

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge**  
**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

**Praise Medley:** Water Flowing Like the Mountains, O How I Love  
Jesus, Jesus, Challenged and Chosen

**Introit:** Open My Eyes

**Call to Worship:**

This day we join with brothers and sisters around the world sharing in the special meal of Jesus.

**God's love makes us a family!**

In different places, in different languages, God's people share in worship and sacrament.

**God's love makes us a family!**

In different styles and different forms, God's people offer prayers and praise.

**God's love makes us a family!**

Come, let's celebrate the love of God in our worship today.

**God's love makes us a family!**

**Prayer of Approach:**

**We come before you, God, unable to fully understand the sufferings of the people closest to us, let alone the sufferings of people all around the world. Yet, on this world wide communion Sunday, we would stand side by side, heart to heart, with all our brothers and sisters of the planet. We stand, recognizing you as the Lord of all life, the God of us all. We are in awe of you and of the healing work you call us to do. Be with us in this time of worship. Amen.**

**Hymn:** Let All Things Now Living

**VU 242**

**Act of Confession:**

Creator God, this earth is your gift to us. Within it is the promise of food for the world. But we confess we have turned the promise into poverty, and the hope into hunger.

**Forgive us, teach us, heal us.**

Creator God, this world is your bequest to us. Within it is a need for effort and work, but we confess we have turned the effort into greed, and the work into slavery.

**Forgive us, teach us, heal us.**

Creator God, this planet is your offering to us. It is a tapestry of diversity and wonder. But we confess we have turned the diversity into destruction, and the wonder into pollution.

**Forgive us, teach us, heal us with a vision for a sharing world; with responsibility for caring for the planet with love for the land and its people.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

God's forgiveness brings light back into the world and into our lives.

**We are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism** *(see insert)*

**Hymn:** God, We Pray at This Beginning **VU 443**

**Offertory Hymn:** For the Gift of Creation **VU 538**

**Offertory Prayer:**

**God of grace, amazed by your kindness, moved by your generosity, and inspired by your compassion, we offer these gifts as we pledge ourselves to the service of Christ and to Christ's vision for a renewed and just world for all people. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:**

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 78 **VU 792, parts 1 & 2**

Matthew 21:23-32

**Ministry of Music:** I Have Seen Jesus in You

**Meditation**

**World Wide Communion** *(see insert)*

**Hymn:** As We Gather at Your Table **VU 457**

**Hymn:** Rejoice, the Lord Is King **VU 213**

**Benediction**