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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*  
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*  
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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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Theme Series: Summer ~ Seeds & Gardens

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*\*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: VU #409 – "Morning Has Broken"**

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*(Farjeon/Wynton)*

*~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**
- 3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!**

## 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 Barrie McPherson

(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 Juanita Austin; from *Worship for All Seasons II Year B*.)

*We gather this morning,  
rising from summer sleeping to sacred singing,  
**from weeding gardens to worshipping God,  
from camping out to gathering together,  
from recreation to re-creation.**  
We rise in the light of long summer days,  
**and gather in the light of God's holy presence.**  
Let us worship God.*

### \*OPENING HYMN: VU #291 – "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

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(Alexander/Shaw)  
~Joanne Diplock

**All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.**

- 1 Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,**

**God made their glowing colours,  
God made their tiny wings.**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden:  
God made them every one.**

**5 God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God our maker,  
who has made all things well.**

**All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.**

### **OPENING PRAYER** (Based on Matthew 13: 1-9)

(Adapted from Christine Longhurst; found on the *re:Worship* blog online.)

**O God,  
we gather together in your presence with expectation,  
hungry for an encounter with you,  
eager to hear your word.**

**Open us to the presence of your Holy Spirit.  
May the seeds of your word,  
scattered among us this morning,  
fall on fertile soil.**

**May they take root in our hearts and lives,  
and produce an abundant harvest  
of good words and deeds.**

**We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our teacher and our Lord. Amen.**

### **CONVERSATION TIME**

#### **LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Readings:** *read by Barrie McPherson* (all readings from New Revised Standard Version)

This morning, we have three scripture readings which all mention seeds, gardens, and growth.

#### **Genesis 1: 9-13**

*And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God*

*said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.*

### **Isaiah 61: 10-11**

*I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;  
my whole being shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.*

### **Luke 8: 4-15**

*When a large crowd was gathering, as people were coming to [Jesus] from town after town, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed some fell on a path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and as it grew up it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"*

*Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive and hearing they may not understand.'*

*"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bear fruit with endurance.*

### **Response to Scripture:**

*Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sacred Scripture. Sacred Story.*

**Praise be to Christ.**

## REFLECTION: "Seeds & Gardens"

~Rev. Susan Reed

## PRAYER

(Written by Anna Atkinson; From *Gathering Pentecost 1 2022*.)

### RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

#### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Love-Sowing God" sung to tune of VU #372

Words written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes; found on his *Unfolding Light* website.

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~Joanne Diplock

**Love-sowing God, sow love in me,  
your seeds of grace abundantly.  
My soul be soil where love may root  
and grow and bear your precious fruit.**

**Where habit's feet and wheels have tracked,  
my anxious work the soil has packed,  
soften my soul with bliss or pain,  
so love may enter in again.**

**My angry thorns, my selfish weeds,  
God, clear away, and sow your seeds.  
Despite the hungry, wanting bird,  
Love, plant in me your living Word.**

**Love-sowing God, your labors done,  
help me to trust the rain and sun,  
receive your grace and faithfully  
bear forth your love that grows in me.**

### 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"

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~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 (Inspired by Sandra Jenkinson; from *Gathering Pentecost 1 2025*.)

**Loving God,  
we offer to you the gifts  
of our hands, our hearts and our lives,  
trusting that your love will transform  
the seeds of our gifts**

**into crops of compassion, justice, and love,  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

### 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 #703 – *"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"***

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(Sleeth)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.**
- 2 There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.**
- 3 In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.**

**In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.**

**\*CLOSING PRAYER**

(Adapted from John Birch; found on the *re:Worship* blog online.)

**God of harvest,  
gardener supreme,  
you place us at the centre,  
feed us, equip us and,  
having provided for us,  
look to a different harvest—  
a fruitfulness of lives  
in service to you and others.  
God of harvest,  
feed us  
prune us  
harvest us,  
that our lives  
might bring glory to you.  
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*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