

Visions United Spirit Gathering
November 19, 2023
Café Worship - I've Been Meaning to Ask...
Conversations with Curiosity, Courage, Connection

* *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.**

Gathering Invitation & Lighting the Christ Candle

adapted from Richard Bott, Gathering.

Centering Moment of Prayer

Song (*seated*) MV#14 Where Two or Three are Gathered Words & Music: Bruce Harding ©2002
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Sharing the Peace & Kindling a Flame for Peace

One: Peace of Christ Be with You

All: And Also With You

Gathering Conversation I've Been Meaning to Ask... *Where are you from?*

Sharing of WOW Moments

Theme Recap

Instrumental begins

***Song** (*standing*) A Covenant of Grace

Words: Anna Strickland.
 Music: Trad. English Melody, Arr. David Strickland. ©2021.
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We all come from the dusty earth
 And from the places of our birth
 Ancestral stories who we'll be
 We bring it all to come and see.

We all have wounds that no one sees
 Oppression, trauma, and disease
 When we bear witness to the pain
 It can begin to heal again.

We all need people who will be
with us in solidarity
No explanation, no defense
Just ministry of their presence.

Surprised by God's unboundless love
From many walks of life we come
To build a covenant of grace
And in our differences endure

We Listen for Wisdom

Introduction

Prayer (*unison*)

Jesus, you asked questions as much as you answered them.
You never shied away from conversation.
You were always sparking curiosity,
opening people's minds,
and engaging in the art of connection
with everyone around you.
As we come to your Word
and as we reflect together, give us
the same curiosity, openness, and connection.
We are here. We are listening. Amen.

Scripture & Doodling Reflection

John 15:9-17 Love each other

Reflection

What's love got to do with it?

Table Conversation

What message about love and the source of Love
do you hear proclaimed in this reading?

Song MV#154 Deep in Our Hearts (vs.1&2)

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Conversation & Connection

Round #1- pairs or trios.

Café Break

Contemporary Wisdom Poem - Here if You Need Me *by Rev. Sarah Are*

Conversation & Connection

Round #2 – choose one question; share response.

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Song MV#154 Deep in Our Hearts (vs.3&4)

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Prayer Reflection & Connection

What made you feel connected in your conversations today? (*Green post-it*)
What prayer do you carry in your heart today for yourself... for someone you love...
for a situation or place in our world? (*Mauve post-it*)

During instrumental music come forward and add your prayers to the prayer wall.

Invitation to Generosity & Sharing of Our Gifts

The Work of the Congregation – Announcements

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

* **Song** (*standing*) MV#138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines Words & Music: Gordon Light©1995
Common Cup Co. Arr: Andrew Donaldson©1995. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-720804

Changing of the Light & Blessing

As you leave this place,
may you be blessed with
the curiosity to counter assumptions,
the vulnerability to befriend,
the bravery to speak your truth,
the wisdom to listen,
the strength to ask for help,
the resiliency to choose love, even when it's hard,
Know that the Holy Spirit is always beside you.
Go in the name of the Great Connector—Love itself.
Journey in peace.

Postlude Music for the Journey

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