

**ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 2019**



# Sacred Service

Practice making a difference!  
Practice being the difference!

Make a Positive Impact  
be of Sacred Service



*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an  
Affirming and Inclusive community*

# WELCOME TO ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

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**Sunday, September 29 2019**  
Presiding: Peggy McDonagh

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## *We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith*

*(Welcome to worship today. Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or you have been here for longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this place. God, through us, welcomes each of us to worship.)*

*Prior to the service the Creation and Affirming candles were lit to affirm that all humanity and creation must be respected and valued. The Treaty 7/ Metis Region 3 candle was lit to show respect for the land and to affirm our continued commitment to live into right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters.*

### **SEED OF MEDITATION**

*"Church isn't where you meet. Church isn't a building. Church is what you do. Church is who you are. Church is the human outworking of the person of Jesus Christ. Let's not go to Church, let's be the Church." - Bridget Willard*

*"Connection, along with love and belonging, is why we are here, and it is what gives purpose and meaning to our lives." - Brene Brown*

**PRELUDE**      *Sonata in A minor*      *Benedetto Marcello*  
*Adagio – Allegro – Largo – Allegro*

### **NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY AND GREETING**

#### **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

We light this candle to symbolize the gratitude we feel for this faith community and for all life's blessings, challenges, joys and celebrations. By the Christ Light we discover our way to one another and to the welcome, acceptance and love experienced in community.

## INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Come into this circle of community. Come into this sacred space.  
What is your place in the circle, how do you contribute to its life?

## THE GATHERING

From the safety, warmth and comfort of our homes. . .

**We gather together here.**

From the busyness of our week. . .

From the stress-filled news of the world. . .

From the struggles of our daily living. . .

**We gather together here.**

We gather bringing all that has happened this past week. . .

our work, our relaxation, our anxiety, our celebrations. . .

**We put everything on hold, and clear our minds  
to be in this place today.**

Come, let us relax in the Holy Presence of God!

**HYMN**      Let Us Build a House      vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5      MV #1

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

**All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

**All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to  
heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

**All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and  
loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

**All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

## GATHERING PRAYER

God of Community, we gather this day in the knowledge that we are "most  
fully human, most truly ourselves, most authentically individual, when we  
commit to community."

**Whether we sing in the choir, volunteer, attend book studies,  
lead worship, usher, greet, teach children and youth, make**

**coffee, or sit in a pew, we are individuals intersecting ourselves in the interplay of community life.**

God be in our interconnectedness,

**be in our hope for the future, be in our struggle to sustain ourselves, be in our sacred service, and be in our dreams for the future.**

God of Community, we gather this day in the knowledge that we are “most fully human, most truly ourselves, most authentically individual, when we commit to community.” Amen.

**SONG WITH THE CHILDREN** We are the Church

AGCS #84

**I am the church! You are the church!**

**We are the church together!**

**All who follow Jesus, All around the world!**

**Yes, we're the church together!**

The church is not a building,  
The church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place,  
The church is a people!

**CHORUS**

We're many kinds of people,  
with many kinds of faces,  
All colours and all ages,  
too from all time and places.

**CHORUS**

And when the people gather,  
There's singing and there's praying,  
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes,  
All of it saying:

**CHORUS**

I count if I am ninety,  
or nine or just a baby;  
There's one thing I am sure about  
And I don't mean maybe:

**CHORUS**

*...to hear the wisdom of God.*

**READINGS** Excerpts from the Christian Testament, 1 Peter 4:8-10;  
Romans 12: 4-11

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME**

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*"Allemande" from 'Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major'*

J.S.Bach

## REFLECTIONS

### A COMMUNAL COVENANT OF FAITH

Today we have gathered as a Christ-centered community of children, youth, and adults to share promises with one another. We are not about a minister serving a congregation nor are we about a leader and followers.

**We believe that each person has much to offer. Each of us is by turns teacher, mentor and guide, as well as learner, receiver, and loving being. We all lead, we all follow, we all give, we all serve.**

Everyone in this vibrant, committed and active church needs to be willing to serve and to be served, to love and to feel loved, to care and to feel cared for.

**Together we promise to offer our gifts, insights, energy, kindness, and acceptance in serving each other, eating together, learning, teaching, playing, and working for justice and growing in faith. We all serve—even those who sit and wait. This is the faith and ministry to which Jesus has called us.**

*To respond. . .*

**HYMN** With Gifts that Differ by Your Grace

(Tune: VU #164)

(Text: Ruth Duck)

With gifts that differ by your grace your Spirit fits us all,  
that Christians in each time and place may answer when you call.  
You strengthen some to take a stand, to prophesy, or preach,  
while others give with open hand, or heal the sick, or teach.

And yet, because our faith is frail, we bury gifts you give.  
Afraid to risk, afraid to fail, we are not free to live.  
At times we use your sacred gifts for only selfish ends.  
Our purpose fades, our focus shifts, and conflict soon attends.

Come, Spirit, build your church anew, that all may do their part,  
together finding life in you, diverse, yet one in heart.  
So, may your people seek your will, transformed in all our ways.  
We offer body, mind and skill, a sacrifice of praise.

### INVITATION TO OFFER OUR PROSPERITY GIFTS

**OFFERTORY** *"Sarabande" from 'Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major'* J.S.Bach

## RECEPTION OF PROSPERITY GIFTS/DEDICATION HYMN

(Tune: VU #232)

Giving God, we pause and wonder:  
What would happen if we tithed---  
If we give our gifts, Creator,  
hearts and hands are open wide?  
We might learn that in our sharing,  
We receive more than we give.  
By your Spirit, make us daring,  
In this faithful way to live.

### COMMUNITY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

"A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. That's how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another "

Romans 12

For each member of this worshipping fellowship.  
For the diversity of humanity, gifts and talents expressed within it.

**We thank you, God of Life**

For those whose gifts have yet to be discovered.

**We thank you, God of Grace**

For those who consider themselves of little worth in this world  
but in your eyes are of immeasurable value.

**We thank you, God of Acceptance**

For all who seek to serve you in this place and in this world, that your love  
peace and grace might be seen in the simple actions of living.

**We thank you, God of Life**

God of Life, it is our hope to experience your essence and grace in more  
clearly within and around us, through listening in the quieter moments of our  
lives.

**Forgive those times when our minds are distracted, when our  
thoughts feed anxiety rather than peace, when tensions and  
fears occupy impede our act of faith.**

Draw near to us in the difficult moments of our lives, for those moments of  
sadness, the struggles with illness, the loss of hope, the searching for  
answers, the delight of celebrations; enfold us with the warmth and security  
of your love

**that we might know the peace and serenity of comfort, love  
and kindness.**

May our community's energy of compassion extend out to countries and  
people far and wide who are experiencing violence, hunger, displacement,  
terror, and illness.

**that they might know the calm and assurance of security and  
healing.**

In a moment of quietness, we can allow our thoughts to centre on you, the God of All Life, energy moving through all, love enfolding each heart (silence)

In a moment of quietness, we reflect on our own worthiness and the value of each member of this community to the life of this body of faith. (silence)

In a moment of quietness, we can pray for the building up of this body, for each person to feel included, accepted and loved and for no one to think himself or herself as more worthy than another. (silence)

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

... and our voices together to pray as Jesus taught us:

*. . .and be Blessed*

**HYMN** The Church is Wherever

(Tune VU #579)

(text Rev. Peggy McDonagh)

- 1 The church is wherever God's people are gathered  
offering our gifts so God's love we impart;  
The church is a people who walk with each other,  
revealing the God's presence alive in our heart.
- 2 The church is wherever the faithful know Jesus,  
living his love, which is daring and free.  
The church is wherever the faithful are open,  
unveiling our hearts so with wisdom we see.
- 3 Our church shows God's love in our action and living,  
stirring compassion, extending deep care.  
Our church is a people communing together  
expressing our faith through the life that we share.

## **BLESSING**

### **SUNG BENEDICTION**

VU#454

May God who creates you give you light;  
may God who sustains you make you wise;  
may God who protects you give you joy,  
may God who surrounds you give you peace.

**POSTLUDE**

*Praeludium in G minor*

*Nicolaus Bruhns*

**WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE**

October 6, 2019

**World Communion**

**Music for Communion by the Sanctuary Choir**

**Value of the Month: Generosity**

**There will be a short congregational meeting after worship on October 6.**

**THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY  
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Greeters.....September Sacred Service Team  
Ushers .....September Sacred Service Team  
Counters.....Bob Clare & Ian McDonald  
Projection.....PSALT Team  
Reader..... Sheryl Schoenthaler  
Music .....Tor Ellergodt – Baroque Cello