

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge  
Sunday, February 23rd, 2025**

**Praise Medley:** Come, Children, Join to Sing  
And The Father Will Dance

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Introit:** Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

**Call to Worship:**

We come, those who seek to trust in God.

**We commit ourselves to do as Jesus would do for those around us.**

We come, delighting in all the wonders God provides for us.

**We would not worry, but open ourselves to God's heart.**

We come, waiting patiently for God to speak.

**We will be still, listening for God's words of hope, of peace.**

**Prayer of Approach:** (unison)

**You are our heart's desire, who chooses grace over grudges, who provides rather than withholds, who creates community with us rather than standing isolated from us. You are our brother and servant, who delights in those who resist you, who cradles the fists of hatred in your scarred hands, who does good to those who do evil. You are the breath of wonder, who blows death's dust off our shoulders, who fills our empty souls with resurrection life, who whispers words of peace into hearts full of anger. You are the Holy One for whom we wait patiently, even as we worship today. Amen.**

**Hymn:** Let Us Build a House

**A Time for All People**

**Prayer of Confession:** (unison)

**In this season of light, revealing God, we find ourselves wandering in the shadows of the world. In this time when we focus on Jesus' ministry of healing, we hold tight to all those emotions – hatred, fear, worry – which continue to damage us. In these days when we are invited to listen to Jesus' teachings, we confess it is easier to hear the seductive words of sin.**

**Forgive us, God, for trusting in promises which are short-lived, rather than in your Word which endures forever. You have sent Jesus before us so that, as we follow him, we might travel from that far country of fear and doubt to that better country of resurrection life.** (Silent reflection)

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Take delight in the good news, dear friends. Salvation is from our God, who restores us to new life. God chooses to be gracious; God longs to give us our heart's desires; God provides healing and hope to all.

**Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**Hymn:** In the Beginning Was Love

**Offertory Hymn:** Count Your Blessings

**Offertory Prayer:** (unison)

**You pour out grace upon us, Loving God, not so we might be filled, but we might empty ourselves for others. Take these gifts we offer in these moments and use them to bring new life and hope to all around us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:**

Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis 45:3-11,15

Psalm 37 **on page 763 of VU**

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:27-38

**Hymn:** Make Me a Channel of Your Peace **VU 684**

**Meditation**

**Ministry of Music**

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

**Prayer Response:** Come Now, O God of Peace **VU 34**

**Hymn:** By Our Love

**Commission and Benediction:**

We leave, our hearts filled with God's love.

**We will go to offer the wonders of laughter  
and hope to everyone we will meet.**

We leave, following Jesus into the world.

**We will serve alongside him in the brokenness  
of our neighbours and our communities.**

We leave, having heard the whispers of the Spirit.

**We will speak justice to those who would hoard it  
only for themselves.**