

Jasper United Church and the Anglican Parish
of St. Mary and St. George
Ecumenical Shared Ministry Worship Service
Nov. 19th, 2023
Twenty-fifth after Pentecost

JUC Mission Statement

“Our mission is to worship God and deepen our Christian faith. We strive to seek justice, to be an inclusive, caring and accepting community, and to be stewards of God’s world.”

The human mind makes foolish divisions in what love sees as one.
— Anthony de Mello in *The Heart of the Enlightened*

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

Announcements

Celebrations and Remembrances

Settling Moment

In the quiet of your listening, you are invited to rest your thoughts and prepare your hearts and minds to worship God.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." (Lighting of the Christ Candle)

We see and know. Christ’s Light is in the world.

Call to Worship

We have set aside this sacred hour to gather as a people together. Longing to feel the presence of God among us, to be renewed to live this one holy life fully and completely, and to be strengthened in the way of God. **We come to open our hearts to hear God’s wisdom, to be strengthened in love and hope and to be encouraging one another along the way.**

Opening Hymn: Jesus Bids Us Shine

VU 585

Opening Prayer

O Holy One, how often we want more, **Or the world around us tells us we need more.** How often we struggle with providing for ourselves, planning the future, worrying that we may not have enough, **as we struggle also in our churches and our communities.** And yet, our world is full of people who have only each other, Or are altogether alone, **People who live on the edge, even in our own country.** May today’s readings question us and our world, Opening us to deeper wisdom, **Taking us to a deeper place of imagination and hope, As we use what we have to make a better way and a better world for all. Amen.**

Written by Jane Doull in *Let us Pray* Used with permission.

Prayer of Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1.8, 9
God of our creation, Though you have gifted us with your spirit of life. Made us in your image and granted to each the talent of their worth. We are reluctant to risk for the sake of your love, afraid to fail, afraid to be rejected, afraid we are not enough. afraid to voice our hope in your vision, we are losing sight of our faith in your kin-dom come. We are losing sight of You. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from all that limits us from fully realizing your love. In your generosity of love, encourage us to invest in your world. As you invest in us. Amen

Words of Affirmation

This is the Good News in Jesus Christ: God loves us more than we love ourselves. God set us free to love others Fills us with a joy sufficient to let go of our fears And risk love for God’s sake. **Thanks be to God.**

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination: Holy One, as we prepare to hear the wisdom of your Word, help us to be receptive. Help us to be curious about what you might want us to hear, to feel, and to understand anew. Amen

Scripture Readings: Judges 4: 1 – 7; Psalm 123 **VU 847**

1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11: Matthew 25: 14 – 30

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Reflection

Response: A New Creed

Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be

VU 506

GOD NURTURES – WE RESPOND

Mission and Service

Offering Invitation

We give not out of obligation but out of gratitude for God's love for us and all creation. We give to make real our faith in the world.

Offering Hymn: For the Gift of Creation

VU 538

Offering Prayer

Holy and gracious God, from your abundance of grace we offer our gifts back to you. Bless our offerings that they may be signs of hope and freedom for those who hunger and thirst for daily bread and daily peace. In your goodness, bless the spirit of every giver with your joy ever abundant. Amen

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

WE GO FORTH

Closing Hymn: In Christ There Is No East or West

VU 606

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda McLaren

Musician: Bev. Cardiff

Rev. David Prowse