**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**AND THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**



*(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.

 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 – MV# 79 Spirit, Open My Heart**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUy4kas8WR8&list=PLJ5l-D6vQ_mm4u_ZkFJ1A8xcrqy9TLalH&index=11>

**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 love 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)**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Children of God, we gather to worship, to sing and proclaim with joy the good works God is doing in our midst. We also gather today to pray for our families, our community, and our world. To name the challenges that press in around us, to lament the suffering in our world, to declare our trust in God in the midst of hardship.

**We gather to worship, as is our custom.**

We, like those in Nazareth, gather to hear and receive the Word of God proclaimed among us. **To encounter the life-giving message of God’s love redeems us to be bearers of love and freedom in this world.**

Children of God, listen. Pay attention. Ready your hearts. God is here. Jesus has come among us. The Spirit brings the Word to life in our midst. Are you ready?

**We gather to worship, as is our custom. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF APROACH**

We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your people.

**“We have gathered, God of grace and wisdom, because we have heard your call. You have reached out to us in Jesus Christ; you have touched us with your Spirit, and we have turned toward you, seeking to love as we have been loved. We call upon your holy name: empower us to worship and serve you, walking gently on this earth, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.”**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

**CENTERING**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

London Community Chaplaincy provides a welcoming and safe social setting for adults to connect and grow as parents

Becoming a parent or guardian is a life-changing, complex experience that doesn’t have a one-size-fits-all answer. As kids, we looked to adults for guidance as we navigated the world with fresh eyes. Now, as adults, we recognize that we’re still figuring things out as we go, and there’s always an opportunity to grow our skills and minds.

In London, Ontario, Mission and Service partners with the London Community Chaplaincy as they respond to parents and guardians who want to build a network of support, share the parenting journey, and develop new skills as they navigate raising children in a low-income setting. Together, these parents are working hard to build a positive future for their children and families.

Each week, London Community Chaplaincy provides a welcoming and safe social setting for adults to connect and grow as parents. Not only do they learn how to guide a child through critical stages of development, but also how to navigate being a parent or guardian while also managing financial stress, food insecurity, housing complications, and more. Gathering with other adults in a similar situation allows participants to share their struggles and triumphs, further building a sense of community.

Your gifts to Mission and Service support partnerships like the London Community Chaplaincy as they help empower parents along the parenting journey. Thank you.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 Corinthians 12:12–31a** – NRSVUE

**Luke 4:14–21** – NRSVUE

**HYMN – MV # 154 Deep in Our Hearts**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBdTZKVfMhM&list=PLJ5l-D6vQ_mm4u_ZkFJ1A8xcrqy9TLalH&index=21>

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;

deep in our hearts there is a common song;

deep in our hearts there is a common story,

telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;

deep in our hearts there is a common goal;

deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,

justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;

deep in our hearts there is a common theme;

deep in our hearts there is a common current,

flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;

deep in our hearts there is a common song;

deep in our hearts there is a common story,

telling Creation that we are one.

**REFLECTING ON THE SCRIPTURES**

**HYMN – VU # 179 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-KNY7b_C2k&list=PLJ5l-D6vQ_mm4u_ZkFJ1A8xcrqy9TLalH&index=57>

**Hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Give thanks to the risen Christ;**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**Give praise to God’s name.**

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,

firstborn of all creation. **(R)**

Spread the good news o’er all the earth:

Jesus had died and is risen. **(R)**

We have been crucified with Christ,

now we shall live for ever. **(R)**

Come let us praise the living God,

joyfully sing to our Saviour. **(R)**

**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 World News This Week in Prayer*

**RESPONSE:** In gratitude we respond:

For waking and breathing, for living and sharing,

For family and friends: **Thanks be to God**

For blooms in cracked paths: for birdsong and sun,

For all of creation: **Thanks be to God**

For workers and work, for carers and cared for,

For laughter and joy: **Thanks be to God**

For all that gives life and love: **Thanks be to God**

AMEN

**HYMN – MV # 171 Christ Has No Body Now but Yours** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGwAP-41o_E>

**Christ has no body now but yours,**

**no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work**

**to serve with the joy of compassion.**

No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,

no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,

no touch but yours to bind the broken hope

of the people of God. **(R)**

No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,

to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;

no eyes but yours to glimpse

the holy joy of the city of God. **(R)**

No feet but yours to journey with the poor,

to walk this world with mercy and justice.

Yours are the steps to build

a lasting peace for the children of God. **(R)**

Through ev’ry gift, give back to those in need:

as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,

with ev’ry gift a benediction,

be to the people of God. **(R)**

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

Go into the world as one people, eager to serve and open to learn from the Christ who calls us and sets us free. May the love of God, the peace of Christ and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you always. 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.

*Resources used in this service are from The Gathering and also:*

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*And presbyterianworship.ca/worship*