

# **GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

\*please stand as you are able

## **PRELUDE:**

### **\*INTROIT: COME, O FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING #559VU**

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

## **\*WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

Let our hospitality towards each other reflect God's love.  
The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

### **REFLECTIVE MUSIC: SPIRIT OF LIFE #381VU**

Spirit of life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand,  
giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of life come to me, come to me.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Who has called us to this place?

**The one who is the Bread of Life,  
who comes and feeds the world.**

Who has brought us to this place?

**The one who is the Good Shepherd,  
who lays down his life for the sheep.**

Who has guided us to this place?

**The one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life,  
who guides us on the path to God's love.**

Who has shown us this place?

**The one who is the Light of the World,  
who illuminates the way for all who walk in darkness.**

Who do we worship in this place?

**Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.**

Come let us worship!

## **PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

**God of Abundant Love,  
Your love and kindness amazes us daily,**

it is wider than we can imagine,  
it is broader than we can even fathom,  
your love includes us all.

Inspire us with the power of your love, O God,  
so that we may have the strength to proclaim that love  
in a world that needs your lovingkindness.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*HYMN: O GOD, BEYOND ALL PRAISING #256VU**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

God of the lost,  
We look for you in all the wrong places,  
and wonder why we cannot find you.  
We wander the corridors of power,  
while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless.  
We sit at the head tables of the world,  
while you are handing out soup to the hungry  
through the kitchen's backdoor.  
We applaud those who win the race,  
while you are cheering on those in last place.  
God of new life,  
In forgiving us, transform our cold hearts  
into those warmed in service to others.  
In granting us mercy,  
Challenge us to think of all those we have ignored.  
In gifting us with grace, enable us to spread your love  
in a world that desperately needs it. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

No matter where we are, God is there.  
No matter what we have done or have not done, God forgives.  
No matter what, God will always love us.  
God is full of unconditional and unending love.  
We are a forgiven and loved people.

**Thanks be to God!**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**\*HYMN: JUST AS I AM #508VU**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY**

**\*OFFERTORY HYMN: THIS DAY GOD GIVES ME (vs. 4) #410VU**

**Rising, I thank you, mighty and strong One,  
King of Creation, giver of rest,  
Firmly confessing Threeness of Persons,  
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

**GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:**

**Eternal God, In the reading of scripture, may your Word be heard;  
In the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; In the  
faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 124 (pg. 848VU – Refrain 1)**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:**

**GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 15:21-28**

**The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON:**

**\*HYMN: WILL YOUR ANCHOR HOLD #675VU**

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH: A NEW CREED #918VU**

**GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*HYMN: HE LEADETH ME #657VU**

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

**Holy God, Dreamer of dreams,  
We offer Cochrane Street United Church to you. We are your  
people, this is your church. We come to you seeking your  
guidance, your purpose, your vision. Align our will with yours,  
so that we will be willing to do whatever it takes to carry out  
your plan. We ask you to break through in new ways in our  
church. Show us the great ministry you have in store for us.  
Help us dream your dreams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,  
giving us the vision, boldness, and confidence to do all that you  
call us to do. Amen.**

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**SUNG BLESSING: MAY GOD'S SHELTERING WINGS #214MV**

**May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.  
May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,  
and hold you in her love, and hold you in her love.**

# Cochrane Street United Church

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## August 27, 2017

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