Visions United Spirit Gathering
September 27th, 2020
The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings: *Benediction*
Inspired by "An Altar in the World": A Geography of Faith
by Barbara Brown Taylor

Our Community Gathers

Prelude It Is Well With My Soul / Canon in D Major *Daphna Pearson, Piano*

Arr: Bill George & Dino Kartsonakis ©1990 by Life Song Music Press / BMI / Steps of a Good Man Music / BMI. All rights reserved.

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.

Sharing the Peace

Announcements

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.

Heralding the rising of the sun,
Honouring the spark of the Divine within,
Celebrating the Light of Christ among us,
We welcome the blessing of this day.

Song Medley Bless the Lord, O My Soul *Song leaders: John & Daphna Pearson*

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
Words/ Music: Jonas Myron & Matt Redman. CCLI # 11077526

Bless the Lord Words/Music: ©1995, 2002, Ken Canedo, Dan Brennan, Kevin Roth, Marc Cavellero.
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Know That God Is Good Words / Music: David Fines ©2005. All rights reserved.

1) Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll Worship Your holy name.

2) Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless God's holy name.

3) Know that God is good. Know that God is good.
Know that God is good, God is good, God is good.

4) Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.

Gathering Prayer *(Brian Botten, Ministry Student)*

We Listen for Wisdom

Wisdom Reading Ecclesiastes 3 *(selected verses)* *Reader: Trudy Colpitts*

Reflection The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings

Poem before the first word *Reader: Anna Peters*
— Judy Kroll, from Woman Prayers by Mary Ford-Grabowsky

Song Count My Blessings *Song leaders: Trudy Colpitts (soloist), Lorna Teed (drums), Anna Peters (tambourine) & Joan Hawkes*
Text: Johnson Oatman, Jr. Music: Edwin C. Excell

Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

Wisdom Quote Bless Here and Bless There *Reader: Bill Peters*

Wisdom Quote Bless Strangers Silently *Reader: Fay Cameron*
- from Wayne Muller in Sabbath

Wisdom Quote A Blessing As a Moment of Meeting *Reader: Brian Botten*
- Rachel Naomi Remen, My Grandfather's Blessings

Wisdom Quote A Blessing as An Affirmation *Reader: Trudy Colpitts*
- Henri J. M. Nouwen, The Heart of Henri Nouwen
by Rebecca Laird, editor, Michael J. Christensen, editor

Song Just To Be Is a Blessing *Song leader & Guitar: John Foster*
Words: refrain adapted from Rabbi Abraham Hershel;
Music: © Colleen Fulmer. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A - 720804

Just to be is a blessing,
Just to live is holy.
Just to be, just to live
Is a blessing, is holy.

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

An Invitation to be a Community at Prayer

Visual Prayer A Blessing Prayer As I Put On My Mask
By Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

Song MV#171 Christ Has No Body Now but Yours *(refrain, v4, refrain)*
Song leader & Guitar: Brian Affleck; Piano: Daphna Pearson
Words: adapted by Stephen C. Warner © 2003. World Library Publications.
Music: Rick Gunn © 2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A - 720804

Closing Words of Blessing

Changing of the Light

Song VU#884 You Shall Go Out With Joy *Song leader: Anna Peters, Lorna Teed, Joan Hawkes & Trudy Colpitts; Tambourine, Joan Hawkes; djembe, Lorna Teed.*
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Thank You for Joining Us!
May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.