

“By This We Will Know: The Dance of Love”

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome/Announcements

(voice over) We welcome you to this time of worship and as we do so, we acknowledge that McClure United Church stands on treaty 6 territory and homeland of the Metis Nation. We pay our respect to elders both past and present, wherever we find ourselves today. We also acknowledge our commitment as an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada as we strive to be an open-minded, inclusive and welcoming place of worship. It is our hope that no matter your age, race, class, ability, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, you will feel the warmth and blessing of God's love today. And we give thanks to God for this opportunity to gather together for worship, reflection, song and prayer. May you feel the God's blessing upon you today.

Hello and welcome to worship with us today. Today's is good shepherd Sunday... and that means... yes! Sheep. We can hardly talk about the good shepherd without them! So I am here with Jordan offering worship from Sheep Thrills Farm who have been kind enough to welcome us here. The sheep are happy to see us too!

There have been many unfortunate things that have come along with the pandemic but... as usual... with almost every challenge comes an opportunity for something new. I have had more comments about last year's good shepherd Sunday service than any other service I've offered – so I thought I'd embrace the opportunity again this year to create an “on location” service.

So lets begin with a few announcements...

First and most important.... I would like to wish, on behalf of the entire congregation, a very very happy birthday to Ellen Manton who recently turned 106 and Harold Chapman who will be turning 104 on Tuesday. Congratulations to you and know that we are throwing birthday love and hugs your way. You both have been a shining example of God's love to this community.

Now a little less exciting but important nonetheless... take a moment now to mark the date of our Annual General Meeting on your calendar for May 16th at 1pm. This meeting will be by Zoom and Reports will be available for you to review once they are completed. McClure Place and McClure Foundation will also be having their AGM one day earlier on the 15th also at 1pm. Stay tuned for more information about Zoom and how you can connect.

I also want to let you know that our amazing outreach committee is busy again organizing a food bank drive in our parking lot of Friday, April 30th from 10-1pm. The need for Food Banks is even greater now during the pandemic as many are still not back to work. Trucks will be set up in the parking lot and you will enter from Heritage Drive and exit onto Taylor Street. In the interest of as little

contact as possible, we are asking you to place your items in the truck provided. If you need assistance, there will be help available.

They are still looking for 2-3 trucks to help out with the project. If you have one that can be used, please contact the church office. Please contact Carol Claypool at (306) 664-2285 if you have one available.

If you wish to donate money in lieu of the drop-off, please make cheques payable to McClure United Church and be sure that you note that it is for the Saskatoon Food Bank. You may also make donations through e-transfer to donations@mcclureunitedchurch.org and indicate that it is for the Food Bank Drive.

It is the time of year when we present bibles to all of the grade 2 students. If you are in grade 2 and have not yet heard from me, please let me know so I can add you to the list.

And as always you are invited to join us at anytime for our Wednesday bible study, Friday coffeetime and for our email book club... information about all of those can be found on our website, facebook page and in the weekly email. You are always welcome.

And.. last but not least... as you will recall I am working together with Jordan from St. Martins, Lindsay from Delisle-Vanscoy and Nora from Calvary in PA during this Easter season to offer a worship series called "Dare to Dance Again". And we are counting on all of you to take learn a dance so we can share them together on Pentecost Sunday. It's a fairly simple line dance and there are standing and seated versions so everyone should be able to do it. Shannon Menon has created a couple of fantastic tutorials for us to learn and those, along with the original music for your recording are available on our facebook page, website and the links are in the weekly email. You have until May 16 to learn and record. You can do it on your own or with others in your bubble. I hope you have fun with this and I know I will have fun putting them all together for our Pentecost dance party.

And that is it for announcements today...

Let us join our hearts together and open ourselves to God's love as we enter more deeply into this time of worship.

Call to Worship

Dance like no one is watching...seriously...you should try that now and then. Shut the door, draw the curtains if you must. Then put on your favourite song, turn up the volume, and start to move. It's a wonderful feeling. That movement. No holding back, no limits, no judgement, no worries that you're good enough or not. Its' just you, the music, and the Spirit.

I imagine that's what God's love is like. No holding back, no limits, no judgment, no worries that you're good enough or not. And Easter, well that's the ultimate dance. Easter is the unstoppable, unpredictable expression of God's love for humankind! A dance that invites everyone in that we might live fully in the power of that love.

How amazing, how life changing, to know that love can feel like that. How amazing, how empowering, to know that this is the love we are called to share with one another.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

This is the call! Lean into this day with strength and hope.

We turn our faces to the rising sun.

The Good Shepherd is inviting us to this dance of life

A dance of love that calls to all people.

So come to this space, just as you are, knowing you belong.

For we are Easter People!

Let us pray:

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

We know your voice, the sounds of your steps.

Your love gathers us, urges us, encourages us.

Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.

Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

Song: I Cannot Dance, O Love offered by Elin Sletmoen

Scripture

First Reading: John 10:11-17 (NRSV, adapted) read by Joyce Lenz

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down their life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as God knows me and I know God. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason, the Holy One loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again."

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-18, 23-24 (NRSV, adapted) read by Kate Hildebaugh

We know love by this, that Christ laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees another in need

and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. This is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name Jesus and love one another, just as Christ has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Sermon

This week's sermon was a dialogue between Laura, Jordan from St. Martin's UC and Lindsay from Delisle Vancoy UC and there are no written notes. However, if you would like to listen to the sermon, *please call 306-249-1349. This is a ministry of St. Martin's United Church and is where people can listen to the sermon each week. This week we are using the same sermon.*

Song: Are You a Shepherd offered by Elin Sletmoen

Prayers of the People

Benediction

What would your life look like
if you sought each day to dance the dance of love?
To dance to the rhythm of the love of God moving in our lives?
May we hear the music of the Spirit
and follow in the steps of Jesus
whose love sets us free to dance with abandon.

And may the Loving God,
Risen Christ,
and Dancing Spirit
fill you with all you need
for the days ahead.

Sung blessing: Dance with the Spirit