

# Covenant

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

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**  
**16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ENTRY INTO CELEBRATION**

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*The Christ Candle is lit*

Fountain of life...

Pulse of life...

Breath of life...

**Earth is filled with the presences of God.**

Together this day, let us sense the face of God in all creation.

*(The Rex Hunt Website Sept 20, 2020 Yr. A)*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The wonders of God's abundant creation call out to us.

**We marvel at the magnificence of God**

Yet God has entrusted all of this to our stewardship.

**We marvel at the immensity of God's trust in us.**

God has given us all we need to live abundantly, joyfully and generously.

**We come to worship God, creator and lover of all.**

*(Gathering Pentecost 2 Yr.A p. 27)*

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

**Dear Lord God, Creator of all. We come this day, looking to you for the inspiration to be your presence here in our world. Here in our world to bring relief to those who are hurting and to help bring a sense of peace to those who are stressed out by the uncertainty of the future. Uncertain of the future because of the coronavirus and the ramifications caused by it. Use us as you will, in being your presence before all who we meet and interact with. We ask these things in Jesus name.**

**AMEN**

**HYMN: LET US BUILD A HOUSE**

MV 1

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O Lord our God, good and merciful, we acknowledge all our sins which we have committed in every-day living--in thought, word and deed; in body and soul alike.

**We are sincerely sorry that we have offended you, and we truly repent of our sin. We humbly ask you, O Lord: by your great mercy forgive all our past transgressions and absolve us from them.**

**We firmly resolve, with the help of your Holy Spirit, to amend our ways of life with the goal to sin no more; that we may walk in the way of the righteous and offer praise and glory to the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*(The Desperate Preacher's Website Sept. 20, 2020)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Be assured that the love of God is there for all to receive. My friends, that love is unconditional and is freely given if we will only seek God's forgiveness for all of our transgressions whether intentional or unintentional. AMEN

**HYMN: OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MANY SEE**

VU 371

**CENTERING****MINUTE FOR MISSION****Disabled Farmers in Cuba**

Mission & Service--funded global partner the Cuban Council of Churches has united two goals in a pilot project: encouraging sustainable farming and creating churches that are more inclusive of people with disabilities. Twenty families in four provinces in Cuba receive farming support and pastoral care. Farmers diversify their skills, gain more autonomy, and improve their families' resilience.

Ernesto González, the project coordinator, is an agronomist who lives with partial paralysis. He offers support to farmers who may have visual impairments, intellectual disabilities, damaged hands, or other challenges, explaining that the project meets a need for inclusion while supporting economic improvement.

An important part of the project includes participants giving back to their communities and to other people living with disabilities. This way, strengthening family economies also involves building a social economy—one built on collaboration rather than competition. For example, one man who has an intellectual disability works with his parents to produce a variety of vegetable crops, and then they share some of their produce with a seniors' home. Other families raise sheep, goats, or pigs.

"Our emphasis is to support these people first with what they want to do," says Ernesto.

Funds raised through the Gifts with Vision program of the United Church are used to provide small grants so families can buy seeds, small animals, or whatever they need to improve their farms.

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

<b>Exodus: 16:2–15</b>	Bread and quails to feed the people.
<b>Psalms: 105:1–6, 37–45</b>	Make known what God has done.
<b>Philippians: 1:21–30</b>	For me, to live is Christ.
<b>Matthew: 20:1–16</b>	Daily wages for the labourers; what's fair?

## SERMON

**HYMN: GOD, WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD**

VU 313

## OFFERING

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We give you from our abundance to help bring to the table our talents, our financial help and all that we are for the work that needs to be done for the inbreaking of the Kingdom. Please accept these gifts which are given with love in our hearts for you and your vision for the world. AMEN**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**HYMN: WALK WITH ME**

VU 649

## PARTING WORDS

As we prepare to leave this sacred space where we have worshipped together, let us return to our busy lives enlivened and renewed...

*The Christ candle extinguished*

Let God's love work through your hands  
as you go forth into this week

*(The Rex Hunt Website Sept 20, 2020 Yr. A alt.)*

## **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

We go forth from here with a renewed sense of service to God and a deepened awareness of God's gifts to us. We head into this week with replenished hearts and minds assured of God's love for us and all God's children. Together we are nurtured and inspired to grow and love and serve the Lord. AMEN

*(Gathering Pentecost 2 yr. A 2020 p. 44)*

We know that we are able to do all of this because of the love of God, the power Jesus' presence and the will of the Holy Spirit.

## **GO NOW IN PEACE**

Portions of this liturgy came from the Rex Hunt Website, The Desperate Preacher's Website and Gathering

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