

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 2020

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

An early 6th century theologian described God as “beguiled by beauty.” The Creator was lured by a longing for beauty and so set in motion a world of immense diversity and goodness. We were made for this Divine Goodness. We were made inherently worthy, not by our “doing,” but by our simply being.

“Beauty leads to Compassion and Justice”

WE GATHER

Announcements:

Foundation AGM – November 22 2020

St. David's AGM – November 22 2020

**Lighting the Affirming and the Treaty 7/Metis Region 3
Candles**

Threshold Video Moment

“The celebration of this beauty of beings, their communities and ecosystems, cannot exist without mourning assaults on them.” -
Wendy Farley

Are you ready... to be an instrument of the Good News?

*Divine Goodness, prepare my spirit to see and be beguiled by the
beauty of life. Amen.*

Our series ends with a reaffirmation of our call to contemplative action in the world. The awareness of one another's beauty is the “seedling for the birth of compassion and justice.” A contemplative life can empty us and ready us to become instruments of the Good. Let

us affirm our plans to continue practicing “a way of beauty” that makes life “rich, courageous, generous, and joyful,” as active agents of the Divine Beauty in the world.

Lighting the Christ Candle Silent Centering

Prayer of Opening

Divine Goodness, Holy One,
Pause us for this moment,
bear us up in this time,
hold us for eternity.

We offer our lives in service to your creation.
We dedicate ourselves to increasing beauty in this world.
We commit to compassion and action.
And all the people say,
“**Amen.**”

Hymn of Beauty

We are Pilgrims VU #595

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and family on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

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.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

WE PROCLAIM

Lectio Divina

Isaiah 52: 7-10 (Inclusive Bible)

*How [beautiful] upon the mountains (a)
are the feet of one who brings good news—
who announces peace,
and brings news of happy things,
and proclaims deliverance,
saying to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*

*Listen! Those who keep watch raise a cry,
together they shout for joy—
for they see with their own eyes
YHWH’s restoration of Zion!*

*Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem!
For YHWH comforts the people,
and redeems Jerusalem.
YHWH bares a holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of our God!*

Let’s pray

God of Goodness

God of Goodness

We give thanks for beauty

We give thanks for beauty

We give thanks for good news.

We give thanks for good news.

Help us

Help us

Help You

Help You

to bring beauty to someone else

to bring beauty to someone else

and be a messenger of good news

and be a messenger of good news

for the beauty of the earth

for the beauty of the earth.

Amen

Sermo Divina

Visio Divina

Open to beauty
Hold every glimpse as treasure
Desire well being

WE RESPOND

Meditations of the Heart Look Around Song as Prayer

Offering of Peace

Ritual Action

“Throughout our time contemplating the theology of beauty and Divine Goodness, we have been making the connections between the well-being of our souls to the well-being of the whole of earth and all beings. My prayer is that you will continue to use the contemplative practices experienced to cultivate your life of compassion. The note for this last week is a quote from Dr. Farley: “A contemplative life can empty us and ready us to become instruments of the Good.... for the beauty of the earth.” May it continue to be so.

And now, let us add our singing to the song of creation already in progress...

WE GO FORTH

Closing Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth VU #226

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light
Sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
For all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

Benediction

The world is so varied and beautiful.
Seek wisdom wherever it is to be found.
And may the goodness of the Creator,
the companionship of the Christ,
and the insight of the Spirit,
infuse your life now and always.
Amen.