

It's a
wonder-full
life



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

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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Sunday, February 2, 2020

Rev. Peggy McDonagh presiding with the people of St. David's

We gather as a Christ-Infused Community

A warm welcome is extended to all. 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. Come as you are -- and be.

Prior to the service the Affirming and Value 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

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." – John 10: 10b

GATHERING: COMPASSION

(We are beginning a new worship series today, A Wonder-Full Life. What we are doing is developing spiritual practices that feeds that part of ourselves that is oriented toward serenity, harmony, truth, compassion, gratitude, love, and joy. But these are not always words we use to describe the role of money in our lives. In the classic film, It's a Wonderful Life, a crisis of money creates vastly diverse reactions from several characters. We gather over the next four weeks to gain a fresh perspective on how money can be a valued and important part of our spiritual journey that can offer more depth of meaning, healing, and wholeness, and a whole new "outlook" on what constitutes a wonderful life.)

Prelude

*Prelude, Trio, & Finale on "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" H. Kihlken
Bruce Clark -- organ*

Welcome and Lighting the Christ Candle

ILLUMINATING THE SHADOWS

(Threshold Moment)

Leader: The relationship of money practices to faith was as complex in Jesus' day as it is in ours. This week we look back...

Be Thou my Vision vs. 1 VU #642

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, they presence my light.**

We light this flame to affirm that where there is light,
there is understanding;
where there is understanding,
there is compassion;
where there is compassion,
there is possibility;
where there is possibility,
there is transformation.

Holy and Living God,
transform our fears into awe-inspiring wonder.
**Open us to this light,
And to the rich possibilities that it brings us
For a "wonder-full" life.**

Opening Hymn

Bathe Me in Your Light

MV #82

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
Showing me the way to live in faith, In your embrace.

Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
Help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
Drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.

Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;
Teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.

Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
Fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.

Connecting – Passing the Peace

Leader: Hear the Good News!
God is the one who sets the.....

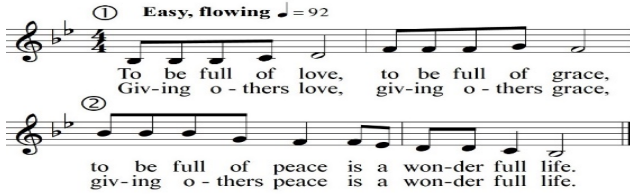
As our greeting I invite you to greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

Gathering people together singing:

A Wonder Full Life

Two-part round

① **Easy, flowing** ♩ = 92



To be full of love, to be full of grace,
Giv-ing o - thers love, giv-ing o - thers grace,
to be full of peace is a won-der full life,
giv-ing o - thers peace is a won-der full life.

Music & Lyrics: Marcia McFee
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arr. Jason Shelton

PROCLAIMING: CURIOSITY

(We become curious—full of “wonder-ing”—further transforming our tendencies of avoiding money issues into a desire to learn more, know more, about systems of money and our own relationship to it. We explore what our faith story invites us to do as we live within the systems of money in which we find ourselves. As we do, our faith assures us that just as God’s eye is on the sparrow, God’s presence is with us on this journey of life.)

Anthem

His Eye is on the Sparrow setting by Jack Schrader

Scripture

Reader: Our relationship with money has a history as long as our lives. . .
Let us prepare our hearts for the scripture this day:

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:
Matthew 22: 15-22

After reading:
This is the Word of God for the people of the Spirit
Thanks be to God

Reflection

'Life in the Belly of a Whale'

Hymn

(Tune: VU #112, Text: Rev. Peggy McDonagh)

In all the world around us
we see strange imagery,
where money, wealth, and power
prescribe who we should be.
This world that sees its money
the true and living Way,
through Jesus' truth and justice
such power holds no sway.

Our passion leads to freedom
when we respond and live,
the daring acts of Jesus,
to challenge and forgive.
We move beyond the boundaries,
that money is the way;
we honor peace and justice,
embrace love's righteous sway.

With joy we sing our praises
for life's most precious gift;
each person's human spirit
we value and uplift.
With hope, with joy, with courage
we claim this worldly place
and lives so full of wonder
with God's most loving grace.

RESPONDING: CREATIVITY

(This part of the service helps us to "wonder" in a different way. We invite a state of awe at the abundance of our lives by noticing the "rich" beauty around us, the presence of "treasured" people, and new and unexpected "gems" that cross our paths. We commit to engage our creativity to multiply good in the world.)

The Wonder of It All: Prayers

Thank you, Lord

**Thank you, God,
Thank you, God,
Thank you, God,
I just want to thank you.
Thank you, God.**

Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Offering Witness

Offertory

Down to the River to Pray

traditional

Reception of Offering and Dedication Song

Be Thou My Vision vs. 3

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

Offering Prayer

SENDING FORTH: COMMITMENT

(Having walked with God in "looking" into our heart's relationship to money, we commit to take the practices out into the world and our daily lives with renewed compassion, curiosity and creativity embracing always the Wonder of Life).

Sending Hymn

What A Wonderful World

(Louis Armstrong)

I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom for me and you
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.

I see skies of blue and clouds of white
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself what a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces of people going by
I see friends shaking hands saying how do you do
They're really saying I love you.
I hear babies cry; I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll ever learn
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.
And I think to myself what a wonderful world.

Benediction

Postlude

Corrente Italiana *J.B.J. Cabanilles*
Bruce Clark -- organ

**Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives
through Worship & Nurture
February 9 2010
Week Two of "A Wonder-Full Life"
"Looking in"**

Synopsis: Quote from "It's a Wonderful Life":

"You've been given a great gift, George: a chance to see what the world would be like without you. ... Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives, and when he isn't around, he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?" —The angel Clarence Odbody

George Bailey gets a wonderful gift of seeing what the world would have been like without him in it. We live an "incarnational" faith—the belief that, like Jesus, our faith is not just an idea, but it gets lived out in our actions in the world. This week we integrate money and meaning by looking in at the courageous vision for our presence and impact in the world. This is the bedrock for how we "spend" our assets—time, energy, and money—so that we approach the life we have left with attentiveness and intentionality to make it a "wonderful" life.

“EDGE – Action and The Future of St. David’s”

In the spirit of continuing communication, action in the definition of the Future of St. David’s United Church we invite you to a discussion group.

Everyone is welcome. This meeting will be held in the foyer on the second Sunday of the month from February to June 2020. The EDGE Committee (Colin Outtrim, Deb Charnuski and Peggy McDonagh) will host 20-minute discussion after the worship service.

Your 2019 Tax Receipts are available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. Please pick them up as you leave.

THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Greeters.....January Sacred Service Team
- UshersJanuary Sacred Service Team
- Counters.....Colin Outtrim, Frans Heynen
- Projection.....PSALT Team
- Reader.....Bonnae McTavish
- MusicSanctuary Choir
- Soloist.....Heather McKeague & Kerry Duncan McCartney
- Accompanist.....Garrett Krause

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