



# St. James United Church

Weekly Service Bulletin – November 17th, 2019

***An Affirming Ministry***

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

221 Romaine Street, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 2C3 705-742-2222  
[stjamesunitedchurch.ca](http://stjamesunitedchurch.ca) • [united-church.ca](http://united-church.ca)

***Living fully, intentionally and compassionately***

*\*Please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE / WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH / INTROIT

## **WE GATHER**

As we gather for worship, we celebrate the shining waters which run through the ancestral lands of our Indigenous sisters and brothers in the area. Those waters shimmer with the Great Spirit of all Creation and the spirits of the fathers and mothers that come ahead of us. In our time together, let the ground on which we gather be sacred ground.

## **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

One: *The Jesus Candle is lit...*

In this moment of preparation for worship,  
 you are invited to gaze upon the Jesus candle.

In the light, clear your mind of the accumulated clutter of this past week,  
 sit silently, focusing on the quiet centre, and listen for the still small voice of God.

*Period of silent reflection...*

## **\*GATHERING SONG**

*Come Now, O God of Peace*

**VU#34**

Words, Music: © 1995 Geonyong Lee, Korean National Institute of Arts, 700 Seocho-dong Seocho-gu, Seoul, Korea. Translation: © 1995 Marion Pope, Apt. 316, 95 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto, On M5R 3P6.

Come now, O God of peace, we are your people;  
 pour out your spirit that we be one body.

Come now, O God of hope, we are your people;  
 pour out your spirit that we be one body.

Come now, O God of love, we are your people;  
 pour out your spirit that we be one body.

## **GATHERING WORDS** *(responsive)*

One: We gather to share in the love that is God.

**All: Some hoping for guidance.**

One: Some hoping for assurance.

**All: Some hoping for comfort.**

One: Some hoping for challenge.

**All: We gather to share in the love that is God.**

One: Come, let us gather together. Let us pray...

Sandy Ferguson, *Gathering - Pentecost 2, 2017* (adapted)

## **OPENING PRAYER** *(responsive)*

One: In our singing,

**All: touch our hearts, O God.**

One: In our praying and our listening, our longing and our dreaming,

**All: touch our hearts, O God.**

One: We are blessed by your presence with us,

**All: within us, around us, beside us, behind us - wherever there is love.**

One: Touch our hearts, O God, as we gather in Jesus' name,  
and as we say his prayer together...

Bob Root, *Gathering - Pentecost 2, 2017* (adapted)

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** ( in unison)

**VU#921**

### **\*HYMN**

### *Jesus Loves Me*

**VU#365**

Words (v 1): Anna Bartlett Warner. Words (v 2 and 3): © Cherie McGuire, 87 Cardinal Cres., Chatham, ON N7L 3V4. Music: William Batchelder Bradbury 1862.

1. Jesus loves me, this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
in his love we shall be strong.

Refrain:

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

2. Jesus loves me, this I know,  
as he loved so long ago,  
taking children on his knee,  
saying, "Let them come to me." **R**
3. Jesus loves me still today,  
walking with me on my way,  
wanting as a friend to give  
light and love to all who live. **R**

## **THEME CONVERSATION**

### **CHILDREN'S PRAYER**

Teach us faith, teach us caring, teach us love, teach us sharing.

Help us love your whole creation. Make our lives a celebration! Amen.

*One Great Hour of Sharing 2017* - Worship Resources, brethern.org

### **WE REFLECT**

### **POEM**

*A Woman's Lost Coin*

**Jane Huggins**

Some yet argue, Salome,  
that He is Elijah, others  
say John the Baptist, or  
Jeremiah. As for me,  
I say, "He is Messiah."  
For he taught me how  
His parable is the purse

and His words the silver  
pieces He pours out into  
the hands of all who hear.

When one of my own ten  
pieces of silver fell through  
this crevice in my clutch--  
forfeited amid my maze  
of flotsam-like flooring  
of dust, rushes, and reeds--  
I sat my lamp upon its stand,  
fueled by the fruit we pressed  
from the olive groves we grew.

Seizing my broom by its handle,  
I then bestrewed the surface like  
a winnower whose fork bestirs  
the grain atop a threshing floor.  
And when the grim gaze of Caesar  
finally flickered beneath the light,  
my smile was there to greet a stare.  
On my journey to rejoice with you,  
I heard Jesus speak this parable to tax  
collectors, scribes, and Pharisees.

“...What woman, having ten silver  
coins, if she loses one coin, does not  
light a lamp, sweep the house, and  
search carefully until she finds it?  
And when she has found it, she calls  
her friends and neighbors together,  
saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I  
have found the piece which I lost!’  
"Just so, I tell you, there is joy  
in the presence of the angels of God  
over one person who has turned toward love.”

## **ANTHEM**

### **GOSPEL READING**

*Luke 15:1-10*

**Jane Huggins**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’

Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

**\*HYMN**

*A Woman and a Coin - The Coin Is Lost*

**VU#360**

Words: © 1991 Jaroslav J. Vajda. Music: © 1995 Fred Kimball Graham, 497 Roxton Road, Toronto, ON M6G 3R5.

1. A woman and a coin—the coin is lost!  
How much it means to her, what time and toil,  
what part it was to play in her bright dreams!  
Am I that treasured coin worth searching for?  
I'm found, and you rejoice!  
What love! What love!
2. A shepherd and a sheep—the sheep is lost!  
Far from the flock, the one in hundred cries,  
then, risking life, the shepherd's voice and staff!  
Am I that treasured sheep worth dying for?  
I live, and you rejoice!  
What love! What love!
3. A parent and a child—the child is lost!  
The parent feeds on memories and hope,  
the prodigal on husks and one last chance.  
Am I that treasured child worth waiting for?  
I'm home, and you rejoice!  
What love! What love!
4. Dear God, you sought us when the world was lost,  
you gave your only son at what a cost;  
your spirit welcomes home the tempest-tossed:  
now we can be all you were dreaming of.  
We're safe, and you rejoice!  
What love! What love!

**REFLECTION**

**WE RESPOND**

**OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**\*SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*What Can I Do?*

**MV#191**

Words and music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy, arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005.

**What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy, I'll say a prayer. I bring my love. I'll do my share.**

## **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **WE GO FORTH**

#### **\*HYMN**

*Love Is the Touch*

**MV#89**

Words: Alison M. Robertson, 1998 Music: John L. Bell, 1998

1. Love is the touch of intangible joy;  
love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.
2. Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;  
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.
3. Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;  
love is the trust of a friend on the road:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.
4. Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;  
love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the path which the saints all have trod:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

#### **\*BLESSING**

**\*SUNG BLESSING**     *When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides*

**MV#169**

(sung to melody, *I Feel the Winds of God Today* - **VU#625**)

Words: Keri K. Wehlender, 2005

Music: English and Irish traditional melody. Arrangement: Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

1. When hands reach out beyond divides and hope is truly found,  
each chain of hate will fall away and bells of peace shall sound,  
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound, and bells of peace shall sound,  
each chain of hate will fall away and bells of peace shall sound.
2. When fear no longer guides our steps and days of war are done,  
God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts will heal as one,  
our hearts will heal, will heal as one, our hearts will heal as one,  
God's dream for all shall live a new; our hearts will heal as one.
3. When race and creed blind us no more, a neighbour's face we'll see,  
And we shall dance the whole world round, for love will set us free,  
for love, yes love will set us free, for love will set us free,  
and we shall dance the whole world round, for love will set us free.

#### **POSTLUDE**