

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

***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:

Come, let us praise the living God,
who loved us before we were even born.
Come, let us praise the living God,
who knows us even better than we know ourselves,
Come, let us praise the living God,
whose presence never leaves us,
Come, let us praise the living God,
whose love for us never ceases.
This is our God! Let us worship together!

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

**God of unending grace,
Your goodness and mercy is present each day:
in the smiles and laughter of children,
in the refreshing breeze on a summers day,
in the warmth of friends and family,
even in wheat and weeds that grow together.
Open our hearts and minds
to your goodness and mercy all around us,**

so that we might be inspired to act in ways
that reflect your love and mercy.
This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN: PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY #220VU**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful and Loving God,
In your field of love, weeds and wheat grow together.
But we often judge and condemn others,
even though you have not.
Forgive us, O God, when we deprive others of your love.
Forgive us, when we want to uproot
those whom we do not want in your field.
Forgive us, when we label others as good or bad
rather than accepting them for who they are.
Forgive us, when we fail to acknowledge
that we, ourselves, are a mixture of weeds and wheat,
Forgive us, when we are afraid to look into the fields
of our own lives to see what is growing there.

(silence)

O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.
You search us out and lay your hand upon us.
You know what we are going to say even before we speak.
So we pray that you will help us to reach out to
the uprooted and rejected, the lonely and the outcast.
Help us to grow the good in ourselves,
in others, and in the world.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Hear the Good News!
In Jesus we are no longer slaves to fear.
We are dearly loved children of God.
God's Spirit is among us; we shall live!
Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S TIME

***HYMN: HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS #344VU**

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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: GENESIS 28:10-19a

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 139 (pg. 861VU)

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

SERMON:

***HYMN: AMAZING GRACE #266VU**

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN: YOUR HAND, O GOD, HAS GUIDED #274VU**

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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July 23, 2017

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