

M^cCLURE UNITED CHURCH

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United Church

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Shirley Blackburn - Music Co-ord, Elin Sletmoen - Pianist*



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McClure United Church acknowledges as we worship here today, we are gathered in the traditional territory of the Cree, Salteaux, and Assiniboine First Nations and Homeland of the Metis, in the area most recently defined as Treaty 6.

And we also acknowledge that McClure United Church, as an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada, is one that embraces diversity and strives to include and be a safe place for all people.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & INVITATION

LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH: (*Announcements*)

LIGHTING OF PEACE CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER:

God, with wonder and expectation we gather. We are your people and we look to this time of worship to strengthen and sustain us. Some of us are joyful, for our homes are filled with love and laughter. Some of us are sad, and in need of comfort and companionship. Some of us are content, feeling “called into our present life, some of us are angry at the injustice that our systems bring to us and others. Some of us are tired, for the demands on us are great. Companion God, we come as we are, ready to deepen our relationship with you through community, words, music, and laughter. Amen.

***HYMN: “Open My Eyes” (#371 VU)**

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything else will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Source of love and forgiveness, you wrap us in constant compassion, inviting us to journey toward the way of wholeness. Forgive us when we lose our focus, directing our attention toward goals that fail to bring new life. Remind us that we do not walk alone, for you are our constant companion. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

The Love we reject welcomes us.
The Grace we resist is ever-present.
The Forgiveness we seek is ours now.

**We will accept these gifts of God today,
and walk in the Way and in the Light.**

SUNG RESPONSE: “Bath Me in Your Light” (#82 MV) vs 1

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life’s wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THEME CONVERSATION

***HYMN: “Holy Spirit, Hear Us” (#377 VU)**

- 1 Holy Spirit, hear us,
help us while we sing;
breathe into the music
of the praise we bring.
- 2 Holy Spirit, shine now
on the book we read;
light its holy pages
with the truth we need.
- 3 Holy Spirit, prompt us
when we bow to pray;
speak within and teach us
what we ought to say.
- 4 Holy Spirit, help us
daily by your might,
what is wrong to conquer,
and to choose the right.

SCRIPTURE: John 1:29-42 (NRSV)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” The next day John again was

standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

SPECIAL MUSIC:

9:15 - “Prayer of Blessing” – Choristers

11 - “Here Comes the Light” – Senior Choir

REFLECTION

RESPONSE

THE OFFERING

***HYMN: “Jesus You Have Come to the Lakeshore” (#563 VU)**

1 Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain:

**O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.**

2 You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
--you will find there my nets and labour. **R**

3 You need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving. **R**

4 You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me. **R**

***OFFERTORY: "When Heaven's Bright with Mystery"**

(#93 VU) vs 4

When heaven's bright with mystery
and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path
where courts of power can hold no sway,
there with the Magi, let us kneel, our gifts to share,
God's world to heal.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision" (#642 VU) omit vs 3**

1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

***SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING: "We Are Marching"**
(#646 VU)

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
oo-oo, (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'
Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'
(2x)

Si-ya-ham-ba, ham-ba
Si-ya-ham-ba, oo-oo,
Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'