**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024**

**22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



**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! We are looking for volunteers to host the coffee hour November 3rd and December 15th. If you are willing to help, please contact Heather.

 Cathie will be away October 23rd. Please have any announcements to the office by October 21st for the following weeks bulletin.

 Covenant is hosting a Beans and Chili luncheon on Nov. 6th. Dine in or take out. We are looking for volunteers to set up, clean up, cook chili or beans, and bake bread and desserts. If you can help out, please let Joy or Nancy know. The proceeds are going towards Covenant and Outreach (home and food security).

If you know someone who needs comfort, please help yourself to a prayer shawl on the shawl ladder at the back of the sanctuary.

 Red Solo Cup Single serving Soup returns after Thanksgiving. If you have an extra cup or so to donate, please freeze and put in the Kitchen freezer. Red solo cups available for use. Poster on the foyer bulletin board or contact Joy for more information.

 Here at the church on October 22nd at 6:00 pm you are all invited to a Cross Country Check-in as the United Church of Canada enters its 100th year. There are a lot of things happening that you may have questions about. General Secretary Michael Blair says, “We want it to be worth your time. Whatever happens in this meeting will enrich the work of the General Council Executive in their November meetings and beyond.”

 Prayer shawl will be meeting on October 24 from 1-3 pm. All are welcome.

 October is Socktober. Help support local Kinnettes in their sock collection. A box is available in the foyer for your donations.

 For the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism a wide range of speakers will be presenting on Tuesdays (all at 7:00 pm Eastern Time), throughout October and November,. Here is the list for October:

Tuesday, October 15 – The United Nations and the Future of People of African Descent with guest speakers Michael McEachrane and Barbara Reynolds. This was held in the South Room, and two people participated

Tuesday, October 22 – Bold Discipleship: Reflections from the United Church in Saskatchewan with guest speakers Lynn Caldwell, SunDo Hyun, Bernon Lee, Becca Whitla

Tuesday, October 29 – Race Talks from GenZs *(for those of us unsure about who Gen Z refers to, we will be hearing from teenagers and young adults, ages 12-30)* with guest speakers Eli Dunlap, Inzwirashe Munikwa, and Sarah Yang

*(ringing the chimes)*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TERRITORY –**

Today, we acknowledge that we are living and working on territory that has been the traditional home of the Mattagami First Nation, and many Ojibwy, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Metis people; land that is governed under Treaty #9.

**Creator God, you have given wisdom to the First Nations how to live in harmony with nature. Give the rest of us the humility to learn from them and be co-guardians of this beautiful, resilient but fragile planet you have provided for us all. Amen.**

**CENTERING**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES –** *(Fern Gibbard, Penticton U.C., Penticton, B.C.)*

We are thankful in this autumn season of abundance for the richness of God’s grace bestowed upon us; in humbleness, we realize the depth of those blessings.

*(the candle is lit)*

We light the Christ candle to remind us that we are not to hide the light of Christ under a bushel basket or within the walls of a church building, but to take it out into the world so that everyone will know and experience God’s love, peace, and justice.

*(the three pillars are lit)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP –** *(Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont.)*

The call “Come to worship” resounds in our lives,

vibrating in our hearts, stirring the comfort of our days.

**We are called out—**

**challenged to recognize the shortcomings in our lives**

**by our God who is always merciful and forgiving.**

We are called upon—

encouraged to serve our compassionate God, to acknowledge

the injustice in our world and to seek to push back against it.

**We are called in—**

**invited to worship our generous God, whose arms are always open,**

**whose embrace is always waiting to enfold us in love.**

**Come, let us answer the call.**

**PRAYERS OF APPROACH –**  *Alydia Smith and Teresa Burnett-Cole*



*Credit: The United Church of Canada*

God, we’ve come thirsty―thirsty for your Spirit.

**Living water, bubble up from inside us and lead us toward deep spirituality.**

God, we’ve come hungry―hungry for community.

**Bread of life, feed our spirits, and lead us toward bold discipleship in community.**

God, we’ve come searching―searching for wholeness.

**Source of Life, guide us, and lead us toward daring justice.**

God, feed, nourish, and prepare us to be your church in the world.

**Amen.**

**HYMN – MV # 27 Creator God You Gave Us Life**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9ZOmMQeYmU>

Creator God you gave us life,

your image formed within our souls,

yet through the mist of time and space,

we search for that which makes us whole.

**Through hands that paint majestic skies,**

**and voices chanting melody,**

**with words that reach beyond the page,**

**we comprehend your mystery.**

In ev’ry flow’r and ev’ry tree,

we see you great diversity,

yet greater still we see your love,

expressed in our humanity. **(R)**

When with our hearts, our hands our minds,

we share our gifts with all the world,

our spirits soar beyond the veil,

to touch the very face of God. **(R)**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

**An Abundance of Blessings in a Time of Need**

Your generosity offers hope and a sense of community.



*Credit: Lightbox | Lightstock.com*

With your generous support, many Canadian seniors who might otherwise face empty plates this season are able to enjoy nutritious meals and maintain their dignity throughout the year.

The Food Security for Elders program relies on your support to provide grocery cards to Indigenous Elders in the Morley First Nation and Lethbridge, AB area, where access to healthy food is limited. Without your support, these seniors face the harsh reality of choosing between essential needs and nourishing meals. They need your help to ensure their tables are filled with the food they deserve.

In a time of rising grocery prices and economic challenges, your kindness ensures that our most vulnerable neighbours are not left to struggle with food insecurity. Your gifts help transform their experience from one of worry and scarcity to one of comfort and nourishment. With your support, Elders can enjoy healthier meals and maintain their well-being.

Your generosity through Mission and Service gives more than just food; it offers hope and a sense of community. As we continue through our seasons of gratitude, we extend our heartfelt thanks to you for making such a significant impact. Thank you.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Hebrews 5:1-10** – The Voice

**Mark 10:35-45** – New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Let us respond together saying:

**May God bless to our learning and understanding**

**These words from the scriptures.**

**HYMN – VU # 595 We Are Pilgrims**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dbVxEOaxg0>

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 SCRIPTURES**

**HYMN – MV # 135 Called by Earth and Sky**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2tCm5fnyf8&list=PLJ5l-D6vQ_mm4u_ZkFJ1A8xcrqy9TLalH&index=40>

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.**

**This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,**

**called by earth and sky.**

Precious these waters, endless seas,

deep oceans dream,

waters of healing, rivers of rain,

the wash of love again. **(R)**

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;

wind born and free.

Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,

our gathering and our grace. **(R)**

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;

vast fragile land.

Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,

Creation’s faithful song. **(R)**

Precious the fire that lights our way,

bright dawning day.

Fire of passion, sorrows undone,

our faith and justice one. **(R)**

**OFFERING**–

Grateful for the abundance

Of our gifts and the fruits of our labours

We bring our gifts to this altar for the work of this church,

And of the body of Christ in all the earth.

**DOXOLOGY -- VU 227 For the Fruit of All Creation** *(verse 1)*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FDx-MwLdt0>

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,

silent growth while we are sleeping,

future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

*Barbara Johns, Queenswood U.C., Orleans, Ont.*

**We bring the work of our hands.**

**We bring the work of our hearts.**

**These gifts are the love of our hearts.**

**Bless our offering and send your spirit upon it so that our gifts may join the gifts of all your church to help your kin-dom come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**HYMN – VU # 402 We Are One**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Opd8kR0xZss&list=PLJ5l-D6vQ_mm4u_ZkFJ1A8xcrqy9TLalH&index=78>

We are one as we come,

as we come, joyful to be here,

in the praise on our lips

there’s a sense that God is near.

We are as one as we sing,

as we seek, we are found;

and we come needful of God’s grace

as we meet, together in this place.

We are one as we share,

as we share brokenness and fear,

in the touch of a hand

there’s a sense that God is here.

We are one as we care,

as we heal, we are healed;

and we share warmth in God’s embrace

as we pray together in this place.

We are one as we feast,

as we feast, peace becomes the sign;

in the bread and the wine

there’s a sense of love divine.

We are one as we come,

as we feed, we are fed;

and we feel God’s refreshing grace

as we meet at table in this place.

We are one as we hear,

as we hear, heart and hand unite;

in the word we receive

there’s a sense that God is light.

We are one as we leave,

as we love, we are loved;

and we seek justice in God’s ways

as we move together from this place.

**COMMISSIONING --** *(Leigh Sinclair, St. David’s U.C., Beaumont and Leduc, Alta).*

Now, as we turn to go from this place of worship,

may God help us to go as bold disciples.

May God bless our living with deep spirituality and daring justice.

And may we keep thankful for God’s presence and for our life together.

Go, in the name of Jesus, to live with bold and daring faith. Amen.

**EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**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.

*(or:* Watching from above)

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

Amen. Amen. Amen

**POSTLUDE**

**Covenant United Church**

**230 Eighth Ave**

**Timmins, ON**

**(705) 264-5518**

**covenanttimmins@ntl.sympatico.ca**