

# First United Church

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

February 16, 2020

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Worship Leaders ..... Cheryl Perry, Bob Wallace  
Music ..... Alleluia Singers, Jessica Crawford  
Greeters ..... Elizabeth Alexander, Nina Anderson, Edna Rennie  
Ushers..... Maggie Craig, Joan Grahl, Linda Munce  
Sound System..... Carl Stef  
Projectionist ..... Benita Worley  
Coffee Hour ..... Shelley Adamson, Catherine Doherty  
Offering Counters ..... Ron Green, Linda Munce, 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 Salt Spring Island 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

Ringing 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)

God speaks to us here again today.

**We gather bringing with us our messy lives and unclear futures.**

The Lord puts before us the way to a full life.

**Following our Saviour often seems too hard – too much.**

Yet it is the way of living water and never-ending life.

**Let us choose and follow the Lord today and always.**

Hymn "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" (Voices United 559)

Prayer of Reconciliation (unison)

**How often we make the wrong choices, God of our lives! We look at others through the prism of lust, distorting who they**

**really are. We let our 'mad' feed us with bitterness and hurt. We toss about harmful words like so many snowballs on a winter's day. We would rather insult those around us, than to lift them up.**

**Have mercy on us, God who is everywhere. May we set aside our quarreling natures to be united in common worship, common service, and a common purpose, as we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.**

Words of Hope (responsive)

Christ came, so we might be healed by God's tender touch. Christ came, so we might be reconciled to one another.

**Thanks be to God! As risky, as hard as it may be, we will choose to be God's people. 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

Word for all ages

Hymn "O Great Spirit" (Voices United 239)

*Children leave for Sunday school*

Anthem "Let Justice Roll Like a River"- Marty Haugen

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 & Matthew 5:21-24 (Tom Kemp)

Reflection

Hymn "In Loving Partnership We Come" (Voices United 603)

# Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession (Tom Kemp)

The Lord's Prayer (Voices United 959)

Minute for Mission (Outreach)

A Time of Musical Reflection "Sonata in B flat"-Scarlatti

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)

**When we could choose to be selfish, may we share from our  
abundance; when we could choose to be hoarders, let us give  
away all we have; when we could choose to be broken, let us  
be reconciled with those around us. Bless our lives, as well as  
these gifts, we pray. Amen.**

## Sending Forth

Hymn "One More Step Along the World I Go" (Voices United 639)

Commissioning

Go now, with God's love,  
**we will choose to be a blessing to others.**  
Go now, with Christ's hope,  
**we will choose to serve all in need.**  
Go now, with the Spirit's peace,

**we will choose to share life in every moment.**

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 "Morning Has Broken"-M. Hayes

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***Next Week's Lectionary Readings:***

*Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 11 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9*

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**The Annual Meeting** of First United will be on Sunday, March 1 following worship in the hall with lunch by donation. Limited print copies of the report are available in the office. A digital copy is available by a link in the First Word.

**We need your help!** Crop "Till You Drop" is scheduled for Saturday February 29. It is an important fund raiser for our church. Registration is going well and we should have a full house. I need help with food and serving. Please help by offering to donate at our sign-up table. Thank you for your continuing support!

**Monthly Prayer Shawl Ministry** Join us to knit or crochet prayer shawls for our congregation and the community at 1:00pm in room 14 on Thursday February 20. We'll help those who are beginner knitters or crocheters.

**The adult study** offered by Sharon Wilson has now concluded for this session. It will resume on Tuesday, March 24 at 1pm in room 14.

**Kitchen stove** One of our two ovens is not working optimally anymore. Before I try and figure out if we can fix it at a cost of more than it's worth, I thought I'd ask if anyone has an electric stove to donate to the kitchen. It must work! Otherwise, we're not too picky. Please contact Tanya in the office.

**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. We will be setting dates for our annual Membership Exploration group soon. We'd like to have your name/email if you are interested!

<b>THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED</b> <b>FEBRUARY 16 - 23, 2020</b>
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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>	Office closed for Family Day holiday
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00AM Coffee and outreach: Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30AM Healing Ministry: Vestry
	10:00AM Coffee and outreach: Hall
	1:00PM Prayer Shawl ministry: 14
	7:00PM Alleluia Singers rehearsal: Sanctuary
<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	
<b>Next Sunday</b>	8:30AM Informal Worship: 14
	10:00AM Sunday Worship: Sanctuary
	11:00AM Refreshments: Hall
	12:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearse: Belfry