

**Visions United Spirit Gathering**  
**August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**  
**The Practice of Encountering Others: Community**  
*Inspired by "An Altar in the World": A Geography of Faith*  
*by Barbara Brown Taylor*

**Our Community Gathers**

**Prelude**

Everything is Beautiful

*(Daphna Pearson)*

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**Welcome**

*God's Doors Are Open to All!*

*Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts*

Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all  
 races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,  
 sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*Each week we light a candle.*

*It's a moment of pause as we create sacred space.*

*We invite you to light one, too.*

With this candle,  
 we welcome the Spirit of Jesus, the Christ,  
 into our hearts  
 and into our gathering,  
 apart, yet together.

**Gathering Prayer** *(unison)*

Spirit of love, Breath of our breath  
 we take this moment to pause  
 to catch our breath...  
 to ground ourselves in Love's presence...

There are times when  
 we are too busy for you  
 for one another  
 for ourselves...

There are times when we are too busy  
 to spend time in prayerful listening...

There are times when we are too busy  
 to notice the needs of others  
 and ways we can be present...  
 to stop what we are doing  
 and help one another...  
 or laugh with one another...  
 or simply notice one another...

There are times when life becomes overwhelming  
 and we do not even take time for our own needs...

Spirit of love, Breath of our breath  
 may we catch our breath in this time  
 and ground ourselves in Love's presence,  
 so we may remember once again  
 your great commandment  
 to love one another  
 and our neighbour  
 as ourselves.  
 May it be so.

**Song** MV#12 Come, Touch Our Hearts (vs. 1,2&3)  
*(Song leaders: Dennis Livingstone, Bill Peters and Daphna Pearson)*  
 Words/Music: Gordon Light © 2002. Common Cup Company.  
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## Sharing of WOW Moments

### We Listen for Wisdom

**Wisdom Readings in Spoken Word & Song** *(Trudy Colpitts, Licenced Lay Worship Leader-in-training)*

Wisdom Readings

**Song** You Shall Love the Lord *(Song leaders: Bill Peters & Daphna Pearson)*  
 Words/Music: Frank Hernandez ©1990. Birdwing Music (ASCAP)  
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Wisdom Readings

**Song** VU#600 When I Needed a Neighbour  
*(Song leaders: Lorna Teed, Trudy Colpitts & John Pearson)*  
 Words/Music/Harmony: Sydney Carter ©1962  
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Wisdom Reading

## Reflection

### We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

**Special Music** VU#702 When a Poor One *(Congregation joins in chorus)*  
*(Soloists: Dennis Livingston and Daphna Pearson)*  
 Words/Music: Spanish, J.A. Olivar & Miguel Manzano ©1976, San Pablo International.  
 Trans: George Lockwood ©1989. The United Methodist Publishing House. Arr: Alvin Schutmaat.  
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## Our Community at Prayer - A Contemplative Practice of Intercessory Prayer

### We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

## Blessing & Changing of the Light

**Song** MV#145 Draw the Circle Wide *(Refrain, v.2, refrain)*  
*(Song leader: Trudy Colpitts; djembe: Lorna Teed)*  
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**Thank You for Joining Us!**  
**May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.**