*Welcome* *to worship!*

**Sunday February 13th, 2022**

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

***A joint online Zoom worship service with Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches & friends.***

***Worship Leaders:*** *Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM, and Rev. Lionel Ketola, BA, M Div.*

*Music used under Onelicense # A-723979*

*Musicians: Thank you to the Masked Bandits: Gabrielle Untermann, Julia Shatford, Steven May, Barb Gilbert, Jane Plewman*

**GATHERING**

**Words of Welcome**

**Introit: Come All You People, MV 2 *(Zimbabwe)*  VIDEO**

*Music video used with permission, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church*

<https://youtu.be/r_I1S46dibM>

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

We light this candle in the name of the One who guides us into deep waters, who implores us to wade a little farther in, where God is at play, bringing us into good trouble. As we light this candle, **may we carry Christ’s light with us.**

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us is gathered today. These lands remain home to many Indigenous nations and people. Their relationship with the land remains central to their lives.

**God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with the Indigenous people of Turtle Island in tangible, loving ways. Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

Happy are we

**when our treasures cannot be quantified.**

Happy are we

**when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.**

Happy are we

**when our pain is held in the balm of love.**

Happy are we

**when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.**

Happy are we

**2hen we encounter God’s loving presence in this time of worship.**

**Opening Hymn: VU 357 Tell Me the Stories of Jesus The Masked Bandits**

**Opening Prayer** *by William Sheakspeare, Prayers for an Inclusive Church*

**God of blessing and woe,**

**disturbing the deadly order of the world:**

**give us faith tested in poverty,**

**hunger for what really satisfies,**

**eyes softened by tears,**

**and hearts ready to laugh**

**at all that is false and pompous**

**that we might be witnesses**

**to the dignity of life;**

**through Jesus Christ, who turns the world upside down. Amen.**

**We Open Our Hearts to the Spirits Voice**

Whether you take what is written in the bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning that they hold in your life.

**May God bless us with wisdom and wonder as we prayerfully consider the meaning of these words of scripture in our lives.**

**Jeremiah 17:5-10**

5Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. 6They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. 7Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. 8They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. 9The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? 10I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Holy Wisdom Holy Word, **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Psalm** Psalm 1 Chris Brunelle VIDEO

**The Holy Gospel according to Luke 6: 17-26**

**17**Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. **18**They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. **19**And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

**20**Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
    for yours is the kingdom of God.  
**21**“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
    for you will be filled.  
“Blessed are you who weep now,  
    for you will laugh.

**22**“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A17-26&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25161a)] on account of the Son of Man. **23**Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

**24**“But woe to you who are rich,  
    for you have received your consolation.  
**25**“Woe to you who are full now,  
    for you will be hungry.  
“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
    for you will mourn and weep.

**26**“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Holy Wisdom Holy Word, **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: Rev. Lionel

**Hymn:** **Jesus Christ is Waiting VU 117 VIDEO**

https://youtu.be/\_CSzEviUc\_o

Invitation to the Offering

**A Moment to Celebrate the Gifts of Black Canadians**: The Very Rev. Wilbur Kenneth Howard, past Moderator, United Church of Canada

Offertory Prayer

**Tender God, source of every good blessing,**

**we live, move and have our being within the rhythm of your grace.**

**Make holy all we offer you this day.**

**We ask this for the sake of Jesus the Christ,**

**who made himself poor**

**that we might know the riches of your love. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

The Spirit of God has been poured out on all creation in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world and all that God has made. *A silence follows*

Blessed are those whose trust is in you. Strengthen the faith of your people, and bring reassurance to those who struggle with doubt or fear. Empower your church to be a source of hope and blessing for our world.

God of grace, **Hear our payer.**

God of justice, during this Black History Month, give us the courage, vision and perseverance that we need to challenge the systems of structured racism, so that we can clear a path for your Reign of justice, peace, and equity.

God of grace, **Hear our payer.**

Those who trust in you are like trees planted by streams of living water. Bless fruit trees with an abundant harvest. May rain forests be protected from destruction. Restore lands that have been eroded by deforestation. Empower us to do your work of mending your good creation.

God of grace,  **Hear our payer.**

Search the hearts of those who govern that they may lead with humility. Inspire leaders to collaborate on policies that protect people and the planet. Sustain truth-tellers and social movements that challenge society to be more honest and just.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Send your blessings on those who long for consolation. Tend to those who are struggling with illness, poverty, unemployment, discrimination, or uncertainty in their lives. Empower us to care for and advocate for all who are in need.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

At this time we offer our prayers for all who are in need: *Intercessions are offered*

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

**God our Mother and Father in heaven …**

**Closing Hymn: We are Marching in the Light of God VU # 646 VIDEO**

https://youtu.be/QGOiANtGmhE

**Blessing and Commissioning**

Jesus turned his world upside down

and declared that the Kingdom of God

is a kingdom of beggars, the dispossessed, and the forgotten.

As we go forth

may we draw the circle wide

and live out Jesus’ vision of a world made whole.

And may the blessing of God:

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit

be with us all – now and always. Amen!

**Sending Music: Go Now in Peace VIDEO**