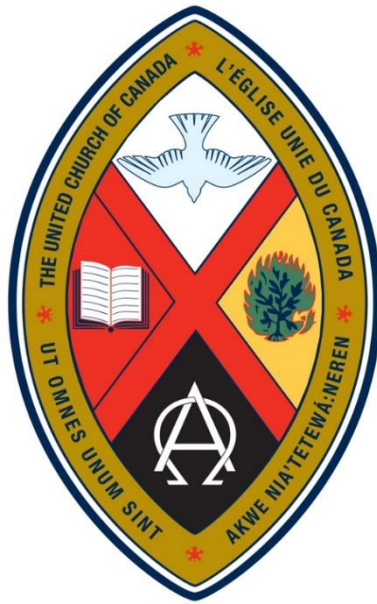


October 18th, 2020



Celebration of Ministries Service

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

Offering

this year will support the
Mission and Service Fund
of the United Church of Canada.

Online donations:

<https://www.united-church.ca/donate>

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Celebration of Ministries Service
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
The United Church of Canada

This service is offered as a substitute to the online worship being held at Avondale United Church, Stratford for those who do not have computers. It is based on the service from last year with additional materials and a sermon written by Rev. Gary Clark

We Gather as Followers of Jesus

Prelude

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked
 on this land; their relationship with the land
 is at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

We begin our worship by acknowledging the land on which we
 live, work, worship and gather today has and will be for all
 time the ancestral land of the First Nations of Canada.

We acknowledge the treaties that this land's settler ancestors
 made with First Nations:

**We also acknowledge the traditional territories
 from which we have come and to which we shall return.**

Creator, as we come together,
 gathered on this land,
 keep us mindful of the covenants that have been made
 and broken with First Nations Peoples.

Be with us as we strive to make right with all our relations.

May we live with respect on this land,
 and live in peace and friendship
 with all who live, work and worship on it.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

(From Psalm 51:8-14,16-19 The Message translation)

David spoke to God,
 What you're after is truth from the inside out. Enter
 me, then; conceive a new, true life.
 Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub
 me and I'll have a humble life.
 Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-
 broken bones to dancing. In song.
 All: We offer our music.

Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill
 of health.
 God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week
 from the chaos of my life.
 Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe
 holiness in me.
 Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my
 sails!
 All: We offer our humility.

Going through the motions doesn't please you, a
 flawless performance is nothing to you. God we really
 learn about worship when our pride was shattered.
 Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment
 escape God's notice.
 All: We offer you now this worship. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon (**Psalm 103:8-12**)

God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. God will not always accuse, nor will the God harbor anger forever; God does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is this love for those who follow; as far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us.

Hymn: "O God, Whose First Creative Word" VU#322

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture: Psalm 81:10-16

For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

We Respond through the Holy Spirit

†Hymn: **MV #25 "O God Send Out Your Spirit"**

†Affirmation of Faith

Let us join together in an affirmation of faith:

**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.

A New Creed, 1968 alt.

Acknowledge offering of gifts online (See back page for
 online donation info)

*The offering this afternoon will be donated
 to Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada.*

†Hymn of Dedication: **“For the Gift of Creation”** VU #538

**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.**

†Offertory Prayer

Let us pray together:

Bless these gifts be used in the building of
 relationship with all on God's good earth. May
 all who are hurt find the beginning of healing in
 this act of sacrificial love. **Amen.**

God Invites Us into the World to Serve

Sending Forth and Blessing

†Recessional Hymn VU# 183 **“We Meet You, O Christ”**