

## STITTSVILLE UNITED CHURCH

### “Growing Together in Spirit”

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Easter, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion,  
May 7, 2023

### WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

(\* indicates when we are invite to rise in body or in spirit)

**Music to Prepare for Worship:** Tell The Nations by Ruth Elaine Schram

**Land Acknowledgement** - Peter Chynoweth, *Gathering L-E 2022*, with permission

One: This land on which we gather is the traditional land of the Anishina'abe Algonquin people.

**All: We worship Creator on this land, and acknowledge with respect the thousands of years of ceremony and relationship, etched in footprint, fire, and faithfulness on the soil and rock that surround us.**

**Lighting the Christ Candle** - Sue Carleton, *Gathering L-E 2023*, with permission

One: We light this candle in recognition of this world, particularly this area of earth called Turtle Island, which was created by God before human time began.

**All: In every moment, Christ's light shines over this land where we are thankful to live. Amen!**

**Choral Response VU#179 (chorus) Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ. Hallelujah, hallelujah, give praise to God's name.**

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Hymn: VU # 186 Now the green blade rises**

**\*Invitation to Worship:** Elaine Bidgood Sweet, *Gathering L-E 2023*, with permission, abridged

One: It is good to be in this place of worship, in the presence of God.

**All: It is good to gather with this church family. Let us celebrate the gifts of God.**

One: Let us be open to God's transforming love.

**All: Let us be fully in this moment as we worship our God together.**

**Opening Prayer:** - Dr. Tom Reynolds, The United Church of Canada website, with permission, abridged

**Come into each heart here today so that we may live and love with purpose, courage, and beauty. O God, who has created each of us in your image and made each as holy vessels of your presence to one another, create in and among us a holy place. Give us hearts and minds open to human vulnerability, To listen to each other with patient and thoughtful attention and support, To perceive the grace of the differences in our embodied experience, To resist what excludes and diminishes, and to dismantle what acts as barriers to**

flourishing together in love and justice. O God, help us to trust your Spirit's work to make us whole, together in relationships of mutuality and partnership, in sacred rhythms of giving and receiving, to be your people in the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US**

### **Life and Ministry of the Church**

**\*Hymn:** VU # 400 Lord, listen to your children praying

### **Conversation with the Children**

**We Engage with Scripture: reader:** Wendy Hall

**1 Peter 2:4-6, 9** Living stone, holy nation

**John 14:1-10** Jesus is the way

**Message:** "Living stones, living bread"

**Musical Offering:** Hymn to Freedom by Oscar Peterson  
sung by: Alanna, Victoria, Sarah & Allison

## **WE RESPOND IN LOVE**

### **Invitation to Offer Our Gifts**

**\*Song of Dedication: VU # 238 (chorus)** - (Reproduced with permission under license #C16965, LincenSing Online)

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, how great thou art, how great thou art!**

**\*Prayer of Dedication:** - Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith, The United Church of Canada website, with permission

**Loving God, open us to a new world. Where there is no longer least and greatest, rich and poor, haves and have nots. A world where all are treated as beloved precious children. A world where mental health is understood to be physical health and cared for without stigma or judgement. Until that day comes, bless our small contributions of time, talent and treasures and may it work towards the building of your new world. Amen.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **The Invitation**

**\* Hymn:** VU # 402 We are one (verses 1-3)

**\* New Creed:** VU # 918

### **The Peace of Christ:**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Sanctus and Benedictus (Glory and Blessing)**

...Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen....we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving:

**Holy, holy, holy God, power of life and love! Heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna through the ages! Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth!**

### **Prayers of the People**

**The 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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Words of Institution and Consecration**

...Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts ... In this hope, we your people praise you:

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen.**

In the bread we break, we share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.**

As we give thanks for the cup of blessing,

**We share in the cup of salvation.**

### **Sharing the Meal**

**Prayer after Communion:**

**Nourishing One, your gifts renew us in body, spirit, and mind. Through this taste of love, may the Spirit send us with a faith that is brave. Let no institution or narrow thinking hold us back; make us people who boldly pursue collective justice and tend gently to the world's pain. Amen.**

**WE GO FORTH IN SERVICE**

**\*Hymn:** VU # 402 We are one (verse 4)

**\*Commissioning** - Anne Mathewson, Gathering L-E 2023, with permission, abridged

With thankful hearts, let us leave this space.

**May Jesus Christ, the risen one, call us to live the gospel word, respect creation, and love our neighbours.**

**\* Blessing**

**\* Choral Response: VU #974** Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen

**Music to inspire us as we go:** For Good by Stephen Schwartz  
sung by: Alanna & Allison