



Strathmore United Church

Giving Thanks and Serving

August 29, 2021

Welcome and announcements:

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: It is good to give thanks to God,

P: And to sing praises to your name, O God.

L: Let us declare the steadfast love of God in the morning.

P: And at night we will speak of God's faithfulness.

L: With the music of instrument our praise shall arise;

P: With our shouts of joy we make known our thanksgiving.

L: For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work;

P: At the work of your hands we sing for joy.

♪♪ Hymn: Praise with Joy the World's Creator *VU #312

1 Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
friend and stranger, guest and host.

Opening Prayer:

Jesus, you said that you were among us as one who serves. You washed the feet of your disciples and, in doing so, gave us an example of service. As we come to worship this day, help us to fully understand the example of service you gave us. Show us how to serve so that we can glorify you without calling attention to ourselves. Show us that in serving,

P: we can show our gratitude and commitment to you.

Show us that in serving,

P: we witness to your goodness.

Show us that in serving,

P: we are offering thanksgiving for all that you have done.

Amen.

All Ages Theme Conversation:

Let us pray together:

Help us, good Lord, to serve as you have served. Help us to give thanks that we can serve others, and may our service give you glory! Amen.

🎵 Hymn: *When Long Before Time* *VU #248

- 1 When long before time and the worlds were begun,
 when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
 and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
 and even our Maker had only a dream...**

- 2 ...the silence was broken when God sang the Song,
 and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
 and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
 and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.**

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:12-15, John 13:1-15

Sermon:

♪♪ Hymn: Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands*MV #173

**Put peace into each other's hands
And like a treasure hold it,
Protect it like a candle flame,
With tenderness, enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands
With loving expectation
Be gentle in your words and ways,
In touch with God's creation.**

Prayers of the People:

Repeated response.

You have given us the gifts and talents to serve others.

P: Help us to serve with thanksgiving using the gifts you give.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

The Offering:

♪♪ Offering Song: We Give Thee but Thine Own *VU#543

**1 We give thee but thine own,
what e'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O God, from thee.**

Prayer of Dedication:

An Affirmation:

L: Let us affirm what we have learned as we journeyed:

P: We are stewards of the things of God.

L: God has created and continues to create. God has entrusted to us the responsibility to care for the things God has created. God has given to us all that we need for living.

P: We are accountable to God for the ways we have cared for the world.

L: In expressing our faith in Jesus, let us give generously to the work of our congregation and in the wider church through Mission & Service. Let us invite others to give to the work of God and thank God for the work God continues to do.


P: We thank God for the ways that we participate in the work and mission of God.

L: We are disciples of Jesus. We are called to proclaim Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in the ways we live.

P: As stewards, we are called to discipleship.

L: May it be so.

P: Amen.

 **Hymn:** *Go Make a Diff'rence* *MV #209

Refrain

Go make a diff'rence.

We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.

We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

**We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.**

**We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.**

Go make a diff'rence in the world. R.

**We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.**

**We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world. R.**

Sending Forth and Blessing:

♪♪ Postlude: May the God of Hope ***VU #424**

- 1** **May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

- 2** **May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R**

VU #312 *Praise With Joy the World's Creator: Words 1987*

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