

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
November 19th, 2023**

Praise Medley: The Love Of God, He Was There All the Time,
Cares Chorus/Jesus Draw Me Close, My
Lighthouse

Greetings and Announcements

Introit: Spirit of Life **VU 381**

Call to Worship:

In God's presence, lost and weary lives have found purpose and meaning.

People come to this place to find purpose and meaning.

In God's presence, people who are sick and troubled have found healing and peace.

People come to this place to find healing and peace.

The lives of sinners are changed by our compassionate God.

People come to this place seeking changed lives.

In many places, holy people have proclaimed God's ways of justice and truth.

People come to this place to experience and proclaim that message.

Come, let us worship God.

Prayer of Approach:

Holy and loving God, you have spoken to us through the pillar of cloud, silent whispers in the middle of night, prophetic voices of visionaries, and gentle words from Jesus of Nazareth. Speak to us in this time of worship that we may know of your message for us in this time and in this place. May our hearts and minds be uncluttered so that we may be open to the movement of your Spirit. Help us find courage and strength to abide by your word. Amen.

Hymn: Open My Eyes, That I May See **VU 371**

Prayer of Confession:

Patient and understanding God, it is not easy to keep up with the energy to abide in your ways. Our work of faith can get labourious and tiring. Our labour of love sometimes loses its passion and enthusiasm. Our steadfast hope in Jesus can lose its flame. In the process, we lose so much. We can become tired

and discouraged. Keeping up with our work, family life, and the stress of everyday living can become overwhelming and take too much from our souls. We turn to you O God, because it is difficult to keep ourselves focused on you, and keep our collective spirit aligned to yours. At times, like Jesus, we too cry out, "Why have you forsaken me?" So, we turn to you O God in our weakness, in our fears, insecurities, and worries. (Silent prayers)

Words of Assurance:

God offers to us freedom from fear, steadfast faith, and a firm foundation. God's love is as deep and wide as the oceans. In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: Jesus Bids Us Shine **VU 585**

Time for All Ages

Offertory Spirit, Open My Heart

Offertory Prayer:

Though the faces on our offerings show the images of ourselves, O God, we offer them with the heart of love, the joy of gratitude, and the humbleness of our loving faith. Bless our gifts that they be a blessing unto others. May they bring transformation of the heart, liberation of the oppressed, and hope in the world. May your will be done through our choices, our resources, and our gifts. Amen.

Scripture Readings

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Psalms 90 **page 805 of VU parts 1, 2**

Matthew 25:13-30

Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be **VU 506**

Meditation

Ministry of Music: Sing a Happy Hallelujah

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: God Is Love

Hymn May the God of Hope Go with Us **VU 424**

Benediction