Visions United Spirit Gathering
4th after Pentecost - June 16th, 2024

** Stand as able*

Acknowledgements

The "Seeds for Our Future" liturgy is by the Rev. Penny Nelson and the Rev. Michelle Armstrong, in consultation with Marcia McFee, PhD, worshipdesignstudio.com, and is available at united-church.ca/worship- theme/centennial-worship.

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 of the Christ Candle

Kindling a Flame for Peace & Sharing the Peace
One: Peace be with you.
All: And also with you.

Sharing of WOW Moments where we reflect where we have glimpsed the Spirit at Work

***Song:** Psalm 100 VU#823 (Words from the Scottish Psalter) Words: William Kethe 1561
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Invitation to Gather:

One: From deep soil comes bold and daring growth. From the seeds of our past will come fresh new growth.

All: We come today to marvel at what has been harvested and prepare for what will come.
We come to celebrate where we are and where we have been.
We come rejoicing with our ancestors and partners in faith across generations:

One: The Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians, and Local Union Churches
The Evangelical United Brethren,
The Indigenous Church,
The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, The United Church of Christ,
The United Church of Christ in the Philippines,
and The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

All: We give thanks to God for the blessings of past, present, and future,
and dare to plant these seeds of faith anew!

Theme Conversation for All

We Confess those things which Hold Us:

Let us make room for love. Faisons de la place pour l'amour.

Loving God, in the fields of our lives and the life of our church, not all of the ground is ready to receive your seeds of hope.
Let us make room for love.

There are places where the soil is so rocky that the good life you intended is choked.
Let us make room for love.

As we prepare for your new seeds, help us to clear the rocks and tend the ground on which we live.
Let us make room for love.

Receive our silent prayers as we confess our words, actions, and attitudes that have marred your good ground…….*(a time of silence)*

We name some of the obstacles that have impeded the seeds of love from flourishing:

(As the stones are removed, you are invited to name, aloud or in your heart, stones that have been placed in your way, stones that you have placed in the way of others, or stones of our church and our society that have impeded the seeds of love from flourishing.)

Stones of fear and hatred, when we have hate instead of love…

Stones of injustice and evil, when we have oppressed other people….

Stones of silence and ignorance, when we have not boldly denounced injustice….

Stones of pride and arrogance, when we have prioritized power and possessions over the gospel and people, when we have relied on ourselves and our own understandings, failing to live in community as the Body of Christ.

Stones of disrespect and cruelty, when we have failed to reconcile and be in good relations with the earth and with each other…..

As we reflect on this pile of stones, may they serve as a marker of where we have been, a remembrance of the things we wish to change, and a signpost for the directions in which we wish to travel together further.

Gracious God, allow the fields of our hearts and lives to be gardens of your new hope and love. All of this we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Are Assured of God's Grace

Special Music: Praise Him, All Ye Little Children / Alleluia Words&Music: Jerry Sinclair

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We Listen for Wisdom

Wisdom Readings:

Reflections on the Changing Church: 1925 Basis of Union, Statement of Faith 1940, A New Creed and a Song of Faith

New Testament Reading – Galations 5:9-10

Reflection: On Rocks

***Song** VU#703 In the Bulb There is a Flower Words&Music: Natalie Sleeth©1986

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We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Our Community at Prayer

Invitation to Generosity & Sharing

The Work of the Congregation – Announcements

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

***Song** VU#820 Psalm 100 - Make a Joyful Noise Words&Music: Linnea Good ©1991

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Changing of the Light & Blessing

Postlude Music for the Journey

Thank You for Joining Us!

May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.