

St. John's United Church
August 27th, 2023
13th After Pentecost
Worship Leader – Rev. Charles Reid

OPENING HYMN VU # 288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

WELCOME

Greetings, welcoming newcomers, announcements, prayer concerns and celebrations.

We are looking for more choir members and musicians if anyone is interested in joining.

LIGHTING OF THE ETERNAL CHRIST CANDLE

The **light** of the Eternal Candle of Christ is **glowing**, even when we walk in the dark of night, we see the **light** on the horizon. The Son of God has ascended to Heaven, the eternal **light** shining forever. Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please rise)

Officiate: The peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Now I lay me down to sleep, my soul at rest for God to keep.
And when I awake to a brand new day, the path of My Jesus, I will walk today. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hidden in the quiet of our morning, our ancestors gather among us.

Together, we open our hearts to spiritual worship.

We come seeking transformation and the renewing of our minds;

Show that we might know what the work of justice looks like now in this moment.

We share in the ministry of being one body with differing gifts.

Let this time of worship be a time of growing in compassion.

We worship in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Regular Office Hours

10:00am-12:00pm Tuesday and Thursday

Office: 780.826.3003

E-mail: bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com

Website: www.bonnyvilleunitedchurch.ca

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.
If you would like to continue with weekly offerings they can be sent in by:

Mail to: 4510-43Ave T9N 1R4

E-Transfer to: bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com

Join PAR: Contact Stacy Mercier 780.812.6492

This Week: August 27th, 2023

Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Reid

Greeters: Sophie Harasimiuk & Shirley Highberg

Scripture: Kevin Smith

Fellowship: No Fellowship

Next Week: September 3rd, 2023

Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Reid

Greeters: Joyce Drapaka & Gladys Foster

Scripture: Diane Wilson

Fellowship: No Fellowship

COMMUNION LITURGY

RECESSIONAL HYMN VU # 506 Take My Life and Let It Be

May you go into the world with your hearts yearning. May you find the slow wonders of God greet your heart in new and surprising ways. May your eyes be open enough to love deeply from a mutual heart, for this is how God loves you. Go into the world with love and joy, for God's peace always goes with us. **In Jesus name. Amen.**

Go Now In Peace

Go now in Peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you, each hour of everyday.
Go now in Faith, steadfast, strong and true,
know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in Love, and show you believe,
reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now, in Peace, in Faith and in Love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OPENING PRAYER

Most gracious God, Comforter and Protector of our experiences and dreams, we thank you for the way you have bought us into new life over and over again.

We praise you for protecting us when the threats of life ensue.

We honour you for the cunning and ingenuity with which you have crafted our opportunities to grow and thrive.

In humble devotion, we remember your rescuing intervention when the way has been difficult and the light has grown dim; gathered as your people, wonderful and diverse. We join as one body in worship, remembering your saving Spirit and embodying your creative purpose.

Make yourself known to us as we worship in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, we pray. Amen

HYMN VU # 372 Though I May Speak

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Like the Egyptians who had power yet feared those oppressed by it, we confess that there are times when we do not recognise the power and privilege you have given us. We have been rootless and have closed our eyes to the possibilities for transformation within our neighbourhoods, nation, and the world. We've locked creativity and thrown up our hands in frustration.

We confess that we have not always been willing to risk going against the powers of our world to enable life to thrive. We've denied our gifts. Forgive us. Show us the hidden blessings floating through the rivers of our fatigue and despair. Embolden us to resist the oppression that may be commanded or expected. O God of justice, forgive us. Amen

THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD

God is the protector of our lives. God does not abandon us, even when we abandoned each other. God is our Father and Rescuer. God is with us, forgiving, embracing, loving, renewing. In this, let us be assured. **In the name of Jesus. Amen**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 1:8 – 22, 2:1-10

The words of the Lord

Thanks be to God

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 124 Pg. 848

Refrain 2: Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.

If God had not been at our side,

Now let Israel say:

If God had not being at our side when mortals rose up against us,

Then they would have swallowed us alive, when their fury was roused against us.

Then the flood would have swept us away, and the torrent would have covered us.

Then the raging waters would have gone right over our heads.

Refrain: Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.

But praise be to God: who has not given us a prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the hunter's snare; the snare is broken and we are free.

Refrain: Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth

In The Name Of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen

The words of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

God of love and compassion, and full of peace, we pray for those for whom life seems in torment and pain. We think of those who feel afraid and unable to move. We pray for those in our hearts and on our prayer list. Show them the path that leads to life.

In the name of your son, Jesus. Amen

Oh God, please hear our prayers and petitions, give peace, comfort and your love to our brothers and sisters. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen

PRAYER LIST**OFFERING HYMN # 537**

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share. Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

We bring what we have, O God, as the poor old woman gave all she had. We know many around us are in need, and though we cannot do everything, we know that you can take what we offer and use it to make a difference. Take these gifts, brought with glad and generous hearts, and share them for the good of all. In Jesus Name. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-8

The words of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN VU # 508 Just as I Am**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 16:13-20

The words of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SERMON**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe that the Lord God of heaven and earth is the creator of all universes. We believe that we are created in the image of God. We believe God's only Son was born to Mary a virgin, born of the Holy Spirit. We believe that he was resurrected from the grave on the third day. We believe that he ascended to the throne of heaven. We believe in the Holy Spirit as our guide and comforter. We believe that Jesus the Son of God will come to rule the world. We believe because we are God's children and Christians in the Church of Jesus. Amen

