

Visions United Spirit Gathering
May 21, 2023
God in the Ordinary

* *Stand as able*

Our Community Gathers

Gathering Music/Prelude

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

Acknowledgement of Land

One: We remember with gratitude
 that we live and worship on lands that are, by law,
 the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq.

**All: May we live with respect on this land,
 and in peace and friendship with its people.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

Sharing the Peace & Kindling a Flame for Peace

One: Peace of Christ be with you

All: And also with you.

Sharing of WOW Moments

***Song: VU 402 We are One**

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Invitation to Gather

from: Alan K Webster, *Prayers for the Gathering*, adapted.

Gathering Prayer

God, you are the constant lover who never forsakes us;
 you are the mother who cradles her children,
 you are the teacher patiently repeating your words for us.
We worship you.

Jesus Christ, in you we are convinced God loves us;
 through you, we are formed into your people;
 with you, we serve those the world has forgotten.
We follow you.

Holy Spirit, you are the power that gives us peace;
 you are the wisdom that reveals the broken in our midst;
 you are the spokesperson to those whom we are deaf.
We welcome you.

God in Community, Holy in One,
 we hold out our prayers to you as Jesus taught us, saying, **Our Father...**

We Listen for Wisdom

Theme Conversation for All Ages

Song: MV 157 I Am a Child of God

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(Children's Programming Begins)

Wisdom Readings

The Story of Ascension: Acts 1:6-11

Contemporary Reading: Why Don't Miracles Happen Anymore? Steven Garnaas- Holmes

Special Music Never Ending Joy

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Reflection: Though We Don't See, We Give Thanks

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Song: Christ Has Ascended (Tune: Morning Has Broken).

Christ, you have gone now into all Being,
 into all people, all time and space.
 Open our eyes, then, that we may see you
 risen and living, shining with grace.

Christ you have changed now, hidden in daylight,
 always before us, here in plain sight.
 We look not skyward, but to our neighbor,
 every face shining with God's pure light.

Christ, you expanded, so that your Spirit
 is not yours only, but with us all.
 Still our companion, you will be with us,

no matter where we follow your call.

Christ, in your love you rule all creation;
justice and mercy shine as you rise.
We are your Body, breathing your Spirit,
light of your rising clear in our eyes.

(Steven Garnaas- Holmes, used with permission)

Our Community at Prayer

Invitation to Generosity & Sharing of Our Gifts

You have made your name known to us, Lord Jesus,
through the stories we share, and the life you offered,
and we thank you.

**May we dedicate ourselves, this day and every day,
to living as if we are united to you, and your purpose for the world.**

**May we live to bring healing, reconciling and grace,
to be peacemakers, and justice-seekers. Amen.**

The Work of the Congregation - Announcements

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

*** Song: MV 144** Like a Healing Stream

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Changing of the Light and Blessing

Postlude Music for the Journey

***Thank You for Joining Us!
May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.***

Worship Leader: Rev. Janice MacLean