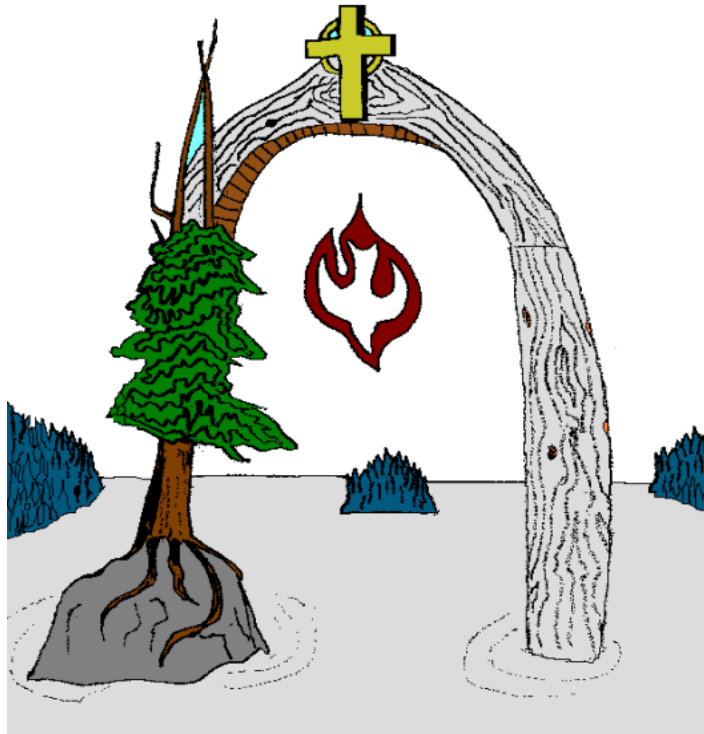


ST. COLUMBA ANGLICAN-UNITED CHURCH

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Reign of Christ: Last Sunday after Pentecost Year A
November 26, 2023 United Church Gathering



Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus Christ, our church is a community called to love, honour, worship, and serve God. We invite others to share our Christian journey as we grow in faith and engage in ministry in our town and mission in our world.

Leader: regular font ~ **All:** bold font ~ *Sung words: bold italics* ~ Asterix* stand as you are able

Welcome and Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

Call to Worship

Earth is full of noise. We push through these doors to find a spirit of wisdom.

We come together singing.

“Come into God’s Presence.”

Open the eyes of our hearts to worship our God with gladness.

We come together singing.

“Come into God’s Presence.”

Hope calls to us here. God’s presence greets us. We are invited to dream and wonder about the reign to come.

We come together singing.

“Come into God’s Presence.”

Opening Prayer

Gather us, O God, and welcome us into your heart. May we share in the pulse of your creativity and feel the treble of your hope. Invite us to dream with you, O God, about the world you still believe is possible and the world we want to call our own. We are sheepish. We hesitate to see all that is already reigning down. We fail to notice what has been growing within and among us. Encourage us with your voice and guide us with your presence in this time of worship and dreaming. **Amen.**

*Hymn: VU 232 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

***Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.***

***All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.***

You are giving and forgiving,

***ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.***

***Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music lifts us sunward
in the triumph song of life.***

Prayer of the Day:

Reign in our hearts, O God, and shape us as your people. Help us celebrate all the ways you reveal Christ to us – through our giving, our serving, our witness, and our worship. **Amen.**

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Hutlilala's! Listen deeply as Scripture is read.

Hebrew Scripture: Ezekial 34: 11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100 VU 820 Make a Joyful Noise

***Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Come to this place with a song!***

***Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song!***

***Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Come to this place with a song!***

***Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless his holy Name.
Worship your God with a song!***

***Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Come to this place with a song!***

***Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song!***

***Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Come to this place with a song!***

Words and music: Linnea Good; arr. David Kai.

Epistle Ephesians 1: 15-23

*Hymn: VU 600 When I Needed a Neighbour

***When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?***

***I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?***

***I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?***

***When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?***

***Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, I'll be there?***

Words and music: Sydney Carter

*Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Reflection

Prayers of the People

Minute for Mission/ PWRDF

We pray in the silences.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

***Hymn: VU 221 Sing Praise to God, Who has Shaped**

***Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!
Gladsome rejoice -
organ and trumpet and voice -
joining God's great congregation.***

***Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,
who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.
Have you observed,
how we are always preserved
by God's parental affection?***

***Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.
Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Only conceive
what godly strength can achieve:
strength that would touch and caress us.***

***Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.
God is your light!
Soul, ever keep this in sight:
amen, amen never ending.***

Words: Joachim Neander, trans. Madeleine Forell Marshall; Music: Stralsund Gesangbuch.

*Response: **VU 542 We Give You But Your Own**

***We give you but your own,
what e'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
We give it gratefully.***

Prayer over the Gifts

May these offerings help to answer prayers for liberation. In joy and in gratitude, we offer a portion of what you gave us in abundance. **Amen.**

Blessing

Let us go into a world that is full of joyful noises.

We go with gladness, and the eyes of our hearts open wide to justice and mercy.

God goes with us, singing to strengthen and guide.

Christ goes with us full of power and might.

Spirit leads us to find our call into hope.

People of God, let us go with love and peace.

*Hymn: **VU 713 I See a New Heaven**

***I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.***

***There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
the Tree of Life will be.***

***I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.***

***There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole
like flowers after the rain.***

I see a new heaven.

***I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.***

***There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
reveals the promise of love.***

***I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.***

***There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
to build a promised new land.***

***I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.***

***Three-fold Amen**

Announcements

Mission Focus: Gazette Hamper Fund

Dec 2 Advent set up 10 AM – 1 PM. Lunch will be served

Dec 12 Church Council 6:30 PM

Dec 16 at 1 PM “Then Let Us Sing” sing along for new hymns in an upcoming new United Church hymn book. And some seasonal hymns as well.

Liturgical resources:

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Voices United 600 When I Needed a Neighbour Words and music: Sydney Carter, 1962 Harmony: Cantate Domino, full music edition. Words and music copyright © 1965 Stainer & Bell Ltd. Used by permission of Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted and podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-720359 (#88698). All rights reserved.

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