**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Rev. Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025**

**CREATION 4**

**ALSO CELEBRATING THE**

**NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**



*(Ring the chime once)*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to Covenant United Church! You are welcome here 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.

 We are looking for volunteers to host our coffee hour. Our next coffee will be on October 19th. If you are willing to help, please contact Heather.

 There is a single gold coloured hoop earring & a pair of black stud earrings that were left on the desk in the office. If you have lost these, please contact Heather or the office to claim.

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

  The Lord’s Kitchen is requesting donations of coats, toques, scarves, mitts, socks and boots in preparing ahead for the winter months for their clients in need. There will be a marked bin (The Lord’s Kitchen) in the cloak room for donations. Your donations will be appreciated. Help Covenant reach out to those in need.

 Tuesday, September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. On Sunday, September 28th, we encourage you to participate in "Orange Shirt Day" as a visible sign of solidarity, and of our engagement in the ongoing work of reconciliation in Canada. Not everyone has an orange shirt, but perhaps you have an orange scarf, hat, work safety vest, or other accessory.

 Prayer Shawl will be meeting on Thursday, October 2nd from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. All are welcome.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE --** *Anita Rowland*

This is the light of Christ, **a promise of Love.**

This light shines for us, **and for all of creation.**

For this we give thanks. **Hallelujah!**

*(ring the chime)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF APPROACH**

During GC45, the Business Committee invited a diverse group of guests, commissions and staff to discern and develop a litany and prayer hoped to carry some of the spirit, insight and concerns of the council to the whole church and to God. A French version is available on [egliseunie.ca](https://egliseunie.ca/une-litanie-dinvitation-a-leglise-de-la-part-du-45e-conseil-general-calgary/).

One: Oh, church—

All: **Experience the Creator’s deep visions;**

One: In a denomination that recognizes the brokenness of relationship between peoples in our land and still chooses to live toward truth, respect, and healing;
In a church that makes apology for our collective harms to people who are Two-Spirit, to those who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and more; knowing it is only a first step, once again;
In the possibilities for abundant life in a community of neighbours that ache with depression, addiction, and mental health crisis, that lack safe and secure housing.
For such a time as this.

All: **In such a time as this.**

One: Oh, church—

All: **Envision the Holy Spirit’s bold dreams:**

One: For a world where genocide and atrocity are no more, where all God’s children can heal and grow in safety and abundance. Holding the peoples of Palestine, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, Haiti, Israel, the Korean Peninsula and so many more in our hearts, we pledge our actions in service of God’s dream of peace;
For communities where love abounds over hate, where difference is celebrated. We reject White Christian nationalism and commit to a faith that includes and frees.

For such a time as this.

All: **In such a time as this.**

One: Oh, church—

All: **Live Christ's daring love:**

One: In communities where the lives and leadership of children, youth and young adults are centered and celebrated;
Where emerging communities of faith find welcome and accompaniment;
Where leadership is passionate and brave;
Where diversity is our essence;
Where possibility and hope surpass scarcity and lament;
Where connection and collaboration is our way of life;
Where we know our call as beloved community of Jesus’ disciples.

For such a time as this.

All: **In such a time as this.**

One: Oh, church—your siblings who gather as the 45th General Council of The United Church of Canada challenge us all to dream of the next 100 years:

All: **To dare to look in the mirror,**
**and see a prophet staring back;
To dare to be hopeful,
To dare to be joyful,
To dare to live Christ's love.
To dare to participate in God’s transformation.**

One: Will you pray together?

All: **God of all Creation, who dares us to love, hear our prayers.
We dream of a church that sees your deep visions; healing wounds, walking humbly, and acting justly.
We dream of a church that envisions the Holy Spirit’s bold dreams; offering hope, compassion, and healing to all broken places.
​​We dream of a church that holds in its heart all who suffer—pledging solidarity, resisting violence, rejecting exclusion, and boldly pursuing love, justice, and peace.
We dream of a church that lives Christ’s daring love—welcoming and honouring young leaders, embracing diverse communities, and journeying together in courage, connection, and unity.
O God, empower us to live boldly with visions and dreams.
In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cls9MJkDbgo>

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace!

**STORY TIME** – for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

**CHILDREN’S HYMN – VU #308 Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works** *(verse 1)* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVlELrT18ac>

Many and great, O God, are your works,

Maker of earth and sky.

Your hands have set the heavens with stars,

your fingers spread the mountains and plains.

Lo, at your word the waters were formed;

deep seas obey your voice.

**CENTERING**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Keeping Language and Culture Alive

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The Inuinnaqtun (in - nooee - nak - tun) language is the cultural foundation of the Inuinnait (in - nooee - nate) people, who live in the central Canadian Arctic. The word *Inuinnaqtun* (in - nooee - nak - tun) literally means “to be a person.” Today, fewer than 600 people can speak this language fluently, with many having lost the language when they were taken from their communities and sent to residential schools.

One Mission and Service partner in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, is dedicated to keeping Inuinnaqtun (in - nooee - nak - tun) alive. They offer one-on-one language immersion sessions with mentors to inspire reconnection.

Since the initial gathering of the team in 2021, many significant successes have occurred. Over the past year, the team has worked hard together, both in person and online, to create helpful resources for revitalizing their language. They have spent many hours making sure these resources will make a positive impact.

One big success is the development of the Inuinnaqtun (in - nooee - nak - tun) Dictionary app, which is newly available for free on Android and Apple. The team has also created a beginner Inuinnaqtun (in - nooee - nak - tun) curriculum and is working on lessons for more advanced levels. They are also teaming up with linguist Richard Compton from the Université de Quebec à Montreal to create a Community Grammar of Inuinnaqtun (in - nooee - nak - tun)

Your compassionate gifts through Mission and Service are supporting programs that help preserve language and culture.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 Timothy 6:6-19** – The Voice

**Luke 16:19-31** – The Voice

**HYMN – VU #292 Creating God, We Give You Thanks** (Verses 1, 2, 5) *Note: in verse two, change “woman, man” in the first line to “humankind”*

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pq7hLg1zg5s*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pq7hLg1zg5s)

Creating God, we give you thanks

that this your world is incomplete;

that battle calls our marshalled ranks,

that work awaits our hands and feet.

You have not finished humankind,

for we are in the making still,

as friends who share the Maker’s plan,

as those who know your loving will.

Since what we choose is what we are,

and what we love we yet shall be,

the goal may ever shine afar,

the will to win it makes us free.

**REFLECTION**

**HYMN –** **MV #120 My Soul Cries Out**

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBEQECxs8bQ*](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 your 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)**

Though 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 holds us bound,

‘til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,

who is turning the world around. **(R)**

**OFFERING INVITATION --** *Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters, Sask.*

**OFFERING SONG – VU #538 For the Gift of Creation**

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

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,

and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,

we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION** –*Whitney Bruno, Little Current*

**Abundant God, Bless our commitments. Let our gifts of love multiply and shower the world with love. Let us be each other’s encouragement and building up. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

what they need to thrive.

So that we may treat all children as we would treat you, our Beloved.

May it be so.

Amen.

**HYMN – VU #661 Come to My Heart**

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYhNEVH6SU0*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYhNEVH6SU0)

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.

Give me peace and joy that only you can bring.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; fill me with love today.

Give me peace and joy that only you can bring.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; Answer my prayer today.

Give me peace and joy that only you can bring.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus, give me a song to sing.

**COMMISSIONING** – *Bill Steadman, Goulais River U.C., Goulais River, Ont.*

We continue our journey, seeking truth and wisdom for the days ahead, knowing that we are guided by God every step of the way.

**Let us continue to search for truth, understanding, and wisdom as we journey in faith, for we follow Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life for us. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

May God who creates you fill you with light;

May God who sustains you make you wise;

May God who protects you give you joy,

May God who dwells in you give you peace.

**EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**SENDING SONG – VU #260 God Who Gives to Life It’s Goodness**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fnc5rHKJmXA>

God who gives to life its goodness,

God creator of all joy,

God who gives to us our freedom,

God who blesses tool and toy;

teach us now to laugh and praise you,

deep within your praises sing,

till the whole creation dances

for the goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty,

God who binds each friend to friend,

God who names us co-creators

God who wills that chaos end;

grant us now creative spirits,

minds responsive to your mind,

hearts and wills your rule extending

all our acts by Love refined.

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