

# Covenant

**The United Church of Canada**  
a safe place for all people to worship  
Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024**  
**26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY**



## CANDLE LIGHTING

Jesus said (Matthew 18:20): “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” We light the Christ candle as a reminder that we are not alone. May its flame warm our hearts and inspire us to live the message of the gospel. *(light the Christ candle, and then the 3 pillars)*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Syllables known as “vocables” – that do not have a specific meaning in any particular language are often used in Indigenous song. In our tradition, we also use non-specific words like “hallelujah” to express gratitude or praise. Let us acknowledge this land we share, singing:

**VU #958 Halle, Halle, Halle!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGEs9UGli4w>

Halle, halle, halle–lujah!

Halle, halle, halle–lujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! *(repeat as many times as your musician chooses)*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are welcome here at Covenant United Church, where the ordinary is sanctified, where humanity is celebrated in all of its diversity, and compassion is expected. In this place together, we make it a holy place where love can dwell.



A special thank you to our coffee hour volunteers each month! Volunteering on December 15<sup>th</sup> are Heather & Veronica and January 12<sup>th</sup> are Carol Third & Evelyn Glazier. We are looking for volunteers to host the next coffee hour in February. If you are willing to help, please contact Heather.



Office hours are Wednesday from 9:00 – 3:30.



If you know someone who needs comfort, please help yourself to a prayer shawl on the shawl ladder at the back of the sanctuary.



Red Solo Cup Single serving Soup returns after Thanksgiving. If you have an extra cup or so to donate, please freeze and put in the Kitchen freezer. Red solo cups available

for use. Poster on the foyer bulletin board or contact Joy for more information.



The next WOW (Women on Wednesday) will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow!



The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.



**Finances – Heather Laverdiere, Gerry McNair & Susan Boisvert**

January 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024

- General Fund: Revenue \$69,790      Expenses \$94,561  
     From Investment      \$10,000
- Building Funds: Revenue \$1596      Expenses \$0
- M&S: Revenue \$5,255

Account balances are now: General Fund: \$56 Building Fund \$14,004 Outreach \$17

Investments \$141,421 (as of June 30, 2024)



Thank you to everyone who donated food, helped set up and cleaned up. We received \$525 from lunches, takes outs and cash donations. It was an enjoyable luncheon. The funds will be donated to local food security organizations and to Covenant General Fund.



Covenant will host our annual Christmas Carol and Coffee drop in on December 10, 2024 1-3 pm. Ask your singing friends to join the Covenant choir and all who enjoy Christmas music. Volunteers for desserts appreciated. Further details to come.



For the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism a wide range of speakers will be presenting on Tuesdays (all at 7:00 pm Eastern Time), throughout October and November. These can be accessed at home through Churchx, and we will have sessions in person at Covenant United in the South Room each week.

Here is the list for the remaining weeks:

Tues. Nov. 19: The Texts of Advent: Finding Good News and Avoiding Antisemitism with Amy-Jill Levine. There will be English-French interpretation.

Tues. Nov. 26: What Will We Sing When We Need to Sing a New Song? with the Then Let Us Sing! Committee.



The Church Property Network will meet online on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm ET (in the South Room) to discuss the following topics:

December 12: Faithful Footprints and Energy Efficiency, with Stephen Collette and David Constable

January 15: Rental Strategies 101, with Katja Brittain and Daniel Reed



Join us on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm for our Christmas Turkey Pot Luck Dinner. Supplied will be the turkey, dressing & gravy. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby for vegetable casseroles, potato casseroles & desserts. For more information, please contact Heather, Tim or Veronica.



Our annual Christmas Pageant will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

*(ringing the chimes)*

## ANTHEM

### CALL TO WORSHIP

What does the Lord require of us?

**To seek justice,  
to love kindness,  
and walk humbly with our God.**

Who are we called to be?

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others.**

Why do we gather for worship?

**We gather as an outpouring of gratitude and awe  
and a practice of opening ourselves  
to God's still, small voice of comfort, and  
to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.**

Let us worship God together!

## PRAYERS OF APPROACH

**God of All the Ages,  
we thank you for this day,  
for caring for us beautifully in this time.  
We praise your name for the gift of children  
in our lives and in our community.  
Forgive us for times when we discount their voices.  
Help us share your story with one another  
that we may remember your love written on our hearts.  
Remind us to follow children,  
as they lead us to living the kin-dom way.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## LEARNING TOGETHER – Child Poverty Awareness

In 1946, the United Nations established UNICEF to meet the emergency needs of children in post-war Europe and China. The full name was the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. In 1950, the UNICEF mandate was broadened to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries everywhere.



In 2018, as part of the “Bread not Stones” initiative of the United Church of Canada, UCW (United Church Women) members all across Canada made these rag dolls, (*show the doll, if you have one*). This one was made by Dawn Monroe, from Cochrane out of scraps of leftover material. The dolls were given to Canadian Senators and Members of Parliament, both Federal and Provincial, and also to some churches, along with advocacy and information in an effort to eliminate child poverty. The name of the project was taken from Matthew 7:9 “If a child asks for bread, who among us would give that child a stone?”

**PRAYER-** *written by Carolyn Pogue*

**God of all children,**

**we come before you bewildered by the fact of child poverty.**

**We come in frustration and shame that students are**

**hungry,**

**that homeless children sleep in cars and church basements**

**because we don't provide meals at school**

**or build enough affordable housing.**

**Strengthen us to honour and care for the children in our communities.**

**Help us to place the best interests of children first.**

**In the name of your child, Jesus. Amen.**

## **HYMN – VU # 400 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIs9MJkDbgo>

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to you children praying,

send us live, send us power, send us grace!

*(repeat as many times as your musician chooses, while the children exit for Sunday School)*

## **GOD'S MISSION, OUR STORIES**

In Zimbabwe, severe drought and food shortages continue to take a toll on communities, but the Zimbabwe Council of Churches is leading efforts to provide support. In partnership with Mission and Service and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the Scaling Up Resilience Project focuses on practical, long-term solutions. By emphasising climate-smart farming, gender equality, and community-driven initiatives, the project is helping families strengthen their resilience and work towards a more secure future.

The challenges facing Zimbabwe are immense, with frequent droughts, unpredictable rains, tropical cyclones, economic instability, and outbreaks of diseases like cholera all contributing to severe food insecurity. In the Bikita and Gutu districts, up to 60% of people are affected, with many families struggling to put food on the table, send their children to school, and are at risk of gender-based violence. Crop failures, especially due to El Niño, have worsened conditions, leaving communities in urgent need of solutions.

The Scaling Up Resilience Program addresses these issues by building on the success of previous humanitarian efforts. It will provide training in gender-sensitive, climate-smart agriculture, strengthen disaster risk management systems, and revive essential community assets, such as water conservation works

and irrigation schemes. By promoting gender equality, supporting financial resilience through savings and loans programs, and ensuring that all community members, including the elderly and those with disabilities, are included, the project is creating a brighter future for thousands of people.

Your gifts through Mission and Service have provided crucial support to partners like the Zimbabwe Council of Churches as they work toward a secure and sustainable future. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

### SCRIPTURE READING

**Hebrews 10:11-25** – The Voice

### HYMN – VU # 288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VqEEy8u3C4>

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!**  
**Morning by morning new mercies I see;**  
**all I have needed thy hand hath provided –**  
**great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **(R)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. **(R)**

### GOSPEL READING

**Mark 13:1-8** – NRSV(UE)

Let us respond together saying:

**May God bless to our learning and understanding  
these words from the scriptures.**

### REFLECTING ON THE WORD

### HYMN – MV # 120 My Soul Cries Out

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBEQECxs8bQ>

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.**  
**Let the fires of your justice burn.**  
**Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,**  
**and the world is about to turn!**

Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. **(R)**

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
 not a stone will be left on stone.  
 Let the king beware for you justice tears  
 ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
 The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
 for the food they can never earn;  
 there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
 for the world is about to turn. **(R)**

Through the nations rage from age to age,  
 we remember who holds us fast:  
 God's mercy must deliver us  
 from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
 This saving word that our forebears heard  
 is the promise which hold us bound,  
 'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
 who is turning the world around. **(R)**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

Each day of our lives we are presented with opportunities to  
 respond to God's love and give of ourselves in faithful service.  
 There are many ways to give, each according to our own  
 abilities, with all gifts working together for the sake of the  
 mission and ministry entrusted to us by God.

### **DOXOLOGY -- VU # 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dM2dUqmLPek>

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
 with a spirit large and free,  
 that ourselves and all our living  
 we may offer faithfully.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**God of abundance, we thank you for the gifts that we  
 present to you now. We ask that you receive them and  
 bless them. May they enable us to serve the world in ways  
 that inspire hope and make your love known. In Jesus'  
 name, we pray. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

We gather these prayers together in the prayer that Jesus  
 taught us ...

(Voices United p.916)

**Eternal Spirit,  
 Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
 Source of all that is and that shall be.  
 Father and Mother of us all,  
 Loving God in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo  
 through the universe!  
 The way of your justice be followed  
 by peoples of the world!  
 Your heavenly will be done,  
 by all created beings!  
 Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
 sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For your reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**HYMN – VU # 639 One More Step Along the World I Go**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kIOsTeXI-w&list=PLJ5l-D6vQ\\_mm4u\\_ZkFJ1A8xcrqy9TLalH&index=18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kIOsTeXI-w&list=PLJ5l-D6vQ_mm4u_ZkFJ1A8xcrqy9TLalH&index=18)

One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
**And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.**

Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me: **(R)**

As I travel through the bad and the good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know: **(R)**

Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving through the world is tough,  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you: **(R)**

You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me,  
ever old and ever new,

keep me travelling along with you: **(R)** Words © 1971 Stainer & Bell  
(admin. Hope Publishing Company)

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING** – written by Aaron Palmer, St Paul's U.C., New Liskeard, Ont.

As you keep on one more step at a time –  
Remember that God-in-you is not finished, there is much still to be lived!  
So, Go out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfil your high calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. Go and join Christ in the world, healing and sharing words of freedom, witnessing to the sacred in the midst of daily life.

**EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**SUNG BLESSING – VU p# 884 You Shall Go Out with Joy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=up3AKJ2PxiU>

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)  
while you go out with joy.

*Some resources in this service are taken from:*

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