyer floors are being waxed and polished starting August 5-9th.  If you need to be in church that week please do not come in front entrance and do not walk across foyer floor.  Your cooperation is appreciated! 🧹

 A reminder that there will be no church service on 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 -** *by Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont.*

We light the Christ candle, a sign of the light that lives with us and within us.

**God’s generous light shines out from us!**

We light this candle as a sign of the Christ-light we carry within us.

**We are God’s generous light in the world! Praise be!**

*(the candle is lit)*

**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**

**EMBODIED PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP --** *(inspired by Psalm 19:14)*

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight. O God, our strength and our redeemer!**

**May the thoughts of our minds and the actions of our lives be fulfilment of your love as revealed in scripture and community,**

**O God, our grace and our hope!**

**May the chaos of our days and the peace of our nights, rooted in the words of scripture, bring moments with you,**

**O God, our life and our breath!**

**In the name of Jesus, the Living Word, we ask these things. Amen.**

*Richard Bott, Grace UC Burlington, Ont. Used with permission, Gathering Pentecost 1, 2024.*

**GATHERING HYMN –MV # 10 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Z2gcu7gUc>

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,

she who danced when earth was new.

Follow closely what she teaches,

for her words are right and true.

Wisdom clears the path to justice,

showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,

crying in the marketplace.

Hear the Word made flesh among us,

full of glory, truth, and grace.

When the word takes root and ripens,

peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;

nurture all who seek rebirth.

Spirit-guide and close companion,

bring to light our sacred worth.

Free us to become your people,

holy friends of God and earth.

**A QUESTION FOR TODAY**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

**Facing an Uncertain Future in Lebanon**

Many children in Lebanon are at risk of losing their education.

Hamdan wants to become a doctor someday. As the oldest son, this young teenager dreams big amidst the daily struggles that he and his family face.

Hamdan’s family came to Lebanon several years ago to escape the war in Syria. They can barely afford their monthly rent, food, household expenses, clothing, and medical needs. While his father works in a produce shop, his mother stays at home to care for the family’s four children and two other family members. This family of eight lives on the father’s pay and a small income supplement they receive from the UN.

Like Hamdan, many children in Lebanon are at risk of losing their education because an economic crisis—intensified by the COVID pandemic and the devastating 2020 explosion in Beirut—has plunged their families into poverty. When parents can’t pay school tuition, children face an unstable future. The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) assists Lebanese students and Syrian refugees ages 8‒13 with tuition and fees to secure their education and prevent them from becoming a lost generation.

One thing Hamdan’s parents don’t have to worry about anymore is his education. With tuition assistance provided by MECC to Hamdan and his siblings, they can continue to study until graduation and gain entrance into a university—giving Hamdan a chance to achieve his dream.

Your support through Mission and Service helps remove barriers for teenagers like Hamdan so they can work toward their dreams. Thank you.

**HYMN – MV # 144 Like a Healing Stream**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmehfPn4aso>

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,

Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,

God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,

promising revival and rebirth….like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,

Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,

God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,

yearning for an end to want and need….like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,

Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,

God is carving out a channel in a new direction,

calling for an end to hate and war….like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,

Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,

God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:

God will always challenge and provide!

Like a might sea, like a river strong,

like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION --** *Elaine Bidgood Sveet, First Lutheran, Rugby and Leeds, North Dakota*

Open us to your Spirit, O God. Help us to truly open to you in this time of receiving scripture. Let us do more than go through the motions of worship. Give us fresh perspectives as we receive your word in this time of worship. Give us fresh voices to share your good news with others. Give us fresh hearts and minds to wrestle with your will for us and to find the commitment to strive with passion toward your glory. Be with us in this time of worship. Be in us as we receive your word. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Matthew 3:13-17

Mark 1:9-11

Luke 3:21-22

John 1:32-34

**REFLECTING ON THE SCRIPTURES**

**HYMN – MV # 85 Take, O Take Me as I Am** *(3 times)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDOWiSZrlm0>

Take, O take me as I am;

summon out what I shall be;

set you seal upon my heart and live in me.

**SHARING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of the Candidate

The Questions

Congregational Commitment -

Jesus, Christ, calls us to make disciples of all nations,

And to offer God’s gift of grace in baptism.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament,

Promise your love, support, and care

To the one who is about to be baptised,

as she lives and grows in Christ?

**We do, by the grace of God.**

Affirmation of Faith

The Act of Baptism

Presentation of the Candle

Declaration and Congregational Welcome -

Response - **We are members of the Body of Christ,**

**We are inheritors of God’s promise.**

**In the name of Christ, we welcome you.**

PRAYER AFTER BAPTISM Author: Saint Patrick 5th C

May the strength of God pilot us.

**May the power of God preserve us.**

*(pause)*

May the wisdom of God instruct us.

**May the hand of God protect us.**

*(pause)*

May the way of God direct us.

**May the shield of God defend us.**

*(pause)*

May the kin-dom of God guard us against the snares of evil

and the temptations of the world.

**May Christ be with us,**

**Christ before us,**

**Christ in us,**

**Christ over us.**

*(pause)*

May our salvation, O God,

be always ours this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

**BAPTISMAL HYMN – MV # 161 I Have Called You by Your Name** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0R35mVzftE>

I have called you by your name, you are mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;

read it written in my people, help them grow.

Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,

offer Jesus’ body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;

feel it pulsing in creation’s ebb and flow.

Like the women reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,

hold the hem of Jesus’ robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;

I have given you my Spirit as a sign.

With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;

go and tell my precious people they are mine.

**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 # 79 Spirit, Open My Heart** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUy4kas8WR8&list=PLJ5l-D6vQ_mm4u_ZkFJ1A8xcrqy9TLalH&index=10>

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.**

**As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,**

**Spirit, open my heart.**

God, replace my stony heart

with a heart that’s kind and tender.

All my coldness and fear

to your grace I now surrender. **(R)**

Write your live upon my heart

as my law, my goal, my story.

In each thought, word, and deed,

may my living bring you glory. **(R)**

May I weep with those who weep,

share the joy of sister, brother.

In the welcome of Christ,

may we welcome one another. **(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.

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG -** Go Now in Peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YubJLU7N1Ug>

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there, walking by your side.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen. Amen. Amen

**EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE**

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