



# Sunset United Church



May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020– Christian Family Sunday

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Nancy Edwards

Pianist: Shirley Hill

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Sunset United Church, located on Treaty 4 Territory, is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.

## WE GATHER

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Centering Music**

### **Lighting the Christ Candle:**

We are here on this Easter season Sunday,  
Celebrating our faith,  
Celebrating our dispersed and yet connected  
Community,  
And celebrating life and ministry of Christ.  
This candle here reminds us  
That the love and life of this place,  
Is bright and present.

**Hallelujah! Thanks be to God.**

We light the Affirming Candle  
And draw special attention to it this morning.  
May 14<sup>th</sup> was the international day against  
Homophobia, transphobia and biphobia.  
The acts of homophobic vandalism that took place  
At Grosvenor Park United,  
McClure United,  
And St. Andrew's College remind  
Us that the need for this day has not lessened.  
As an affirming ministry,  
Sunset has made the public statement  
That our space, our community is a safe place  
For all people, including the LGBTQ  
and Two Spirited communities.  
May the light of this candle  
Reflect the flame of love found burning in  
Each of our hearts.

**Hymn:** MV#62 There is Room for All \*

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;  
There is room for all, sheltered in God's love.  
And I rejoice and sing,  
"My refuge and my rock,  
In whom I trust."  
There is room for all, there is room for all!

## **Call to Worship**

The light beams stream into the sanctuary,

**Heralding the coming of spring and warm weather.**

The light beams stream into the sanctuary,

**Heralding the presence of the Holy Spirit here in this place.**

People of God,

come let us worship in song and joy.

## **Opening Prayer:**

Holy One,

We bring our undivided selves to worship this day.

We bring our certainty and our doubts.

We bring our despair and our hope.

We bring our fear and our assurance.

We bring our total selves into this community,

That we may worship you as people dispersed

And yet through faith, connected.

As we worship,

May your Spirit bless and renew us

Through the promise of resurrection.

Amen.

**Hymn:** MV#12     Come Touch our Hearts \*\*

1. Come touch our hearts  
that we may know compassion  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough to overturn injustice.

To seek a world more gracious,  
Come touch and bless our hearts.

2. Come touch our souls  
That we may know and love you,  
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
Create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
Let life and beauty fill us,  
Come touch and bless our souls.

3. Come touch our minds,  
And teach us how to reason  
Set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
Help us to open doors of understanding,  
to welcome truth and wisdom,  
come touch and bless our minds.

4. Come touch us in the moments we are fragile  
And in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
That we may rise to follow and to serve,  
Steady now our nerve,  
Come touch and bless our wills.

### **Prayer Seeking Reconciliation**

**God, you are holy mystery**

**And wholly mysterious to us.**

**We have so many questions that we can't answer.**

**And our unanswered questions lead us to doubt.**

**Help us to live with our questions.**

**Help us to know you as a loving**

**And life-giving present in our lives.  
Help us to know you as our rock and our hope.  
Teach us your many names, Holy One,  
You who are wholly and holy mysterious.**  
*(time of silence to offer personal prayers)*

## **Affirmation of Forgiveness**

**Sung Response: MV#115 Behold, Behold \*\*\***

Behold, behold, I make all things new  
Beginning with you, and starting from today.  
Behold, behold, I make all things new  
My promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

## **Sharing the Story**

**Hymn: MV#48 I Can Feel You Near Me God \*\*\*\***

1. I can feel you near me God,  
I can feel you near.  
Yes, I know you're with me God,  
I feel you here  
I can feel you near me God,  
I can feel you near  
Yes, I know you're with me God,  
Heaven is here.

### Refrain

And I'll jump for joy,  
I'm singing alleluia

Jump for joy for you.  
And I'll jump for joy,  
I'm singing alleluia,  
Jump for joy for you.

2. I can feel you loving me,  
Yes, I know you care  
God, I know you're loving me  
Always everywhere  
I can feel you loving me,  
Yes, I know you care  
God I know you're loving me  
I know you're there.

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## **WE LISTEN**

**Scripture:** Acts 17: 22-31  
John 14: 15-21

**Reflection:**

**Special Music**

## **WE RESPOND**

**Dedication of gifts given during this time of COVID-19:**

**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer (sung  
VU#959)**

**Hymn: VU#427 To Show by Touch and Word \*\*\*\*\***

1. To show by touch and word  
Devotion to the earth,  
To hold in full regard  
All life that comes to birth  
We need, O God, the will to find  
The good you had of old in mind.

2. Renew our minds to choose  
The things that matter most,  
Our hearts to long for truth  
Till pride of self is lost.  
For every challenge that we face  
We need your guidance  
And your grace.

3. Let love from day to day,  
Be yardstick, rule and norm,  
And let our lives portray  
Your word in human form.  
Now come with us that we may have  
Your wits about us where we live.

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Postlude**



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