

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, September 1st, 2024
Led by Rev. Karen Bursey

Praise Medley: Sometimes Alleluia, There Is Joy in the Lord

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: Spirit of Life **VU 381**

Call to Worship:

The voice of our Beloved sounds in our hearts:

**calling us to generous acts, to share the gifts we
have been given.**

The voice of our Beloved sounds in our land:

**calling us to generous acts, to open our hearts to all
in need.**

The voice of our Beloved sounds in all creation:

**calling us to generous acts, to stand with God's
people: the least, the lost, the little, the last.**

Prayer of Approach:

Light-giving God:

**our praises spring up like flowers on a spring day;
our songs of joy are lifted to you;
our hearts overflow with your kindness and
generosity.**

Jesus, Beloved Child:

**you look through the lattice of the world at our lives,
our hearts, our souls.**

You speak to us with tenderness and strength,

**calling us to come away from rigid legalism to lives
of grace and hope.**

Truth-speaking Spirit:

**we look in a mirror and see God's child; we walk
away and forget whose we are.**

Move within us and reshape us into God's beloved children,

**that we may live within that circle of blessing called
the kingdom. Amen.**

Hymn: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky **VU 509**

Time for All People

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Holy One of leaders and little children, we hear your words
every day, but rarely live them out. Our anger roars like a
flooded creek, but our forgiveness drips like a rusty faucet.
Our impetuous tongues rush to judgement, while our words
of hope sound like a sluggish soundtrack. We listen with
impatient ears to the cries of the poor. Father of Lights, may
your mercy fall on us like a summer shower on parched
grass; may your hope overflow our hearts; may your
Beloved Child, Jesus Christ, speak to us and call us to life.
(Silent reflection)**

Assurance of Pardon:

Listen and understand – the voice of the Beloved speaks to us,
implanting the word of hope, the word of grace and the word of
forgiveness into our hearts.

**We listen and understand. Every gift comes from
God, especially the gifts of mercy and love. Thanks
be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

Hymn: Fairest Lord Jesus **VU 341**

Offertory Hymn: A Gift from Your Children

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

**Let us be slow in our yearning to hang onto our blessings
and quick to share them with the hungry, the lonely, the
forgotten and the hurting of our world, that our gifts might
become a kind of first fruits for those whose lives are so
empty. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures Song of Solomon: 2:8-13

Responsive Psalm 45 on **page 769 of VU**

Epistle Lesson: James 1:17-27

Gospel Lesson: Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth **VU 226**

Meditation

Ministry of Music

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Come and Fill Our Hearts **MV 16**

Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River **VU 710**

Commissioning:

Arise, and let us go forth as God's people.

Look! God sends us forth with songs of love on our lips.

Arise, and let us go forth to serve beside Jesus.

Look! He stands, waiting for us to help tear down the barriers of injustice.

Arise, and let us go forth to join the generous Spirit.

Look! We will be doers as well as givers with our gifts.

Benediction