

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge  
September 17, 2023**

**Praise Medley:** Beautiful, Blest Be the Tie That Binds,  
Heaven Came Down, As the Deer

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Introit:** Jesus, Friend of Little Children      **VU 340**

**Call to Worship:**

Come, sun! Tell of the glory of God.

**Come, moon! Reveal God's knowledge.**

Come, stars! Shine on the life God gives.

**Come, everyone! Come and celebrate all God's  
creation.**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Loving God, we thank you for all of the ways you speak to  
us: in the day, in the night, in the deep mystery whose  
voice remains unheard, in the shouts of joy that resound to  
the ends of the earth. We celebrate as your powerful play  
goes on, and we pray that our part in the universe's  
unfolding drama will be one of joy and reconciliation.**

**Come, Spirit, pour forth your speech and declare to us your  
knowledge. Amen.**

**Hymn:** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah      **VU 651**

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Blessed God, Creator of all the universe, your beauty is  
everywhere, but sometimes we forget to look. All of  
Creation sings your song, but we forget to listen. We take  
for granted each sunrise, each sunset, and as we focus on  
our own lives, we stop looking up to see just how far your  
light can reach. Open our eyes, open our ears, open our  
hearts, O God. Help us to remember that we are not all  
there is. Remind us that we are not alone. (silent reflection)**

**Words of Affirmation:**

Be glad and rejoice! The one we call the Word of Life holds fast  
to you, working in you to fulfill the purpose of the universe. What  
once was warped and crooked will be made smooth and  
straight. You once saw only darkness. But now God turns your  
head and bathes you in the light of all the stars in the sky. In the  
name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Offering:** When We Are Living      **VU 581 vs 2**

**Offertory Prayer:**

**We celebrate today the sun, the moon, the stars, the sky,  
the glory of God that fills us with awe transcending words.  
As we offer our gifts this day, may this vast generosity fill  
our hearts with the knowledge that such beauty can only  
grow if it is freely given away. Amen.**

**Sharing Scriptures:**

Exodus 4:19-31

Exodus 15:1-13      **VU 876**

Matthew 18:21-35

**Hymn:** Crashing Waters at Creation      **VU 449**

**Mediation**

**Ministry of Music:** Orphans of God

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

**Prayer Response:** Gentle Shepherd

**Hymn:** Shall We Gather at The River

**Benediction**