



# Covenant

*The United Church of Canada*

a safe place for all people to worship

Ministers: the people  
and Rev. Cindy Désilets

17 June 2018  
Proper 6<sup>B</sup>

Acknowledgement of Land  
*(An act towards reconciliation)*

## *Gathering*

*The gong is sounded three times*

### ENTRY INTO THE CELEBRATION

As we gather together on this day, at this time, in this place  
**may we recognise and affirm:**  
**the pieces of possibility,**  
**the bits of good, we bring,**  
**allowing our individual gifts**  
**to weave a patchwork of celebration and justice.**  
**Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.**  
*(Silence)*

### LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

*The candle is lit*

As we light our flame today, may it:  
remind us of the ongoing process of evolution,  
reminding us of the first gasping breath, the first clumsy step,  
the first drop of warm milk, the first curious thought...  
**All these are wonders of the Universe.** *(Adapt.JCH. Public domain)*

### HYMN: DEEP IN OUR HEARTS

MV 154

### OPENING SENTENCES

☐<sup>v1</sup> Come along with me as a sojourner in faith.

☐<sup>v2</sup> Bring along a sense of expectancy  
a sense of high hopes  
a glimpse of future possibility  
a vivid imagination.

For God's creation is not done.

**We are called to pioneer forth toward a future yet  
unnamed. As we venture forward we leave behind our  
desires for a no-risk life, worldly accumulations,  
certainty of answers.**

Let us travel light in the spirit of faith and expectation  
toward the God of our hopes and dreams.

**Let us be a witness to God's future breaking in.**

☐<sup>v1</sup> Come along with me as a sojourner in faith  
secure in the knowledge  
that we never travel alone. *(S Greg-Schroeder)*

### ACT OF AWARENESS

Each morning brings a newness that we need but step into.  
It can wash us, lift us, heal us, hold us  
just as each of us has need.  
May we be open to the power that lies dormant within us.  
May we be full with a confidence in our own strength.  
May we move from the routines that we follow  
to the fullness of life that we might live. *(Gretta Vosper/hb)*

## *Centering*

Silence and Music of Reflection

# Exploring

## READINGS FROM OUR BROAD RELIGIOUS TRADITION

Gospel: **Mark 4:26-32** <sup>(NRSV)</sup>

**"Father Means"** *Author Unknown*

## CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATION

**HYMN: IN THE BULB THERE IS A FLOWER** VU 703

# Affirming & Celebrating

## PRAYERS

## OUR OFFERINGS

*We bring our offerings as a symbol of our decision  
to be co-creators with God in a safer and more inclusive world.*

## PRESENTATION

As a river without an outlet becomes stagnant,  
so life which receives but does not give  
becomes polluted and sour.

As we give, we know we will be refreshed  
as well as being a blessing to others.

# Scattering

**HYMN: DANCE WITH THE SPIRIT**

**MV 156**

## PARTING WORDS

Let us go in faith to ponder in our hearts  
the mystery and the wonder of this season...

*The Community Candle is extinguished*

There is hope.

Our God is a God of life,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit  
permeates all creation.

**To live according to the Spirit  
is to embrace its presence in all creation.**

## WORDS OF BLESSING

Go boldly into the future which has been claimed by God.  
Know that the God who holds all things will be there,  
that Christ who calls us friend will walk beside us,  
and the Spirit who makes all things new  
will mark our way with light and hope.

**Amen. May it be so.**

**SUNG RESPONSE: YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY**

**VU 884**

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