**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



*(Ring the chime once)*

**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.

 June 8th is our wrap up Sunday hosted by Heather Laverdiere & Veronica Renken (with a little help from our friends). Summer months will be ‘whatever will be’. September – our ‘welcome back’ will be hosted by Veronica Renken & Heather Laverdiere (with a little help from our friends). **THANK YOU** to all that help make this happen!!!!!!

 The Manitou Intentional Learning Community invites you to a Zoom workshop on “Exploring Medical Assistance in Dying” being held Tuesday, May 20th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Workshop presenter, Rev. Kathy Dahmer. To register, please visit [manitoulearningcommunity.com.](http://manitoulearningcommunity.com./)

 Save the date!!!! Special 100th Anniversary Service & luncheon on Sunday, June 1st. More details to follow.

 Our annual Strawberry Social will be on June 11th from 1:30 until 3:30.

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

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

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!

*(ring the chime)*

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

On this fifth Sunday of the Easter season,

we shout and sing the glad news:

**Jesus Christ is risen indeed!**

We light the Christ candle

**because he is here among us.**

*(the candles are lit)*

Hallelujah!

**Hallelujah! Amen!**

**CALL TO WORSHIP –** *(Richard Bott)*

This is the day our God has made!

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

No matter if it is sunny or raining

**Windy or calm.**

It is a gift to celebrate.

**This is the day our God has made,**

**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**PRAYERS OF APPROACH**

**ALL: God, you are our refuge.**

One: You are the shore in sight,

you are the hands that reach out,

you are the ground on which to rest.

**ALL: God, you are our strength.**

One: You are the life we long for,

you are the refusal to give up,

you are the keys of home we carry with us.

**ALL: God, you are our help in times of trouble.**

One: We call on you from the ruins and the rubble,

we call on you from the wildness and the deep.

**ALL: We call on you to meet us in this place!**

**ACT OF PRAISE – Gather Hymnal #533 They’ll Know We Are Christians**

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,**

**Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,

And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land: **(R)**

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,

And we’ll guard human’s dignity and save human’s pride: **(R)**

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,

And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only son,

And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: **(R)**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Rooted in History, Reaching for Tomorrow

With your support, Mission and Service will continue to grow, nurturing life, justice, and compassion for generations to come.

****

As The United Church of Canada approaches its 100th anniversary, we give thanks for a century of faithful witness, compassion, and commitment to justice. While the formal “Mission and Service” hasn’t been with us from the very beginning, the heart of it – the compassion to care for others, to build peace, to support communities – has always been part of who we are.

For decades, through changing times and shifting needs, Mission and Service has connected us to one another across the miles and has strengthened our call to live out God’s love in tangible, meaningful ways.

Today, gifts to Mission and Service support a wide range of programs: from food security and emergency response, to education and global partnerships, to right relations and anti-racism work. Every gift matters. Every act of generosity plants seeds of love and hope.

As we look to the future, we know that the work is far from over. But we also know that, together, we can do more than we ever could alone. With your support, Mission and Service will continue to grow, nurturing life, justice, and compassion for generations to come.

Thank you for the way you continue to compassionately step forward through [Mission and Service](https://united-church.ca/donate).

**CENTERING**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Revelation 21:1-6** NRSV(UE)

**Acts 11: 1-18** – NRSV(UE)

**John 13: 34-35** – NRSV(UE)

**RESPONSE – VU #226 For the Beauty of the Earth**

For the beauty of the earth,

for the glory of the skies,

for the love which from our birth

over and around us lies,

**God of all, to you we raise**

**this our hymn of grateful praise.**

For the beauty of each hour

of the day and of the night,

hill and vale, and tree and flower,

sun and moon, and stars of light, **(R)**

For the joy of human love,

brother, sister, parent, child,

friends on earth, and friends above,

for all gentle thoughts and mild, **(R)**

For each perfect gift sublime

to our race for freely given,

graces human and divine,

flowers of earth and buds of heaven, **(R)**

**REFLECTING ON THE WORD**

**HYMN – MV # 138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines**

My love colours outside the lines,

exploring paths that few could ever find;

and takes me into places where I’ve never been before,

and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines,

turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;

and takes me into places where I’ve never been before

and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

We’ll never walk on water if we’re not prepared to drown,

body and soul need a soaking from time to time.

And we’ll never move the gravestones

if we’re not prepared to die

and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,

tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;

I want to walk beyond the boundaries

where I’ve never been before,

throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

We’ll never walk on water if we’re not prepared to drown,

body and soul need a soaking from time to time.

And we’ll never move the gravestones

if we’re not prepared to die

and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,

tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;

I want to walk beyond the boundaries

where I’ve never been before,

throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**DOXOLOGY – MV # 188 I Thank You, Thank You, Jesus**

I thank you, thank you, Jesus,

I thank you, thank you, Jesus,

I thank you, thank you, Jesus, in my heart.

I thank you, thank you, Jesus,

I thank you, thank you, Jesus,

I thank you, thank you, Jesus, in my heart.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION –**

**For the blessing of this and all our days, we thank you, Gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use all that we offer in this place of worship and wherever you might take us in service of your love. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**HYMN – VU #253 Sing Your Joy**

Sing your joy, proclaim God’s glory!

Rise and sing, the morning has come!

Bless our God and praise all creation;

song of the earth, and light from heaven:

God is alive! Hallelujah!

All the earth is filled with rejoicing,

light and life, the wonder of God!

Christ has triumphed! Risen for ever!

Joy of our hearts, and hope of our dreaming:

God is alive! Hallelujah!

May we learn to become your kingdom,

may we be your kindness and truth!

Love is our calling, gift of your presence;

children of God, and spirit of Jesus:

God is alive! Hallelujah!

Light our way, O God of the living,

may we learn to see with new eyes!

Jesus the Lord, our power and promise;

light for the blind, and food for the hungry:

God is alive! Hallelujah!

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

**EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**SENDING SONG – Go Now in Peace**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there filling you with love.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Resources used in this liturgy:

\*Claudio Carvalhaes; Liturgies from Below; 2020)

AND gatheringworship.ca

**Covenant United Church**

**230 Eighth Ave**

**Timmins, ON**

**(705) 264-5518**

**covenanttimmins@ntl.sympatico.ca**