



# Covenant

*The United Church of Canada*

a safe place for all people to worship

Ministers: the people

11 August 2019

**Acknowledgement of Land**  
*(An act towards reconciliation)*

## *Gathering*

### ENTRY INTO THE CELEBRATION

*The gong is sounded three times*

**Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.**

### LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

*The candle is lit*

<sup>v1</sup> "Let there be light!

<sup>v2</sup> Let it shine in dark places,

in moments of pain,

in times of grief,

in the darkness of hatred,

violence,

oppression,

where there is discouragement and despair.

<sup>v1</sup> Wherever darkness is to be put to flight,

"Let there be light!" *Gordon B McKeeman*

### OPENING SENTENCES

Let us acknowledge the awesome mystery embodied in every person.

**Through us Creativity God comes to unique and personal expression.**

Let us give thanks for the abundance of life on this earth.

**Through it we and all people may be nourished.**

### PRAYER OF AWARENESS

**Abiding God of the morning, the afternoon, the evening, grant us the joy of feeling ourselves**

**a part of your vast magnificence,**

**your all-encompassing love.**

**May it be so.**

## *Centering*

Silence and Music of Reflection

**HYMN:**

# *Exploring*

## READINGS FROM OUR BROAD RELIGIOUS TRADITION

**Luke 12:32–40**

Do not worry about what to eat or what to wear.

## CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATION

HYMN:

# *Affirming & Celebrating*

PRAYERS

OUR OFFERINGS

**May our giving and our actions bring these gifts to life:  
new hope of healing;  
fresh ways of coping;  
a chance to rest;  
a chance to work;  
a way to live gracefully. AMEN.**

# *Scattering*

HYMN:

PARTING WORDS

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.  
As we do, may we embrace the challenges of our lives and  
our world...

*The community candle is extinguished*

After the words, a quiet.

After the songs, a silence.

After the crowd only the memory recalls the gathering.

**Peace and justice have need of us  
after the words, the music, and the gathering.**

God grant you the depth for dedication to justice.

**God grant us the will to be apostles of peace.**

*(Adapt. Max Coots)*

WORDS OF BLESSING

May the God who dances in creation,  
who embraces us with human love,  
who shakes our lives like thunder,  
bless us and drive us out with power  
to fill the world with her justice.

**Amen. May it be so.**

SUNG RESPONSE:

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