

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge**  
**Sunday, September 8th, 2024**  
**Led by Rev. Karen Bursey**

**Praise Medley:** Share the Message, This Is the Day

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Introit:** Jesus, Friend of Little Children **VU 340**

**Call to Worship:**

What good is it if we say we love all people, but give special treatment to a few?

**God calls us to love others as deeply as we love ourselves, with no strings attached.**

What good is it if we say we want God to show mercy towards us, but are quick to judge others?

**God calls us to forgive our sisters and brothers, to let mercy triumph over judgement.**

What good is it if we say we trust God in every moment, but live guided by our fears?

**We will speak and act as those who trust God to come and live in our fearful hearts.**

**Prayer of Approach:**

God surrounded by glory: you notice the people we walk past, and journey with them, wherever they are going.

**You speak out for the voiceless, and open our ears to their cries.**

Jesus, Healer of the hopeless, in you, faith and works skip hand-in-hand down the streets of the kingdom.

**In you, the have-a-lots and the have-nothings find themselves sitting side-by-side at your Table, passing grace to one another.**

Compassion's Spirit: sow justice in our hearts, so the poor might find in us a friend;

**sow peace in our spirits, so the angry might find in us a sea of gentleness;**

sow generosity in our hands, so the hungry might find in us their daily bread.

**Holy One, surround us in these moments and in all the ones to come, with your grace and love, as we worship you this day.**

**Hymn:** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty **VU 220**

**A Time for All People**

**Prayer of Confession:** (unison)

**How glibly we say we trust you, Holy One, and how quickly our fears silence our words. We find you at the side of the poor, while we cozy up to the rich and famous. You stand behind the counter serving the hungry at the soup kitchen, while we are stocking our freezers and pantries till they overflow. We look down at those whose hands are dirty, but your hand of mercy pulls them into your embracing love. Forgive us, O Lord, and do good to us when we have trouble doing good for others. Surround us with your love; surround us with your grace; surround us with your peace; surround us with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.**

(Silent reflection)

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Be strong, do not fear! God comes to fill your parched souls with living water, to open your eyes to the grace which is yours.

**God comes, for no other reason than to save us. This is indeed good news. Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** I Have Called You By Your Name

**Offertory Hymn:** Count Your Blessings

**Offertory Prayer:** (unison)

**May our gifts not be the crumbs of our lives, but justice for those overlooked by the world; be healing for those broken by pain and grief; be food and comfort for the hungry; be**

**grace for those who long to be listened to and welcomed. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:**

Hebrew Scriptures: Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23

Responsive Psalm 125 on **page 849 of VU**

Epistle Lesson: James 2:1-10,14-17

Gospel Lesson: Mark 7:24-37

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

**Meditation**

**Ministry of Music:** Change My Heart, O God

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Prayer Response:** Breathe On Me, Breath of God **VU 382 vs 1**

**Hymn:** Sent Forth By God's Blessing **VU 481**

**Commissioning and Benediction:**

God sends us forth to love all people, no strings attached.

**We will share grace and hope with everyone.**

Jesus sends us forth to forgive our sisters and brothers.

**We will offer mercy, not judgement, to those around us.**

The Spirit sends us forth to trust God in every moment.

**We will live in faith, not in fear, sharing our hearts with all we meet.**