

JASPER UNITED CHURCH

June 9, 2024

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Mission Statement

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

*Imagine the joy that would come with celebrating the self — our achievements, our experiences, our existence. Imagine what it would be like to look into the mirror and say, as God taught us, "That's good."
— Joan Chittister*

GOD GATHERS US IN

Prelude

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

Announcements

Celebrations and Remembrances

Settling Moment

Christ Candle

In the beginning, God said, “let there be light”
and there was light. (Christ Candle is lit)

In every beginning there is God. Light to light our way.

Call to Worship*

From deep soil comes bold and daring growth. From the seeds of our past will come fresh new growth.

We come today to marvel at what has been harvested and prepare for what will come.

We come to celebrate where we are and where we have been.

We come rejoicing with our ancestors in faith across generations:

The Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians,

the Evangelical United Brethren, and Local Union Churches, and our full communion partners across this world:

The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea,

The United Church of Christ,

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines,

and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

All: We give thanks to God for the blessings of past, present, and future, and dare to plant these seeds of faith anew!

Opening Hymn: Make a Joyful Noise

VU 820

Opening Prayer*

Again and again, God, we come to this time and place with a song!
Each day you give us a chance to begin anew: to drink deeply of your Spirit, to boldly follow in the Way of Jesus, and to dare to seek justice as we seek relationship with our neighbours and you.

Again and again, God, you call us out of our old lives and into your new day.

And so, as we celebrate the 99th anniversary of this United Church of yours, help us to reflect back with clarity upon all that deserves to be celebrated, all that deserves to be lamented, and all that deserves to be let go.

We are not perfect, God, but we are yours, and we trust that you are with us every day.

This day, and always, help us to be good grain that is planted and tended by your love, so that in the year to come we may flourish in this time and place.

Amen.

Conversation Time: Celebrating the UCC

Prayer of Transformation*

Hymn: The Spring Has Come

VU 187

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination*

Holy One, we believe you speak to us through the songs of birds and the wind in the trees, through the wisdom of living elders and our

spiritual ancestors in faith. As we share these words of scripture today, God, may we receive what your Spirit is saying to the church. All of this we pray, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

**Psalm 33* (adapted for inclusive language)
John 12:20–28**

Reflection: Imagining God Anew – Ministry in NSR

Hymn: Spirit God Be Our Breath

MV 150

GOD NURTURES – WE RESPOND

Mission and Service

Offering

Offering Hymn: When We Are Living

VU 581 v2

Offering Prayer*

Gracious God, we believe that you are calling us forward into a new day. We believe that you have a future for Jasper United Church, and The United Church of Canada that is rooted in your abundant life, and we trust you with this future, even though it's beyond the horizon of our dreams. So, we offer you the blessings you have already given us— our time, our talents, our finances, and our hopes—so that you might use them and transform them for the good of your whole world. May these gifts be a blessing to the people of Jasper and beyond! All this we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen!

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

GOD GOES WITH US INTO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: We Are Pilgrims

VU 595

Commissioning & Benediction*

Beloved, as you go into the world this day and this year, may you receive this blessing as both gift and call:

Blessed are you who give your life to living deeply within the Spirit's call,

who long to be planted fully within the heart of Christ
and to love God's world with all your heart.

Blessed are you who give your life to bold discipleship:

who plant the Saviour's seeds of love, faith, hope, and joy,
and trust that God will nurture these seeds
with a future good beyond your imagining.

And blessed are you who give your life to daring justly for all Creation,
you, whose heart breaks open like a seed in the earth

as you give your life for the flourishing of all places and people.

Blessed are we who live this life and *give* this life,

for we are not alone in this living and dying and rising again.

God is with us!

And we are blessed to be a blessing, now and always.

Thanks be to God! Let the people say, **Amen!**

Postlude

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda McLaren

Worship Reader: Sarah; Greeter: Dale

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