**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025**

**TRANSFIGURATION**

**CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**AND CONSECRATION OF THE NEW ORGAN**

 

*(Ring the chime once)*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

You are welcome here at Covenant United Church, where the ordinary is sanctified, where humanity is celebrated in all of its diversity, and compassion is expected. In this place together, we make it a holy place where love can dwell.

 A special THANK YOU to our coffee hour volunteers each month. Volunteering this morning are Heather Laverdiere & Veronica Renken. If you are willing to volunteer for next month, please contact Heather.

 All are invited to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:00 pm on March 4th.

 The Ad Hoc Committee will be meeting on March 5th at 7:00 pm.

 There will be an Ash Wednesday service on March 5th at 11:00 am.

 Office hours for next week will be Friday (March 7th) from 9:00 until 3:30.

 There will be a short congregational meeting following the service on March 9th.

 Reminder to Council members that the annual reports are due by end of February. The annual meeting will be held in April.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** – *Fern Gibbard, Osoyoos, B.C.*

*(light the candle)*

*(Ringing the chime)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP --** *(to be sung by all)* **MV #122 This Is the Day** (Voici le Jour)

<https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=42b57a03e57cf1c0&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA944CA945&sxsrf=AHTn8zoNeSPohy9ygM_gr0fNEflFU14joA:1740501589927&q=More+Voices+%23122+This+is+the+Day+(Voici+le+Jour)&source=lnms&fbs=ABzOT_CWdhQLP1FcmU5B0fn3xuWpA-dk4wpBWOGsoR7DG5zJBjLjqIC1CYKD9D-DQAQS3Z4YjCt_zZKASUdUDKak7O2xbV6aSR8cBlqZmwxbW08gQV4gHRGkemKNKp1eVETtCWdHOuGzfQBZojm-aac9Ve5WXeuTvxGI2NmXhUr3PiB4_p6Z5nNoNyfwm-ydWDyEpXZS9AXFs6ChV-xoE7xE74MQZWccnA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjCnf7Xod-LAxU-MVkFHZaGFUkQ0pQJegQIDhAB&biw=1487&bih=1121&dpr=1#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:947cfd22,vid:3WlibNOjrI8,st:0>

This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad!

This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

Voici le jour que Dieu a fait; nous le vivrons dans la joie.

Voici le jour que Dieu a fait; nous le vivrons dans la joie.

Chantant Allelu! Chantant Allelu! Chantant Allelu!

Nous le vivrons dans la joie.

Chantant Allelu! Chantant Allelu! Chantant Allelu!

Nous le vivrons dans la joie.

This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad!

This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

**PRAYERS OF APROACH** – *Fern Gibbard, Osoyoos, B.C.*

Holy Mystery, we gather here today on Transfiguration Sunday.

**We waited through the days of Advent**

**for the arrival of your child, Jesus.**

**We celebrated the light of his coming**

**throughout Epiphany.**

**Three days from now, we mark ourselves with**

**ashes as we enter into the season of Lent.**

But today, on this special Sunday, we pray

that we may see Christ transfigured before us

and that we will be transformed by your grace

to prepare us to follow Jesus

through the days of Lent. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF CONFESSION** – *John Moses, Aylesford U.C., Aylesford, N.S.*

Gracious God, we are an earth-bound people.

**We distrust the dreamers who tell us that they have envisioned a new and good land, a world united in peace, justice flowing like a mighty river, creation healed and renewed.**

We know the way things are right now.

We know ourselves the reality.

**For every silver cloud, there is a scarred lining.**

**For every glorious summer day, there is a bitter winter day.**

**For every tender seedling of compassion, there is a stubborn weed of hate.**

Open our spirits to glimpse your glory,

**even in unexpected places and people, even in ourselves.**

Forgive our hard-headedness and our hard-heartedness.

**Call us once again your own beloved children and give us grace to believe that we are. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

We are created in the image of God.

When we try to be like Jesus, however imperfectly,

God’s image shines through the muck and grime that clings to us and we begin to discover who we really are.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CONSECRATION OF THE ORGAN AND CENTERING**

The Presentation

Expression of Gratitude

Laying on of Hands

**Psalm 150** – *to be read responsively*

Praise the Lord!

**Praise God in his sanctuary;**

 **praise him in his mighty firmament!**

Praise him for his mighty deeds;

  **praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**

Praise him with trumpet sound;

  **praise him with lute and harp!**

Praise him with tambourine and dance;

  **praise him with strings and pipe!**

Praise him with clanging cymbals;

 **praise him with loud clashing cymbals!**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord!**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM (CENTERING)**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Children and mothers in Ukraine are provided rest and renewal

In the Eastern Carpathian Mountains, far from the chaos of war, a retreat in Tukhlya, Ukraine offers rest and renewal to mothers who have given everything for their families. Supported by Mission and Service partner ACT Alliance, ACT member Hungarian Interchurch Aid has welcomed 135 mothers and their children in the “Happy Family” initiative, providing space for healing and resilience.

 In early January 2025, 18 mothers and their little ones arrived. All had either been displaced by war or lived near the frontlines. Many are exhausted, burdened by grief and overwhelming responsibilities. “I always thought only about my children—their clothes, food, education,” shares Yulia, a mother of five who lost her husband a year ago. “Here, I was able to stop and think about myself.”

 With psychological support, hiking, art therapy, and group sessions, the retreat helps women regain their inner strength. While the women focus on healing, their children participate in creative activities, allowing everyone time for self-care. Many women hesitated before they left home, worried about stepping away from their duties and earnings. “How could I leave everything?” Yulia recalled. “But now I see how much I needed this time to regain my strength and return home with love and energy.”

 For many, this is their first experience receiving psychological
 support. “These exercises helped me understand myself better,” says Nataliya, who fled to Lviv after losing her home. “I learned techniques I can use every day to cope.”

 This retreat is made possible with help from your gifts to Mission and Service. While it cannot erase hardship, it offers
strength for the journey ahead. Your support provides a space for healing, restoring hope, and empowering those in need. Thank you for making a difference.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Exodus 34:29-35

Luke 9: 28-36

**REFLECTING ON THE WORD**

**HYMN – VU #104 We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding**

<https://www.google.com/search?q=VU+%23104+We+Have+Come+at+Christ%E2%80%99s+Own+Bidding&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA944CA945&oq=VU+%23104+We+Have+Come+at+Christ%E2%80%99s+Own+Bidding&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIKCAEQABiABBiiBDIKCAIQABiABBiiBNIBCTQ5NzNqMGoxNagCCLACAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:d25a6c34,vid:xP_V2Edi7m8,st:0>

We have come at Christ’s own bidding

to this high and holy place,

where we wait with hope and longing

for some token of God’s grace.

Here we pray for new assurance

that our faith is not in vain,

searching like those first disciples

for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness;

splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;

Moses and Elijah marvel

as the heavenly voice is heard.

Eyes and hearts behold with wonder

how the Law and Prophets meet:

Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,

stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,

fearful lest our faith decline,

we like Peter find it tempting

to remain and build a shrine.

But true worship gives us courage

to proclaim what we profess,

that our daily lives may prove us

people of the God we bless.

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**DOXOLOGY – VU # 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dM2dUqmLPek>

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,

with a spirit large and free,

that ourselves and all our living

we may offer faithfully.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**God of abundance, receive all we offer today. May each person who is touched by this offering know your love for them. Amen.**

**COMMUNION LITURGY**

God is with us!

**We are not alone!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love, you are beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love, you are creative and self-giving, generously moving. In all the near and distant corners of the universe nothing exists that does not find its source in you. *(based on* ***A Song of Faith****)*

Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;

your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus, the Christ, eternal as your love, our bond to one another. We rejoice with all your people of every time and place, and with angels and archangels, to proclaim the glory of your name:

Sanctus and Benedictus (MV #203)

<https://www.google.com/search?q=MV+%23203+Sanctus+and+Benedictus&sca_esv=42b57a03e57cf1c0&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA944CA945&sxsrf=AHTn8zpYkXi1JWhPeZNDWOeoBQlrSeRS0w%3A1740500563226&ei=U-69Z7W9DZOl5NoPsrnQsQ0&ved=0ahUKEwj1srXund-LAxWTElkFHbIcNNYQ4dUDCBA&uact=5&oq=MV+%23203+Sanctus+and+Benedictus&gs_lp=Egxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAiHk1WICMyMDMgU2FuY3R1cyBhbmQgQmVuZWRpY3R1czIFECEYoAEyBRAhGKABSOs8UNYPWKs5cAF4AJABAJgBjwGgAdoUqgEEMS4yMrgBA8gBAPgBAZgCGKACshXCAgkQABiwAxgHGB7CAgcQABiwAxgewgIJEAAYsAMYCBgewgIGEAAYFhgewgILEAAYgAQYhgMYigXCAggQABiABBiiBMICBBAhGBXCAgcQIRigARgKmAMAiAYBkAYKkgcEMS4yM6AH5Tg&sclient=gws-wiz-serp#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:6602320b,vid:dkvteRx8bSs,st:0>

**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 heav’n, creation sings your praise.**

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

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ, who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers: loving what he loved, living what he taught, and striving to be his faithful servants in our time and place.

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises, and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, “Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying, “This is the new covenant, remember me.”

**We do remember.**

We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again.

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

Memorial Acclamation(More Voices 204)

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Memorial+Acclamation+%28More+Voices+204%29&sca_esv=42b57a03e57cf1c0&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA944CA945&sxsrf=AHTn8zp-VAX0N_lCjmsuA8TdRjBGMXwd0A%3A1740500575632&ei=X-69Z-yRJsWz5NoP64iRiAM&ved=0ahUKEwisvar0nd-LAxXFGVkFHWtEBDEQ4dUDCBA&uact=5&oq=Memorial+Acclamation+%28More+Voices+204%29&gs_lp=Egxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAiJk1lbW9yaWFsIEFjY2xhbWF0aW9uIChNb3JlIFZvaWNlcyAyMDQpMggQABiABBiiBDIIEAAYgAQYogQyCBAAGKIEGIkFSLQ0UABYuhpwAXgAkAEAmAG8AaABvAGqAQMwLjG4AQPIAQD4AQH4AQKYAgKgAsoBqAIQwgIHECMYJxjqAsICFBAAGIAEGJECGLQCGIoFGOoC2AEBwgIUEC4YgAQYkQIYtAIYigUY6gLYAQHCAhoQLhiABBiRAhjUAhi0AhjIAxiKBRjqAtgBAcICFxAuGIAEGJECGLQCGMgDGIoFGOoC2AEBmAMJ8QXMC_1UKFb_TroGBggBEAEYAZIHAzEuMaAHgQI&sclient=gws-wiz-serp#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:eca4e3d8,vid:88022Ei2h7U,st:0>

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

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

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit, we call on you to transform these familiar things, as you continually transform the world around us.

Bless this bread and this cup,

 the grain and the grape,

 the farmer and the harvest,

 the seed and the sower.

So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community, we may taste and see your goodness,

so that we might catch a glimpse of what it is to be in communion with you and with one another.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy,

now and forever.

*Great Amen*(*More Voices* 205) <https://www.google.com/search?q=Great+Amen+%28More+Voices+205%29+&sca_esv=42b57a03e57cf1c0&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA944CA945&sxsrf=AHTn8zq7dMFVnT8t-08w1ZyhoVT_MMiLOw%3A1740500699555&ei=2-69Z7nKIare5NoP0P-k0AY&ved=0ahUKEwj5o7avnt-LAxUqL1kFHdA_CWoQ4dUDCBA&oq=Great+Amen+%28More+Voices+205%29+&gs_lp=Egxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAiHUdyZWF0IEFtZW4gKE1vcmUgVm9pY2VzIDIwNSkgMggQABiABBiiBDIIEAAYgAQYogRIoSZQAFj5GXABeACQAQCYAc8BoAHPAaoBAzItMbgBDMgBAPgBAfgBApgCAqAC3AGoAhDCAgcQIxgnGOoCwgIUEAAYgAQYkQIYtAIYigUY6gLYAQHCAhcQLhiABBiRAhi0AhjIAxiKBRjqAtgBAZgDCPEFeZE374Bcg7q6BgYIARABGAGSBwUxLjAuMaAH5AE&sclient=gws-wiz-serp#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:170e370e,vid:4BIrxo6DxaI,st:0>

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosannah, and amen!**

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosannah, and amen!**

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

The body of Christ, **the bread of life.**

The lifeblood of Christ, **the cup of blessing.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Sharing the Meal

Choir: MV #202 Bread for the Journey

<https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=42b57a03e57cf1c0&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA944CA945&udm=7&sxsrf=AHTn8zp8ZgBhm5xelypZtjO7Ma9G5HPJhw:1740501153046&q=MV+%23202+Bread+for+the+Journey&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwisj9WHoN-LAxXEF1kFHa2QKvoQ8ccDegQIDRAF&biw=1487&bih=1121&dpr=1#fpstate=ive&ip=1&vld=cid:7ef02c60,vid:91wqHB35O6M,st:0>

**Bread for the journey, food for the way.**

**Cup of God’s blessing, tomorrow today.**

**Pain pour la route, pour nos chemins.**

**De Dieu la coupe, aujourd’hui, demain.**

**Bread for the journey, food for the way.**

**Cup of God’s blessing, tomorrow today.**

May this bread nourish us in body, mind, and spirit, and this drink refresh us all.

**Response: Thanks be to God.** *(the elements are shared)*

**All Sing: Bread for the journey, food for the way.**

**Cup of God’s blessing, tomorrow today.**

**Pain pour la route, pour nos chemins.**

**De Dieu la coupe, aujourd’hui, demain.**

**Bread for the journey, food for the way.**

**Cup of God’s blessing, tomorrow today.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

 **Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned:**

**to feed as we have been fed,**

**to forgive as we have been forgiven,**

**to love as we have been loved.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**HYMN – VU # 468 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRS1WJJtzXo>

Let us talents and tongues employ,

reaching out with a shout of joy:

bread is broken, the wine is poured,

Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,**

**pass the Word around, loaves abound!**

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,**

**pass the Word around, loaves abound!**

Christ is able to make us one,

at the table he sets the tone,

teaching people to live to bless,

love in word and in deed express. **(R)**

Jesus calls us in, sends us out,

bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

gives us love to tell, bread to share:

God (Immanuel) everywhere! **(R)**

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

The light of Love has come to us this day.

**We will let it shine in our lives.**

The voice of Love has been experienced here this day.

**We will open our lives to receive it each day.**

The Christ has been present on this mountain.

**We will travel with Christ wherever our journeys may lead.**

Depart from here renewed in your worship, restored in your mercy, and revitalized in your faith. May you meet the days ahead with transformed vigour and determination and the confidence of God’s love planted deep in your heart where it might grow. Amen.

**EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**SENDING SONG –** **MV # 218 May the Love of the Lord**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWi8rt3P6A0>

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.

May God’s love dwell in you, throughout every day.

May God’s countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God’s Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

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