

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, September 22nd, 2024
Led by Rev. Karen Bursey

Praise Medley: Thy Word, I Was There to Hear Your
Borning Cry

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: Awesome God

Call to Worship:

Our world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk;

Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.

Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.

Our culture promotes achievement, success, climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

Our God tells us if we want to be first, we need to go to the end of the line.

Let us gather at God's bidding as we worship together today.

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

We have come together so that we can worship You, O God, whose words restore us to life. We have come so that we can follow Jesus, whose hopes for justice are crystal clear. We have come so that we can learn from the Spirit, whose teachings help us to understand how to live as Your people. Bless us with an awareness of Your presence and open us to Your guiding hand in this and every hour. Amen.

Hymn: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus **VU 357**

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

We confess how much we are like those first disciples of Jesus, wisdom from on high. Our cravings for more and more toss us about like leaves in the Fall winds. We boast of our great wisdom, yet do not understand your ways of peace and gentleness. We do not plant ourselves in your hope and grace, and so reap harvests of disorder and conflict. Draw near to us, Gracious God, and forgive us. Draw us into your tender arms, and teach us peace, gentleness, the willingness to put the other first, the wisdom to serve instead of seize, so we might bring forth a harvest of righteousness, justice, and peace in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. (Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

This is the wisdom from above: God plants in us the forgiveness and healing we need, so we might share the good harvest of joy and mercy with everyone we meet. Bathed in the living waters, fed by the Bread of life, we are given new life and hope.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

A New Creed **VU 918**

Congregational Commitment:

Today we receive Silas Eric Steele-Young into the family of Christ with joy and thanksgiving.

We are members of the Body of Christ and inheritors of God's promise. Silas, in the name of Christ, we welcome you. As a baptized and baptizing church, we commit ourselves to support you within the community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism, nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer and encouraging one another in God's work.

Hymn: We Are Family

Offertory Hymn: Spirit, Open My Heart

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

Rather than boast of all that we have and are, may we humble ourselves, as we offer our lives, our hearts, and our gifts, in putting others first, that they might discover the wonders of the kingdom of grace and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Proverbs 31:10-14,20,25-31

Responsive Psalm 1 on **page 724 of VU**

Epistle Lesson: James 3:13 – 4:3,7-8a

Gospel Lesson: Mark 9:30-37

Hymn: Jesus Loves Me **VU 365**

Meditation

Ministry of Music: In This Simple Way

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Love Us Into Fullness

Hymn: Will Your Anchor Hold **VU 675**

Commissioning and Benediction:

Let us go to walk the road of service.

We will feed others with God's hope.

Let us go to break down the walls of resentment.

We will join the Servant of the world in embracing the refugees of despair and fear.

Let us go to teach kindness in our world.

We will gather up our sisters and brothers, and rest in the Spirit's peaceful lap.