

**St. John's United Church**  
**September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**17<sup>th</sup> After Pentecost**  
Worship Leader – Rev. Charles Reid

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you**

**OPENING HYMN VU # 321 Maker, in Whom We Live**

**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**

We are summoned here by our Holy God,  
**Who calls us each by name, and gathers us together in the  
unity of Jesus Christ.**  
From classroom and kitchen and community,  
**We are called into God's presence.**

**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: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Reid

Greeters: Bob & Gloria Tomm

Scripture: Bim Bowers

Fellowship: Olive Martin & Pat Doonanco

**Next Week: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Reid

Greeters: Roger Antoniuk & Nestor Kunec

Scripture: Kathy Cobler

Fellowship: Michelle Green & Gerri Abraham

**We bring what we have, O God, as the poor old widow 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**

Philippians 1: 21-30

The words of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM # 79 MV Spirit, Open my**

#### **GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 20: 1-6

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**

#### **COMMUNION LITURGY** *(insert)*

#### **RECESSIONAL HYMN VU # 651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

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.**

Young and old and middle age, individuals and families, soft-spoken and outspoken,

**We hear our names being called to join in worship.**

This House of worship is a place to pursue God's vision for all people:

**Unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts. Let us worship together, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

**Amen**

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

God our Father, and Creator of all,

You who led your people from Egypt,

You who gave them water from a rock,

You who gave them bread from heaven,

You who gave them meat from the skies.

We adore you, whose name is love.

We, your children, ask your blessing,

Where your nature is compassion, your presence joy; your word is truth, your Spirit goodness; your Holiness is beauty, your will peace.

Your service is perfect freedom.

**For all of this we thank you in the name of your Son and our beloved Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

#### **INVITATIONS TO CONFESSION**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. In humility and faith let us confess our sins to God; who is faithful and just, who will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, we have sinned in many ways.

**We have not loved you with our whole hearts.**

We have not loved one another as we should.

**Sometimes we have let pride rule us, sometimes anger;**

Sometimes our sin has been carelessness,

**Sometimes resentment, or impatience, or greed.**

Forgive us. We need your love,

**In Jesus name we beg. Amen**

**THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD**

No matter where we are, God is there.

No matter what we have done, God Forgives.

No matter our reluctance to accept God, God has accepted us.

With that assurance, receive forgiveness, and live in fullness and in hope.

**Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Exodus 16: 2-15

The words of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 105 1-6, 37-45**

*Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah*

Give thanks and call on God's name. Make known to the nations what God has done.

**Sing, O sing the songs of praise; tell of all God's wonderful deeds.**

Exult in God's Holy Name;

**Let those who seek God be joyful in heart.**

*Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah*

Turn for help to the one who is your strength; Seek God's presence continually.

**Remember the marvels the Most High has done, the wonders and judgements,**

O children of Abraham and Sarah, God's servants,

**O offspring of Israel, chosen of God.**

*Refrain : Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah*

You led Israel out, with spoil of silver, and gold. Among the tribes not one fell behind.

**The Egyptians were glad when they went, for dread of Israel had fallen upon them.**

You spread cloud as a screen,

**and fire as light by night.**

The people asked and you set them quail; You fill them with bread from heaven.

**You open a rock and water gushed out: it flowed like a river through the arid land.**

*Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah*

For you remembered the sacred promise you made to Abraham and Sarah, your servants

**you led out your people rejoicing, your chosen ones with songs of gladness.**

You gave them the lands of nations

**they took possession where others had toiled, that they might keep your laws and obey your teachings.**

*Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah*

**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 # 581 When We Are Living vs. 2 & 4**

Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering. When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind, but when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God.

