



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 23, 2026

Summer Sabbath Series: The Inventions of Summer
Week Four: "Fireflies: Praying for Others"

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

This service is adapted from resources written by Janice McLean,
found on her website *The Prayer Bench*,
and purchased for congregational use by the Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

WE GATHER

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

~Joanne Diplock

GREETING

*GATHERING SONG: "This Little Light of Mine"

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~Joanne Diplock

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**See the light spreading 'round the world. I'm gonna let it shine.
See the light spreading 'round the world. I'm gonna let it shine.
See the light spreading 'round the world. I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND

We acknowledge that we meet on Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Anisininew, Cree, Dakota, and Dene 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.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION to the SERVICE

INVITATION to GATHER and CANDLE LIGHTING ~lit by Dennis Deley

*In this season of long light and growing things,
we gather in the presence of the Holy.*

We come to notice, to listen, to pray.

**In the quiet work of creation, God is near –
in what delights us,
and in what troubles us.**

God meets us here, in the ordinary.

In small lights of love, creation teaches us to hold one another in prayer.

[The Christ candle is lit]

We open our hearts:

**to wonder,
to wisdom,
to the Spirit's gentle leading.**

Let us worship.

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE

*And as we worship, we light a second candle, this one for peace,
and as we do, we pray for peace:*

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

As we follow in the ways of 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.

OPENING PRAYER

*Maker of all that grows and breathes,
we come to you
in the beauty, the abundance,
and even in the disturbances of life.*

Open us to your presence in the ordinary.

Open our hearts to receive what the moment teaches.

Open our lives to be a blessing in the world.

**In this time, may fireflies teach us your way –
the way of praise, the way of gratitude,
the way of compassion, the way of faithful prayer.
We come in wonder, in honesty, in hope.
Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN: VU #585 – "*Jesus Bids Us Shine*"**

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(Warner/Excell)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world is darkness, so let us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.**
- 2 Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;
well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:
Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.**
- 3 Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
many kinds of darkness in the world are found:
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.**

CONVERSATION TIME

WE LISTEN AND REFLECT

Scripture Readings: *read by Dennis Deley*

Mark 2: 1-6

When [Jesus] returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the [paralyzed man] lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

Matthew 5: 14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Response to Scripture:

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

POEM: "Fireflies" *by Mary Oliver*

REFLECTION: "Fireflies: Praying for Others"

VIDEO "Tiny Lights"

CANDLE LIGHTING RITUAL

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: *VU #595 – "We Are Pilgrims"*

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(Gillard)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 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.**
- 2 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.**
- 3 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.**
- 4 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.**
- 5 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.**
- 6 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.**

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

INVITATION to the OFFERING

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

***Offertory Verse: #191 MV – "What Can I Do?"**
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sung 2X

(Rumbolt/McCarthy)
~Joanne Diplock

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

***Offertory Prayer** (From the *Service Book* of The United Church of Canada; found in *Celebrate God's Presence*.)
(Please remain standing, until the gifts have been placed on the table)

**We bring our gifts to you, God.
Here is the work of our hands,
and here is the love of our hearts.
Accept them and use them,
through Christ our Lord. 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.**

WE GO FORTH

***CLOSING HYMN: #209 MV – "Go, Make A Difference"**
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(Angrisano/Tomaszek)
~Joanne Diplock

**Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.**

- 1 We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R**

**2 We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R**

**3 So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R**

***CLOSING BLESSING**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

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

(Price/Besig)
~Joanne Diplock

POSTLUDE "Shine Jesus Shine"

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~Joanne Diplock