

Visions United Spirit Gathering
June 11, 2023
Walking Together

* *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,
 in peace and friendship with its people,
 seeking to build right relations with all.**

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: MV 145** Draw the Circle Wide (all vs)

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Invitation to Gather

ONE: Let us take a deep breath and know this:

ALL: We are welcome here!

ONE: Whether we are long-time members, recent arrivals, or one-time visitors,

ALL: We are welcome here!

ONE: Whether we are sure about our faith or are wondering if there is something to this
 Jesus-story, or something in-between,

ALL: We are welcome here!

ONE: No matter our age, our race, our social status, our sexual or gender identity,

ALL: We are welcome here!

ONE: No matter if we love to sing or pray or listen or talk,

ALL: We are welcome here!

ONE: So let us gather and be welcomed by the one loves us, our God of hope and joy!

Gathering Prayer:

Gentle Spirit, Giver of Life, as we worship together, may we feel your welcome and your love.
 May we be attentive to the rhythm of life that beats within us,
 that we may honour all with whom we share this earth.
 Give us a vision of what is possible, God,
 that we may see this day and all days as spaces of hope,
 open and yearning for your life-giving presence. In Christ's name, Amen.

We Listen for Wisdom

Theme Conversation for All Ages or Children's Time

Song: MV 191 What Can I do? (2x)

Words & Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy
 Arr: Alan C. Whitmore ©2005

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(Children's Programming Begins)

Wisdom Reading

Luke 24:12-19 and 24:13 (selected verses, edited)

Special Music

Reflection

Affirmation Of Faith:

We believe in a sacred power within and around us.
 A divine spirit that we call by many names
 and experience in many ways,
 that empowers and heals,
 that calls us forth.

We believe in our creativity.

Making and transforming beauty
 out of words and notes,
 images and colours,
 lines and pictures
 ... and silence.

We believe in doing justice.

Justice that compels and empowers us
 to risk whatever we must risk
 to create a climate
 in which all people can be who they are.

We believe in our dreams.

We experience the world as it is,
in both its ugliness and beauty,
and we see what it can become.

We believe in making peace.

A peace that is based on openness,
honesty and compassion.

We believe in hope.

We expect change to continue to occur in our world.
We rely on our courage to continue
to bring about these changes.

We believe in love.

A passionate love within and around us
that laughs and cries,
challenges and comforts,
a healing love that perseveres.

We believe in potential.

We know who we are,
painful as that can be at times,
yet we continue to call each other
to become more of who we are.

We believe in celebrating.

We remember, and we commemorate.

We create rituals.

We play and dance,
and sing and love well.

We believe in our diversity.

We affirm our many shapes and sizes,
colours and traditions,
emotions and thoughts,
differences and similarities.

We believe in life.

Life that wells up within
and flows out of us
like a streaming fountain.

**We believe we are good and holy,
a sacred part of all creation.**

(Words: Susan Kramer, taken from <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=543>)

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Song: MV 154 Deep in our Hearts (all vs)

Words: John Oldham; Music: Ron Klusmeier
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Our Community at Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Generosity & Sharing of Our Gifts

The Work of the Congregation - Announcements

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

* **Song VU 633** Bless now, O God, the Journey (all vs)

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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.***

Service Credits:

Worship Leader: Rev. Ellie Hummel, Multi-faith Chaplain and Spiritual Care Coordinator, Mt. Allison University

Scripture reading:

Luke 24:12-19 and 24:13 (selected verses, edited)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still and proceeded to tell him all the events that had happened. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.