

JASPER UNITED CHURCH

September 17, 2023

Creation Time 2

in the Season of 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.”

*“Sometimes it is necessary to reteach a thing its loveliness, to put a hand on
its brow of the flower and retell it in words and touch it is lovely
until it flowers again from within.”*

Galway Kinnell in Saint Francis and the Sow

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

In the season of dimming light, we light this candle to be reminded of
Christ's light that never dims. (Lighting of the Christ Candle)

Christ’s Light is always among us.

Call to Worship

We come with praise for the beauty around us, for prairie, for seas,
for mountains, for trees. We come as stewards, partners in care of the
universe and the earth and all creatures there. We come in gratitude
for God’s graciousness. In our songs and worship, May our thanks be
expressed! Written by Karen Coogan, Gathering Pentecost 2 2023, Page 25, Used with permission.

Opening Hymn: When We Are Living

VU 581

Opening Prayer

God of Compassion

Enter the sanctuary of our gathering,

Pour out your spirit on our gathering.

Let your mercy overflow from our hearts

God of Compassion

We turn to you grateful for your presence.

We turn to you grateful for your grace.

We turn to you grateful for your love.

God of Compassion.

Renew us to be generous in mercy.

Lavish in love,

Renew us to be your people.

Amen

Prayer of Transformation

Loving One, in deep trust of your grace I rest in your mercy. Trusting
your goodness, I call to mind how I have needed your forgiveness, and
how greatly, how deeply and completely, how continuously you have
forgiven me, and I give thanks. Love, have mercy. ...

Shine the light of your love where I have shaded my guilt from your
grace, where I have not allowed myself to be forgiven. May your will
be done, your love find home and assure me again.

Christ, have mercy. ...

Gentle One, shine the light of your love where I have not forgiven.

Heal me of my blame; release me from the burden of my judgment.

Help me be as forgiving as I am forgiven. Love, have mercy. ...

In the name of the One who broke bread with his betrayer, in the Spirit
of the One who forgave his torturers, I pray for the gift of forgiveness.

Amen. Used with permission Steve Garnaas-Holmes Unfolding Light @ www.unfoldinglight.net

Words of Assurance

Conversation Time: Raven and the First Men

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination: Holy Spirit, Hear Us (v.2)

VU 377

Scripture Readings

Exodus 14:19-31; Matthew 18: 221-35

These are the stories of our faith! **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

GOD NURTURES – WE RESPOND

Mission and Service

Offering Invitation

We give with the hope that lives may be changed, fears overcome, and hope provided. We give in gratitude for God's love for us and all creation. Thank you for all that has been given to support the work and mission of God's vision and the work of Jasper United Church.

Offering Hymn: For the Gift of Creation

VU 538

Offering Prayer

Compassionate God,
whose children we all are,
one big family under heaven,
bless our offerings and transform them into compassion for others,
into community for the lonely,
and a movement of hope for the church and the world.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

WE GO FORTH

Hymn: Amazing Grace

VU 266

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God

Worship Leaders: Rev. Linda McLaren

Musician: Carol Vien