**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**



*(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 February 2nd will be David Krupka & Paul Kleinhuis. If you are willing to help, please contact Heather.

 The next church council meeting will be held on January 22nd at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

 Prayer Shawl will meet on January 23rd from 1:00 until 3:00. All are welcome.

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

  Red Solo Cup homemade soups are available in the kitchen freezer. $ 5.00 each.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

We light this candle as a sign of Christ at work in us,

**may its light brighten our spirits,**

**may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.**

*(Ringing the chime)*

**GATHERING HYMN – VU# 226 For the Beauty of the Earth**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FxnC41mTfw>

For the beauty of the earth,

for the glory of the skies,

for the loves which from our birth

over and around us lies,

**God of all, to you we raise**

**this our hymn of grateful praise.**

For the beauty of each hour

of the day and of the night,

hill and vale, and tree and flower,

sun and moon, and stars of light, **(R)**

For the joy of human love,

brother, sister, parent, child,

friends on earth, and friends above,

for all gentle thoughts and mild, **(R)**

For each perfect gift sublime

to our race so freely given,

graces human and divine,

flowers of earth and buds of heaven, **(R)**

**CALL TO WORSHIP --** *for John 2:1–11*

*Sue Webb, Faith Centennial U.C., Selkirk, Ont*

Come, let us gather together in expectation.

**We come hoping to find Jesus in our midst.**

The one who opens our hearts

**and helps us discover God.**

The one who calls us to faith

**and reminds us of God’s love.**

The one who delights in surprising his people,

**a giver of good gifts,**

turning water into wine,

**giving hope when our hope has run out.**

Come, let us gather together in expectation.

**We come searching for Jesus in our midst.**

**PRAYERS OF APROACH --** *by Richard Bott*

God of all grace, Spirit of all love, Christ, alive in our lives –

Open to us the possibilities of today, we pray.

**Give us minds that wonder,**

**Hearts that seek, and lives that offer healing –**

**So that wherever we go,**

**We might live the invitation to “choose abundant life!”**

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION – *Kate Crawford*

Together, let us make our confession to God, who is in us:

**Loving God, present in your Spirit in this community of faith, we confess to you the times when we lost heart, when we fail to trust in your abiding presence, when we fail to testify to our faith with gladness, when we can not welcome the light, let alone be the light.**

Receive our silent prayers as we remember for ourselves the times we have been less than we want to be.

*(pause for silent prayer)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Receive this great, good news!

God’s grace is greater than our failings and God’s forgiveness is greater than our brokenness. Even before we ask, we are forgiven.

For these and all God’s mercies to us,

**Thanks be to God!**

**CENTERING**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Support youth as they inspire communities and engage in leadership

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“I want The United Church of Canada to continue the policies, as well as the vision and the actions that make our slogan ‘Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice, and Deep Spirituality’ truly mean something.”

These are words from Matthew Tyhurst, one of The United Church of Canada’s Youth Forum Leadership Animators. More of Matthew's thoughts on the United Church's Centennial can be found on YouTube.

In July 2024, Matthew was one of eight passionate youth from across Canada who gathered in Calgary. Together, they worked to lay the foundation for 100 young people under the age of 30 to attend The United Church of Canada's General Council 45 in 2025, coinciding with the church's Centennial commemorations.

The group of talented and diverse youth are committed to developing leadership among their peers. After their time in Calgary, they returned to their local communities and regions to work on learning goals and projects for four weeks, but remain engaged throughout the year.

The group focused on building leadership and guiding their peers as they explore their roles in the church. Their placements in local and regional communities are designed to help them grow and prepare for the future.

Your gifts to Mission and Service support youth as they inspire communities and engage in leadership. Thank you.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** *(adapted from R. Wardlaw, for the gathering)*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11** – NRSVUE

**John 2:1-11** – The Voice

**HYMN – VU # 588 Many Are the Lightbeams**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMq80pgD2Ds>

Many are the lightbeams from the one light.

Our one light is Jesus.

Many are the lightbeams from the one light;

we are one in Christ.

Many are the branches of the one tree.

Our one tree is Jesus.

Many are the branches of the one tree;

we are one in Christ.

Many are the gifts given, love is all one.

Love’s the gift of Jeus.

Many are the gifts given, love is all one;

we are one in Christ.

Many way to serve God, the Spirit is one,

servant spirit of Jesus.

Many way to serve God, the Spirit is one;

we are one in Christ.

Many are the members, the body is one,

members all of Jesus.

Many are the members, the body is one;

we are one in Christ.

**REFLECTING ON THE SCRIPTURES**

**HYMN – VU # 506 Take My Life and Let It Be**

<https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=ed7e487746667654&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA944CA945&udm=7&sxsrf=ADLYWIJRxSBTFApPSDmHrwMYI4-085KANw:1736726147811&q=Voices+United+%23506+Take+My+Life+and+Let+It+Be&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiH6fKIsfGKAxVLmokEHREpJ48Q8ccDegQIERAF&biw=1432&bih=1121&dpr=1#fpstate=ive&ip=1&vld=cid:8b164315,vid:HlTK5O8JHyU,st:0>

Take my life, and let it be

consecrated, all for thee;

take my moments and my days;

let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move

at the impulse of thy love;

take my feet, and let them

swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, ad let them be

filled with messages from thee;

take my intellect, and use

every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;

it shall be no longer mine;

take my heart, it is thine own;

it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour

at thy feet its treasure store;

take myself, and I will be

ever, only, all for thee.

**OFFERING –** for the season after Epiphany

**INVITATION: As an act of thanksgiving, we respond to God’s love by bringing our gifts of time, energy, and skills, our offerings of life and love.**

**DOXOLOGY – VU # 538 For the Gift of Creation** <https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=2dd64a8e5da33bb8&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA944CA945&udm=7&sxsrf=ADLYWILtSR_7hxWIg7CrPr-ij9VTfctldQ:1736613007433&q=Voices+United+%23538+For+the+Gift+of+Creation&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiJkK7Li-6KAxU7v4kEHb_0J9sQ8ccDegQIGxAF&biw=1432&bih=1121&dpr=1#fpstate=ive&ip=1&vld=cid:6b9cc861,vid:iIdQaBbIfEE,st:0>

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,

and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,

we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION --**

– *by Darrell Reine*

For the gifts you have given,

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For the gifts that we have the opportunity to give,

**we give you thanks, O God.**

Bless these gifts for the work of your church,

**here and in the world, where all may know your love.**

**Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE --** *adapted from Gary Simpson, McDougall U.C., Edmonton, Alta.*

VU #400 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Ebenezer+United+Church+youtube+VU+%23400+Lord%2C+Listen+to+Your+Children+Praying&sca_esv=0b57e98d7eb058fe&rlz=1C5CHFA_enCA944CA945&udm=7&biw=1432&bih=1121&sxsrf=ADLYWIKh4glSI_hO8BtyJbcdYS3lf-8J5A%3A1736874836657&ei=VJuGZ9viJ-HaptQPkP7bsQ0&ved=0ahUKEwjb3KH92vWKAxVhrYkEHRD_NtYQ4dUDCBA&oq=Ebenezer+United+Church+youtube+VU+%23400+Lord%2C+Listen+to+Your+Children+Praying&gs_lp=EhZnd3Mtd2l6LW1vZGVsZXNzLXZpZGVvIkxFYmVuZXplciBVbml0ZWQgQ2h1cmNoIHlvdXR1YmUgVlUgIzQwMCBMb3JkLCBMaXN0ZW4gdG8gWW91ciBDaGlsZHJlbiBQcmF5aW5nSPh5UMsWWNFhcAJ4AJABAJgBlgGgAb4dqgEEMC4zMbgBDMgBAPgBAZgCAKACAJgDAIgGAZIHAKAHlC0&sclient=gws-wiz-modeless-video#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:8850ee9e,vid:Cls9MJkDbgo,st:0>

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**

**Lord, send your Spirit in this place;**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**

**send is love, send us power, send us grace!**

Bless my body, heart, and soul, Loving God.

**All sing: Lord, listen to your children praying.**

Bless the people of Russia, Ukraine, Mexico, Romania, Iceland, Gaza and Israel, and so many other lands, with peace and long-lasting friendship, Peace-full God.

**All sing: Lord, send your Spirit in this place.**

Bless the people affected by natural disasters of the world with healing and hope, Healing God. We give thanks today for the Canadian firefighters, especially those using those amazing water bombers scooping life saving water from the ocean and spreading it where it’s needed.

**All sing: Lord, listen to your children praying.**

Bless all people who are in grief because of Indigenous residential schools and the ongoing trauma of racial discrimination, Comforting God, we pray especially for those in our city who are engaged with the courts in reconciliation and accountability this week, and in the weeks ahead. Guide the judges and all who are participating in the process.

**All Sing: Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Bless us with hearts for protecting and healing the environment, Creating God.

**All sing: Lord, listen to your children praying**

Bless the body, heart, and soul of any who are sick or grieving, Gracious God.

Hear our prayers for friends and family now… *(add in personal prayers aloud and in silence)*

**All sing: Lord, send your Spirit in this place.**

Bless the ministries of Covenant United Church and touch many lives through our church, Guiding God.

**All sing: Lord, listen to your children praying**

**Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Let us join together in the prayer of Jesus,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive them that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

**HYMN – MV # 138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adDuYifMoa8&list=PLJ5l-D6vQ_mm4u_ZkFJ1A8xcrqy9TLalH&index=17>

My love colours outside the lines,

exploring paths that few could ever find;

and takes me into places where I’ve never been before,

and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines,

turns wounds to blessings, water in wine;

and takes me into places where I’ve never been before

and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

**We’ll never walk on water if we’re not prepared to drown,**

**body and soul need a soaking from time to time.**

**And we’ll never move the gravestones if we’re not prepared to die,**

**and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,

tear by the curtains, sun, come in and shine;

I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I’ve never been before,

throw open doors to worlds outside the lines. **(R)**

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,

tear by the curtains, sun, come in and shine;

I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I’ve never been before,

throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

As you go out into this new week, inspired by the teaching of Jesus

notice what the Spirit is saying in your life!

As God-in-you goes into the community, and into your home –

approach each day open to the love of Jesus, given for you.

Grace to you and peace from the One who was,

and who is, and who is to come! 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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