

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge

September 3rd, 2023

Led by Rev. Karen Bursey

Praise Medley: God Help Us to Treasure, Bind Us Together,
Down in My Heart, Come and Fill This Temple

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: New Every Morning **VU 405 vs. 1,2**

Call to Worship:

We come from scattered lives to this sanctuary,
 seeking unity in the Spirit, seeking the grace of Christ,
 seeking the peace of God.

Prayer of Approach: *(in unison)*

Life-giving God, we give you thanks for the months of Summer which have passed; for the planting and the tending of crops; for the warm days and soft nights; for the time away from school, away from work, away from familiar routines. Set your hand upon us as we return to the regular commitments of our lives, and help us to find quiet ways to worship you in all we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: As a Fire Is Meant for Burning **VU 578**

Prayer of Confession and Pardon: *(in unison)*

You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for my mouth, to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper, that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes, to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not want to see. You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved. O God, forgive me for my calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. O God, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a useable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

Assurance of Pardon:

God, the Creator, brings you new life, forgives and redeems you. Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life in the spirit of Jesus.

Offertory Hymn: As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought
VU 518

Offertory Prayer: *(in unison)*

We bring our gifts to you, God. Here is the work of our hands, and here is the love of our hearts. Accept them and use them, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105 **VU page 828-829, Parts 1,3**

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Ministry of Music

Meditation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Hymn: Walk with Me **VU 649**

Benediction:

God has appointed each of us to do the work of the kingdom.

Whether we have laboured a day, a year, or a lifetime,
God loves each of us totally, empowers each of us entirely, and comforts each of us completely.

As we re-enter the world of study and toil, let us remember God's regard for those with whom and for whom we work and learn.

Go now, in the dignity of your service, enslaved by the freedom of God.