

# Covenant

*The United Church of Canada*  
a safe place for all people to worship  
Minister: Rev. Bill Jones

May 24, 2020  
Easter 7<sup>A</sup>

## RECOGNITION OF LAND

### WELCOME

#### ENTRY INTO CELEBRATION

In this safe place let us be together.

For here together we will weave the threads of our lives  
into a wondrous vision;

a bright new tapestry of dreams

of times to come. *SHardwick/ea-adapt*

**So let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.**

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The Christ Candle is lit*

God of light and the rainbow,  
light up our world with colour.

### OPENING SENTENCES

As a workman gathers his tools

As a poet gathers her images

As a musician gathers his band

As a scholar gathers her arguments

As a writer gathers his stories

As a preacher gathers her texts

**So God gathers people for service.**

### ACT OF AWARENESS

We have gathered in this ordinary, yet sacred place, again.

May we continue to create here a circle of love,

ever expanding,

ever growing.

A place of wisdom.

A place of connection.

A place of hope.

THE REX HUNT WEBSITE MAY 24, 2020

## GATHERING PRAYER

### Creator God:

We come before you this morning filled with the love that Christ has shown us. We know that we must be your presence here in this place. Yet we hesitate because of the uncertainty that fills us when we know that we should be about your business. Love us anyway so that we may be your agents of change in this uncertain world. **AMEN**

### HYMN: Called by Earth and Sky

**MV 135**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come before you today O Lord, humbly seeking your forgiveness for all of those things that we did that did not bring you the glory which you deserve this week. We pray that you will be with us as we try to be your presence here in this community and beyond. We ask your blessing upon us as we work diligently to help bring about your kingdom. **AMEN**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

My friends, be assured that if you ask forgiveness for all of those things that did not bring glory to God, that God will forgive what ever you ask, as long as you do it with sincerity and with love. **AMEN**

### HYMN: I the Lord of Sea and Sky

**VU 509**

## CENTERING

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

### Searching for Peace in the Korean Peninsula

Over 65 years ago, the Korean War ended in an armistice agreement. The agreement created the Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ: a place where the two parts of the country can come together. The two parts of Korea, North and South, have very different political and economic systems and ideologies. Some may think the differences are too great for the two countries to overcome and unite.

Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada supports partners like the National Council of Churches in Korea that are working to unite both countries through a path of peace. There have been non-violent gatherings at the DMZ as well as walks for peace.

We are thankful to be in partnership with Korean Voices for Peace and the World Council of Churches, which lift up the plight of families who are divided and a region that is still in conflict. The United Church is part of Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War, a global campaign to get a Korean peace agreement by 2020. We pray that reunification will take place and are thankful that we are able to support this path through our gifts for Mission & Service.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

## SCRIPTURES

**Acts 1:6–14**

*The ascension of Jesus.*

**Psalms 68:1–10, 32–35**

*God makes a home for the poor.*

**1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11**

*Cast your cares on God. Be alert.*

**John 17:1–11**

*Jesus prays that his disciples "all may be one."  
Gathering May 24, 2020*

## SERMON

**HYMN: Great is Thy Faithfulness**

**VU 288**

## OFFERING

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We bring these gifts that show our love for you and your work because of the love that we have for you and for all those who follow you. Gifts that are freely given. Gifts of talent, money and works that glorify you. **AMEN**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**HYMN: Oh a Song Must Rise**

**MV142**

### PARTING WORDS

Let us embrace the wonder of this week with expectation and imagination...

### THE CHRIST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Be still...

And let nature's peace wash over you...

like waves lapping over stones

smoothing rough edges of insurmountable worries

to tiny insignificant grains of sand,

leaving smooth shining love.

### WORDS OF BLESSING

May you be wholly present in your own life,

ready to be surprised by the wonder

of each ordinary moment.

Go in peace.

May the earth be warm under your feet,

the rain bring the gentle flowers of the bush bright around you,

and the wind blows as the breath of the Spirit before you.

**Amen. May it be so**

*The Rex Hunt Website May 24, 2020*

### GO NOW IN PEACE

*Portions of this liturgy was taken from Gathering and the Rex Hunt Website*