

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge  
Sunday, February 2nd, 2025**

**Praise Medley:** Deep in Our Hearts  
Blessed Be the Name of the Lord

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Introit:** Like a Rock

**Call to Worship:**

Loud talks and silent worriers, glad-handers and lonely wallflowers:

**God gathers us together to be the Body of wonder and joy, of hope and healing.**

Bystanders with hands shoved into our pockets, fraidy-cats whose feet are frozen in place:

**Jesus calls us to carry grace to outsiders, to walk with all those left behind.**

Kids who never offer answers in class, bashful folks whose tongues tie in knots:

**The Spirit anoints us to speak up for the voiceless, to partner with the poor to discover their gifts.**

**Prayer of Approach:** (unison)

**You are our promise, our hope, our fulfilment, Holy One, and so we pray with one voice. Every day sings of your glory, each night lullabies us to sleep; and in every moment between, your grace silently laps upon the shores of our souls. You fulfilled the prophet's hopes, your voice racing through the valleys of our despair to bring us hope, your feet gently walking by our side over the dusty roads of death. More than any prize we might win, we long for the riches of your joy; more than all the world's empty calories, we hunger for the fullness of your love; more than all the fears promised to us, we embrace the peace of your heart. We worship you today in faith and hope. Amen.**

**Hymn:** Gather Us In

**A Time for All People**

**Prayer of Confession:** (unison)

**Do we make you laugh or weep, gracious God? We sing that we are one in your Spirit, but cannot tolerate those who disagree with us. We talk of being one Body, but fight over music or Bible versions or carpet colours. We affirm the giftedness of each person, but we heap honour on just a special few. Forgive us, creative God, that we dismember your Body so easily. May the words of our mouths speak peace to the brokenness in our world; may the hopes of our hearts bring wonder to those in despair; and may our love embrace all who are around us, even as we have been welcomed by your grace in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. (Silent reflection)**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Forgiven, we are filled by God's Spirit, commissioned to be Christ's hope, Christ's people for the world. Anointed, we can care for one another, weep with one another, serve one another and live with one another.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Hymn:** Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks **VU 179**

**Offertory Hymn:** Spirit, Open My Heart

**Offertory Prayer:** (unison)

**Though many different amounts and ways, when gathered up by you, our gifts become a food pantry, a rebuilt life, medicine for children, a caregiver to the lonely – your grace in action. In love we offer these gifts in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:**

Hebrew Scriptures: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19 **on page 740 of VU R2**

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:14-30

**Ministry of Music:** Lord, You Are Holy

**Meditation**

**Communion Hymn:** One Bread, One Body **VU 467**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** (see insert)

**Hymn:** To God Be the Glory

**Commission and Benediction:**

Now, we are scattered by our God,

**to go carry grace into a broken world.**

Now, Jesus scatters us,

**to bring justice to the outsiders, to visit all who are  
alone and lonely.**

Now, filled with the Spirit, we are scattered,

**to gather up the dispirited, to take hold of the lost and  
embrace them as family.**