



First United Church



Sunday April 28, 2024

Gathering in the Presence of God

April 28, 2024 – *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Minister: Rev. Jocelyn Cook

Gathering / Welcome / Announcements

Greeting

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuck, whose culture has now been erased forever. We also acknowledge the island of Newfoundland as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuck and the Mi'kmaq. And we acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu and the Inuit. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and to respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Introit “Sing Amen” VU # 431

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Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

As members of Christ’s tree of life,
we are connected, in love, to God.

As members of Christ’s tree of life,
we are connected, in love, to one another.

As members of Christ’s tree of life,
we strengthen our connection through worship.

Let us pray together –

Loving God, send your Spirit among us now. Bind us to you in love this day, that we may worship in unity and friendship. Bind us to you in love this hour, that we may be strengthened to bring abundant love to your world. In love and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn “Let Us Build A House” MV # 1

We Hear the Word

Prayer of Yearning

Speak truth to our hearts, O God. Speak love to our lives, that we may remain in your love and share your love joyously with others. Speak grace to our souls, that we may rest in your grace and forgive others as we have been forgiven. Speak mercy to our world, that all the world may know your love and find redemption in your grace. In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace and Assurance

Sing “Halle, Halle, Halle” VU # 958

Epistle Acts 8: 26-40

Responsive Reading Psalm 22 VU p 746 (parts 3 & 4)

Scripture 1 John 4: 7-21

Response to the Word

Loving God, send your Spirit to guide us, as you guided Philip long ago. Guide us to listen, when people cry out for understanding. Guide us to speak, when people yearn for your good news. Guide us to compassion, when people reach out for help. Guide us to love, when people curl up from loneliness. Send your Spirit to guide us, that we may open our hearts and minds to hear and heed your guidance. Amen.

Hymn "Draw the Circle Wide" MV # 145

Reflection It's About Love, Love, Love

Responding to God's Call

Special Music/ Choir Anthem

Invitation to Offering

Offertory "When We Are Living" VU # 581 v. 2
Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,

We belong to God, we belong to God.

.....words: Roberto Escamilla, 1983; music: Spanish melody

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, bless these gifts with love. Transform lives with our ministries, that your people everywhere might know your grace, abide in your love, and connect with Christ, the vine of life. Amen.

Before Prayer "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU # 400 (x2)

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

We Go Out

Closing Hymn "When In Our Music God Is Glorified"
VU # 533 (tune: *Sine Nomine* VU # 420)

Benediction

As God's children, go now to serve.

We go to serve in love.

Abiding in Christ, go with Christ to love.

We go with Christ's love to love one another.

Go to serve in love and peace.

Choral Benediction "One In Love"

One in love, one in friendship true,

One in hope, one in spirit, too.

One in faith that God will care for you –

Till we meet together again.

.....words and music: Judith A. Helms, 1989

Be sure to join us downstairs after today's service for refreshments and conversation. It's also Birthday Sunday – so there's cake!

The **Men's Club** is having a big breakfast on Saturday, **May 4** at 10 am. \$12. All the men are encouraged to join us for this event. Please check your email.

The **Men's Club garage sale** is scheduled for Saturday, **May 11**. If you're doing any Spring cleaning in the next 3 weeks, we might be able to take some things off your hands. Items can be dropped off at the church's lower hall the week prior to the sale. Unfortunately, we cannot accept large appliances, televisions, or tires.

The **Men's Club** is holding a dinner on Thursday, **May 23**. We're planning for stuffed chicken, potatoes, veggies, tea, coffee and dessert. \$18. We're extending a special invitation to the Humber Men to join us.

The **UCW** has set their **Spring Used Clothing Sale** for Saturday, May 25, 9 am – 2 pm. Clothing and household linens only please. Sort through your closets and dressers to pass on items you no longer wear or use and spread the word to your friends and relations! Sorting and set up on Friday, May 24th.

Book Sale: Thank you to Charles Cameron, Sandra & Calvin Pretty, Ches & Donna Hollett and Christine Simms – who all helped make the book sale a big success. Over \$1600 was raised!