



St. James United Church

Celebrating 110 Years!

An Affirming Ministry

9th Sunday After Pentecost – Welcome Paul Armstrong!

Affirm Sunday

Living fully, intentionally and compassionately

Weekly Service Bulletin – July 22, 2018

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PRELUDE / WELCOME / THE LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH INTROIT/ CHRIST CANDLELIGHTING

WE GATHER

As we gather together for worship, we celebrate the shining waters which run through the ancestral lands of our Indigenous sisters and brothers in the area. Those waters shimmer with the Great Spirit of all Creation and the spirits of the fathers and mothers that come ahead of us. In our time together, let the ground on which we gather be sacred ground.

WE GATHER

***GATHERING SONG**

Joy Comes with the Dawn

VU#166

Words: Gordon Light 1985. Music: Gordon Light 1985; arr. Nan Thompson 1995.

Refrain:

**Joy comes with the dawn, joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.**

1. Weeping may come; weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. **R**
2. Sorrow will turn, sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong. **R**
3. We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. **R**

GATHERING WORDS (*responsive*)

One: Love's door is always open to us.

All: Love's heart is always overflowing.

One: As we gather for worship let us remember to keep our doors and hearts open to all who struggle with poverty or displacement.

All: May we recognize and embrace our sister, our brother, in need.

One: May we be filled with the will to work in our community and our country toward ending the pain and waste that poverty and displacement create.

**All: We are blessed as we gather to learn, to reflect, to sing,
to pray and to go out in the name of Jesus -
the one who emptied himself of all but love.**

Adapted from "Poverty & Homeless Action Week", UK 2008

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

One: God in us, God among us,
Jesus gave honour to the least, those forgotten, overlooked and misjudged.
Jesus gave first place to the last, those left behind,
misunderstood and undervalued.
Jesus gave a warm welcome to the lost,
and to those orphaned, abandoned and destitute.

All: Help us to do the same.

One: Help us to be the voices speaking love and acceptance.

All: Help us to be the feet walking beside those in need.

One: Help us to be the hands that clothe, feed and shelter.

All: Jesus lived for the least, the lost and last of this world.

**May we do the same, and may this time of worship inspire us
and give us strength for the journey. Amen.**

*(a contemporary prayer for the poor and vulnerable from www.lords-prayer-words.com - *adapted)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken)*

VU#921

***HYMN** *God Is Passionate Life (sung in a round)*

VU#695

Words and music: Colleen Fulmer 1985.

God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us as we seek justice for all people.
God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us as we seek freedom for all people.
God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us as we seek equality for all people
God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us as we seek dignity for all people.
God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us as we seek peace in our day for all people.

THEME CONVERSATION

Video: Family Homelessness Happens Here?

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Teach us faith, teach us caring, teach us love, teach us sharing.
Help us love your whole creation. Make our lives a celebration. Amen.

WE REFLECT

RESPONSIVE READING

Joanne Rorke

One: God of Hope and Joy

**All: In your greatness you call all to seek those who are lost,
forgotten and isolated.**

One: God of light and strength,

**All: By your Grace you call us all to be together
to journey our understanding of the Way.**

One: Show us all the way forward

**All: Into this world you love,
To be your hands and heart,
To respond with willingness and humility,
To love and share as you have loved and shared.**

One: Send us all to the edges,

**All: Give us all the grace to stand beside
Those who are voiceless, marginalized and rejected,
Those who experience pain and hardship,
Loneliness and grief, coldness and hunger.**

One: Show us all how to care, how to listen,

All: How to respond, how to love, how to proclaim and liberate.

One: Lead all who serve in your name so that in being your hands and heart,
We may ever faithfully walk in your Spirit.

Adapted from UnitingCare Launch Prayer - Reverend John Dunn

ANTHEM

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31-40

Joanne Rorke

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

***HYMN**

Homeless People, Will You Listen

VU#696

Words: Walter Farquharson 1977. Music: Ron Klusmeier 1977.

1. "Homeless people, will you listen? I, too, was a refugee.
Poor and hungry of my family, I was born in poverty."
So speaks Jesus to our sisters, offering love and hope and peace.
2. "Anxious people, can you hear me? I was torn and hurt by fear.
Sick and suffering maimed and wounded, I knew doubt and bitter tear."
So speaks Jesus to our brothers, offering love and hope and peace.
3. "Homeless people, will you listen? I was also refugee.
Poor and hungry of my family, I was born in poverty."
So speaks Jesus to his followers, friends of his must learn to give.

4. "Anxious people, can you hear me? I was torn and hurt by fear.
Sick and suffering maimed and wounded, I knew doubt and bitter tear."
So speaks Jesus to his followers, friends of his must learn to give.

REFLECTION

Paul Armstrong

WE RESPOND

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

*SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE *What Can I Do?*

MV#191

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What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE GO FORTH

*HYMN

We Are Pilgrims

VU#595

Words and Music: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. Betty Pulkingham

1. We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
2. Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

*BLESSING

*SUNG BLESSING

Go Now in Peace

Don Besig

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, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

POSTLUDE