

Visions United Spirit Gathering
September 17, 2023
Forgiveness: More than a Word Spoken
Christian Community 101

* *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, abilities, 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.**

* **Song** (*standing*) VU#232 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You (v.1&3) Words: Henry van Dyke
 Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, Public Domain
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Invitation to Gather & Lighting the Christ Candle

One: Inviting spirit into Spirit
 All: Gathering light into Light
 One: Calling love into Love
 All: Here we are in the presence
 of the One who said,
 "I am the Light".

Sharing the Peace & Kindling a Flame for Peace

One: Peace of Christ Be with You
 All: And Also With You

Sharing of WOW Moments

Centering Song (*seated*) A Companion on the Road (2x)

Words: Sheelah Megill; Music: Ron Klusmeier, ©2007 Musiklus.
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Draw a breath. -- Say a prayer. --
 Now look around, see that someone else is there.
 Take a hand. Share the load.
 It's good to have --- a companion on the road. ---
 It's good to be --- a companion on the road.

Prayer

One: In caring for one another,
All: may we be untiring.
 One: In challenging one another,

All: may we be respectful.
 One: In sheltering one another,
All: may we be strong.
 One: In holding one another,
All: may we be tender.
 One: In the expectations we have for one another,
All: may we be realistic.
 One: In the songs we sing with one another,
All: may we seek harmony.
 One: And in loving one another,
All: may we be all these things and more.
 One: As we seek to hold faith with one another.
All: We pray. Amen.

Time for All Ages

Children's Programming Begins

We Listen for Wisdom

Special Music Family of Faith Words/Music: Valerie MacKenzie ©1998.

Theme Recap

Sung Response MV#14 Where Two or Three Are Gathered (2x) Words/Music: Bruce Harding ©2002.
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Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.

Wisdom Reading Matthew 18:21-35

Sung Response MV#14 Where Two or Three Are Gathered (1x) Words/Music: Bruce Harding ©2002.
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Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.

Reflection

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Song MV#179 Sisters Let Us Walk Together (v1 – women; v2 – men; v3 – All) Words/Music: Judith Snowdon © 2004. Used with permission.

Our Community at Prayer

Invitation to Generosity & Sharing of Our Gifts

The Work of the Congregation – Announcements

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

* **Song** (*standing*) MV#150 Spirit God Be Our Breath Words/Music: Bruce Harding © 1997
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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.*