

# First United Church

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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 2020

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Worship Leader ..... Bob Wallace  
Music ..... Alleluia Singers, Frances Chiasson, Jessica Crawford  
Greeters ..... Nikki Attwell, Carol Postle, John Whitehead  
Ushers..... Linda Gilmour, Karen Hawkey, Bobbie Tough  
Communion servers..... Frances Chiasson, Darlene Cockerill,  
..... Susanne Donkin, Marlene Spicer, Murray White  
Sound System..... Luke Campbell  
Projectionist ..... Ashton Springer  
Coffee Hour ..... Tanya Burke, Myrna McRae  
Offering Counters ..... David Bertetic, Linda Gilmour, Irene Pett

**Welcome Table in the hall after worship** - Information about activities and services we offer at First United. Remember to update your Family Record so we have current contact information and emergency numbers and if you have not filled out a Family Record you are invited to do so!

**Sunday school Teachers** – Rachel Anweiler, Tanya Burke, Caitlyn Bertetic, Cheryl Perry, Moira Pritchard, Isabella Seethaler, Robyn Springer.

**Prayer Cycle** - This Sunday, in the annual rotation, we join with other churches to pray for the congregation of the Rosedale United Church.

**Peace & Justice Table in the hall after worship** - Environmental issues, urgent actions & Fair-Trade items.

**Food Share Containers in the hall** - for non-perishable food & hygiene items.

**Healing Ministry** - Please contact Judy at 250-862-0712 for appointment.

# Gathering

Prelude

Ring of the Bell, Welcome, Announcements

Introit "Life's Sacredness" (Christopher New)

**Beauty is around us; Beauty is within us;  
Beauty is between us; Beauty is unfolding in us.  
Beauty is around us; Beauty is within us;  
Beauty is between us; opening to reveal  
Life's sacredness, life's sacredness  
Revealed in the wonder, revealed in the earth;  
Revealed in our quest for life.**

**Spirit is around us; Spirit is within us;  
Spirit is between us; Spirit is unfolding in us.  
Spirit is around us; Spirit is within us;  
Spirit is between us; opening to reveal  
Life's sacredness, life's sacredness  
Revealed in the wonder, revealed in the earth;  
Revealed in our quest for life.**

Call to Worship (responsive)

When we seek justice for the other, when we love kindness  
more than ever,  
**we live as God asks us to live.**

When we walk humbly through life, when we offer mercy to  
those who hurt us,  
**we are the blessing God hopes we will be.**

When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus, when  
we choose weakness rather than power,  
**we reflect the One who is in our midst.**

Hymn "God, Help Us to Treasure" (More Voices 147)

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Reconciliation (unison)

**What have we done to you, dear God? We dishonor you every time we treat another with disrespect. We shatter your heart when we find it easier to break our word, then to take the risk to keep it. We fill your ears with the gossip, lies, and slander we speak about those around us.**

**You are wise enough to forgive our foolishness; you are strong enough to overcome our weakness; you are loving enough to heal the hurt we cause to you and to others.**

**And so, you give us new hope and new life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.** *(silence is kept)*

Words of Hope (responsive)

What has God done to us - shown mercy! What has God done for us - forgiven us! This is the good news for us.

**We will not boast, for it is not our doing. We will give thanks to God for such grace and hope. Amen.**

Sung response "Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands"

(More Voices 173 vs. 2)

**Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation. (2x)**

Passing of the Peace

**Word**

Matthew 4:12-23 (Noah Chiasson)

Word for all ages

Hymn "Blest Are They" (Voices United page 896)

*Children leave for Sunday school*

Anthem "Blessed Are They" - Lee Dengler

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Tanya Pritchard)

Reflection

Hymn "Come Touch Our Hearts" (More Voices #12)

## Thanksgiving

Offertory "Now Thank We All Our God" (Voices United 236, vs. 1)

**Now thank we all our God,  
with heart, and hands, and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom the world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**May we always be foolish enough to offer our gifts to you,  
Generous God, for you use them to bring justice to the  
oppressed, to bring laughter to those who mourn, and to  
offer wonder to little children. This we pray in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

Communion Prayers

May the God of foolishness be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of God, open your hearts.

**We offer them to the God who transforms us.**

Join in singing praises to our God.

**With joy and wonder, we lift our voices.**

...With those who wonder what to offer, with all who seek to worship you, we sing songs of praise to you...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

... As we seek to comprehend his life, as we are transformed by his grace, we speak of that mystery we call faith...

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

The Lord's Prayer (Voices United 959)

## Sending Forth

Hymn "Oh a Song Must Rise" (More Voices 142)

Commissioning

We have been nourished by God's grace and hope,  
**therefore, we go to those who hunger for justice, as well as to those who thirst for reconciliation.**

We are called to follow the One who is weak and powerless,  
**therefore, we will bring healing to the broken among us, as well as comfort to those who grieve in every moment.**

We learn what is right and good from the Holy Spirit,  
**therefore, we will go as fools to be blessings to the wise, as well as to do not what is easy, but what is difficult.**

Benediction "Let us, O God, depart in Peace" (choir only, VU 961)

Sung Response “Masithi Amen”

Leader: Masithi

**Amen! Si-a-ku-du-mi-sa!**

Leader: Masithi

**Amen! Si-a-ku-du-mi-sa!**

Leader: Masithi

**Amen, ba-wo! Amen, ba-wo! Amen! Si-a-ku-du-mi-sa.**

Leader: Masithi

**Amen! We praise your name, O God.**

Leader: Masithi

**Amen! We praise your name, O God.**

Leader: Masithi

**Amen, ba-wo! Amen, ba-wo! Amen!  
We praise your name, O God.**

Postlude “Allemand in D minor”- G.F. Handel

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**Next Week’s Lectionary Readings:**

*Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20*

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**About Today’s Service**

This Sunday concludes The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, an ecumenical observance lasting 8 days that is observed around the world and promoted by the World Council of Churches. Our Communion service this morning includes prayers written by our Gr 4-6 Sunday School class. Prayers were written by Ailie Bertetic, Charlotte Seethaler, Islene Vernet, Deanni Campbell and William Campbell.

**Offering Tax Receipts** are now available for you to pick up from the Envelope Steward, Jodine Ducs. She will be available before and after worship most Sundays throughout February.

## **Membership at First United**

If you are making First United your church home, if you are new to the congregation, or have moved here from another church but have not yet transferred your membership and would like to, please contact the church office at [firstunited@telus.net](mailto:firstunited@telus.net) or speak to one of our ministers. There will be an opportunity to be received by transfer in the coming weeks and we will be setting dates for our annual Membership Exploration group soon. We'd like to have your name/email if you are interested!

## **First's Got Talent show – Saturday February 8, 5:30pm potluck dinner**

Judy Valks would like to borrow a sling, cast and/or leg brace for the talent evening event. If you can help out please contact Judy at 250-862-0712.

## **Congregational Knowledge Exchange!**

The Education Core Ministry would like to invite you to an all ages event - a Congregational Knowledge Exchange - on February 9 after church in the hall. If you are interested, please see Suki Vernet to fill out a questionnaire of knowledge you can share (for example - how to write in cursive, speak in another language, play checkers, all the words to "twinkle twinkle," etc. ) and knowledge you would like to learn (for example, how to play cat's cradle, tie a tie, canning advice, etc. ). You will be matched with another member of the congregation and will meet on February 9 to connect and exchange your knowledge. Please contact Suki Vernet with any questions. [thevernets@me.com](mailto:thevernets@me.com)

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED**  
**FEBRUARY 2 - 9, 2020**

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| <b>Today</b>       | 8:30AM Informal Worship: 14                        |
|                    | 10:00AM Sunday Worship: Sanctuary                  |
|                    | 11:00AM Refreshments: Hall                         |
|                    | 3:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearse: Belfry           |
| <b>Monday</b>      | 10:00AM Grandparents raising grandchildren: 14     |
| <b>Tuesday</b>     | 10:00AM Coffee and outreach: Hall                  |
|                    | 1:00PM Adult study: 14                             |
| <b>Wednesday</b>   | 11:00AM Pastoral Care: 12                          |
|                    | 7:00PM Adult study: 14                             |
| <b>Thursday</b>    | 8:30AM Healing Ministry: Vestry                    |
|                    | 10:00AM Coffee and outreach: Hall                  |
|                    | 4:00PM Outreach Core Ministry: 14                  |
|                    | 7:00PM Alleluia Singers rehearsal: Sanctuary       |
| <b>Saturday</b>    | 5:30PM First's Got Talent: Hall                    |
| <b>Next Sunday</b> | 8:30AM Informal Worship: 14                        |
|                    | 10:00AM Sunday Worship: Sanctuary                  |
|                    | 11:00AM Refreshments: Hall                         |
|                    | 11:30AM Knowledge exchange: Hall                   |
|                    | 12:00PM Okanagan Japanese congregation worship: 14 |
|                    | 3:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearse: Belfry           |