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Minister: Rev. Susan Reed
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Our Mission...

to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.

We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.

August 10th, 2025 9th Sunday after Pentecost Theme Series: Summer ~ Visions & Dreams

*The asterisk invites all to stand, if they are able. **Bold** print indicates a congregational response.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE (Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~Joanne Diplock

WELCOME

*GATHERING HYMN: #145 – "Draw the Circle Wide"

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(Light/Bloss)

~Joanne Diplock

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
No one stands alone,
Standing side by side.
Draw the circle wide.

- 1. God the still point of the circle 'round whom all creation turns Nothing lost but held forever In God's gracious arms. R
- 2. Let our hearts touch far horizons, So encompass great and small; Let our loving know no borders Faithful to God's call. R
- 3. Let the dreams we dream be larger, Than we've ever dreamed before' Let the dream of Christ be in us Open every door. R

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND

We acknowledge that we meet on Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Metis. We also acknowledge that the water we use here comes from the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. We are grateful for these first inhabitants and their stewardship of the land and its resources through the ages, and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE ~lit by Joan Knowles

(Adapted from Bob Root; from *Gathering Pentecost 1 2025*.)

We light a candle — this Christ candle —

to shine a light that also lives within us,

a light that calls us to share the love of Christ
in every corner of the world.

We give thanks for the meaning and purpose Jesus offers to our living, calling us to bring healing, hope, justice, and reconciliation to others.

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE

And as we light this second candle, we pray for peace:

peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our world.

As we journey with Jesus, the Prince of Peace, O God, we pray for peace. Amen.

SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

INTRODUCTION to the SERVICE

CALL to WORSHIP

(Written by Gill Le Fevre; from *Gathering Pentecost 1 2025*.)

In worship, we are invited to call upon the name of the Lord,

to call on God's presence for all we need.

We call upon God in hope and prayer,

bringing before God our dreams and our fears, trusting God with our desires and our disappointments.

We call upon God in joy and music,

bringing to God our laughter and delight, honouring God in our friendships and communities. We call upon God, craving mercy and care -

to be comforted by God's love, forgiven by God's grace, and strengthened through faith in God's eternal power.

Come, and let us call upon God as we worship together.

*OPENING HYMN: #12 MV - "Come, Touch our Hearts"

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(Light/Donaldson) ~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Come touch our hearts, that we may know compassion, from failing embers build a blazing fire; love strong enough to overturn injustice, to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.
- 2 Come touch our souls
 that we may know and love you
 your quiet presence
 all our fears dispel;
 create a space for spirit to grow in us,
 let life and beauty fill us,
 come touch and bless our hearts.
- 3 Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason, set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream; help us to open doors of understanding, to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.
- 4 Come touch us in the moments we are fragile, and in our weakness your great strength reveal; that we may rise to follow and to serve, steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.

OPENING PRAYER (Inspired by Joel 2: 28-29)

(Adapted from Christopher Ney; found on the re: Worship blog online.)

O God, we give you thanks for all the ways that you bless our lives:

the beauty and abundance of nature, the love of family and friends, the joy of knowing you and hearing your word.

Send Your Spirit during this time of worship, so that we might dream your dreams and see visions of the world as you created it to be.

Guide our thoughts and actions.

Bring us closer to you,

so that we might do your will and dwell in your house forever.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CONVERSATION TIME

RECEIVING A NEW CHURCH MEMBER

Liturgy adapted from Celebrate God's Presence

Scripture Reading: Romans 12: 4-6a

STATEMENT of PURPOSE

PRESENTATION of NEW MEMBER Presented by Marie Leskovjan, Worship Committee Nellie Allen

COMMITMENT of NEW MEMBER

COMMITMENT of the CONGREGATION

Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge our support and care as Nellie officially joins this community of faith:

As your siblings in Christ,
we rejoice in the gifts you share with us.
We pledge our love and support to you.
With God's help, together, we will live out
the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

WORDS of WELCOME

PRESENTATION of CERTIFICATE and GIFT

*AFFIRMATION of FAITH: "A New Creed" of The United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*SUNG VERSE: "In the Garden"

(Words & Music by C. Austin Miles)

~Joanne Diplock

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I come to the garden alone,

while the dew is still on the roses; and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own.

And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: read by Joan Knowles

This morning, we have two scripture readings on the theme of visions and dreams. It's actually the same passage, which first appears in the book of Joel, and then is quoted in our second reading from Acts.

The book of Joel begins in addressing the disaster of a locust plague, and a call to the people to lament. God, through the prophet Joel, called on the people to return to God with all their heart. Then, we are told, God had pity on the people, and promised them food, rain, and abundance to replace the destruction. And then come the words of this morning's verse, from Joel 2, verse 28:

Joel 2: 28 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then afterward, I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;

your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

your old men shall dream dreams,

and your young men shall see visions.

Our second reading comes from the book of Acts, and is part of the story of Pentecost – of God's spirit arriving as wind and flame. In that story, we are told that those gathered were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in languages as the Spirit gave them ability. The diversity of people from every nation who were living in Jerusalem were each able to hear in their own native language. They were bewildered, amazed, and astonished. That part of the passage ends with some of the people "saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' Here is Peter's response to that comment, reading from Acts 2, verses 14-17:

Acts 2: 14-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose,

for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions,

and your old men shall dream dreams.

Response to Scripture:

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Sacred Scripture. Sacred Story.

Praise be to Christ.

REFLECTION: "Visions and Dreams" ~Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #375 – "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

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~Joanne Diplock

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow thro' the wilderness calling and free, Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing: wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. R

4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes, from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams, our women see visions, our men clear their eyes, with bold new decisions your people arise. R

INTRODUCTION to the OFFERING

(Written by the Gathering Worship Resource Team. Used with permission. The United Church of Canada.)

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music as the offerings are collected

~Joanne Diplock

* Offertory Verse: VU# 540 – "Grant Us, God, the Grace" (Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~Joanne Diplock

Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free, that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.

*Offertory Prayer (Written by Bill Steadman; from Gathering Pentecost 1 2025.)

Here, God, we give our gifts to the work of your church, for the encouragement of your people, and with the love of Christ in our hearts.

Bless our offerings as a sign of your love, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

(Written by Miriam Spies, Chair of the General Council 45 Worship Committee. From the *Gathering Worship* Resources for General Council 45.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Sent into God's World

*CLOSING HYMN: VU #642 - "Be Thou My Vision"

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(Irish traditional melody) ~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art, thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife; I ever with thee, and thou in my life; thou loving parent, thy child may I be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

*COMMISSIONING

(Adapted from Susan Lukey; from the *Gathering Worship* Resources for General Council 45.) As you go from this place of worship, prepare yourselves. Get ready.

Let us be open to dream dreams and experience visions of what God would have us be doing in this congregation and as The United Church of Canada.

Prepare yourselves.

Get ready.

Be open.

Don't be afraid.

God is working with us and among us. And we are blessed!

*BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

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(Price/Besig)
~Joanne Diplock

May the Lord go with you, let him take your hand. Keep His love within you, until we meet again. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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~Joanne Diplock