



**Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023**

**Minister:** Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

**Music Director:** Victoria Warwick

**Readers:** Doreen Gunson, Gerry Payne,

**Singers:** St. Paul's Choir,

**Tech Team:** Glenn Erwin, Catherine Ladouceur, Bruce Wilcox

## **WELCOME AND CALL TO THE GATHERED**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

### **OPENING HYMN:** VU# 589 "Lord, Speak to Me"

1. Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me seek your straying children lost and lone.
2. O lead me, so that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet;  
O feed me, so that I may feed your hungry ones with manna sweet.
3. O teach me, so that I may teach the precious truths which you impart;  
and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
4. O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'er flows  
in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

### **OPENING PRAYER:** read by Gerry Payne

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:** As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

### **SUNG RESPONSE:** MV#82 "Bathe Me in Your Light O God"

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;  
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.  
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,  
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.



### **THEME CONVERSATION:** Blessings

### **HYMN:** MV#46 "Bless the Lord"

#### **Refrain:**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless God's holy name.

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1. Remember the kindness of our God, who showers us with blessing all our days.

#### **Refrain:**

2. Remember the justice of our God, who stands with those forgotten and confused.

#### **Refrain:**

3. Remember the healing love of God, who calls us to be whole and to be free.

#### **Refrain:**

(Children leave for Discovery Kids)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35 read by Doreen Gunson

### **SERMON:**

## **PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING**

**ANTHEM:** "Celtic Benediction"

**SUNG RESPONSE:** MV# 150 (v 3) "Loving God"

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer. Reaching out, joining hands as we share, we seek your guidance through friendship and care. Loving God, be our prayer.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER** read by Gerry Payne

**CLOSING HYMN:** VU# 602 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.
2. Before our Maker's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. This glorious hope revives our courage on the way;  
that we shall live in perfect love in God's eternal day.

## **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION**

**SUNG BENEDICTION:** VU#429 "May the Blessing of God be Upon You"

May the blessing of God be upon you. May God's love light all your way.  
May the grace of Christ enfold you and peace around you stay.  
May the Spirit of God dwell within you. May you live in joy each day.

**POSTLUDE:** Please wait for the choir to recess before leaving the sanctuary.