



Strathmore United Church

Gratitude and Discipleship

August 1, 2021

Welcome and announcements:

This is the first week of a five-part series formatted by the Stewardship arm of the United Church. We will be looking closely at 2 Corinthians, chapter 9.

Today, the focus of our worship is on gratitude and how the spiritual practice of gratitude can ground our journey as disciples of Jesus. We can and should nurture this practice that is also the foundation of our ability to give generously.

Candle Lighting:

L: As we gather to worship, we light this candle to remember the light and love that Jesus shared with so many. He did not keep this light to himself. After Jesus died, his friends continued to share the light. For generations upon generations the light has been shared, and love continues; Jesus is still with us.

P: Today, in love, we welcome the light, the light of the world.

Call to Worship:

L: We gather to give thanks, O Creator God.

P: Holy One, we are here.

L: Be with us as we pray and sing together.

P: Holy One, we are here.

L: Be with us in our words, in our listening, and in our hearts.

P: Holy One, we are here.

L: We are here to worship, to remember the gifts flowing from you, O Creator God, and to give thanks.

Opening Prayer:

 **Hymn:** Make a Joyful Noise *VU #820

**Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!**

- 1 Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song! R
- 2 Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song! R

All Ages Theme Conversation:

 **Hymn:** *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker* *MV #30

1. It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea,

And by the Spirit
you and I
can join our voice
to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing
to the Maker too.

2. It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore.

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:1-5 (16-15), Luke 19: 1-10

Message:

♪♪ Hymn: *This Is God's Wondrous World* *VU #296

- 1** This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.
- 2** This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

Prayers of the People:

Peoples Reply: **We give you thanks, Generous God.**

The Offering:

♪♪ Sung Dedication: Grant Us, God, the Grace *VU#540
Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Prayer of Dedication:

♪♪ Hymn: *Let All Things Now Living* *VU #242

- 1** Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;

till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

- 2 By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Blessing and Passing the Peace:

 **Postlude:** Wherever You May Go *MV #216
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

VU #540 *Grant Us God, the Grace of Giving:* Public Domain

VU #820 *Make A Joyful Noise:* Words, Music: Linnea Good 1992
Borealis Music. Arrangement: David Kai. Reprinted/Podcast with
permission of ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

MV #30 *It's A Song of Praise To The Maker:* Words: Ruth Duck 1992.
Words copyright at GIA Publications. Music: Ron Klusmeier 1992.
Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A.
All rights reserved.

VU #296 *This Is God's Wondrous World:* Public Domain.

VU #242 *Let All Things Now Living:* Words, Descant: E C Schirmer
Music Co. Music: Public Domain. Reprinted/Podcast with
permission under ONE LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.

VU #216 *Wherever You May Go: Refrain only.* Words, Music:
David Kai 1996. Reprinted/Podcast with permission under ONE
LICENSE #734505-A. All rights reserved.