

**That's So Not United Church:
Sharing Our Faith with Others
Week 1
FV/RUC September 8 2024
First Day back to Sunday School
Minister - Rev. Angela MacLean
Chairs of Worship – Heather Archibald, Anne Forbes
Music Director – Kathy MacNeil
Audiovisual – Rodger Middleton and Geoff Doane**



Photo courtesy of D. Williamson

***Today's Bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Janet McMurtry
by the Senior Choir***

Gathering Music

My Faith Looks Up to Thee (VU663)

Words: Ray Palmer. Music: Lowell Mason. Public Domain

Shall We Gather at the River (VU710)

Words: Robert S. Lowry 1864. Music: Robert S. Lowry. Public Domain

Faith of Our Fathers (VU580)

Music: Henri Frederick Hemy. Adapted by James George Walton. Public Domain

Introit:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah Give Thanks (VU179, v4)

Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.

Words, Music: Donald Fishel © International Liturgy Publications, PO Box 50476, Nashville, TN 37205. Arrangement: © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People. Descant: © 1979 Maranatha! Music (Administered by The Copyright Company - obo, P.O. Box 128139, Nashville, TN 37212-8139, tel.: 615-321-1096, fax: 615-321-1099) All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission. One License A-736543

Greeting

May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements

Acknowledgement of Territory

Candle Lighting & Time for Silence

Call to Worship

One: We have come to worship the living God,

All: who cannot be known with just our hearts and minds but seeks to inhabit every part of our body and being.

One: We have come to worship the living God,

All: whose work in our lives is so broad, so persistent, so inspiring that it deserves to be acknowledged, shared, and celebrated.

One: We have come to worship the most-gracious God,

All: who chooses even you and me, who claims us so boldly and consistently that we can hardly fathom how to respond.

One: We have come to worship the living God,

**All: so let us bring our whole selves to this time of song and prayer, reflection and fellowship.
Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, in love You open wide the doors and welcome us into Your presence – every one of us, no matter how we arrive here or where we've come from. You offer us nurture for our bodies and souls; you invite us into a time of peace and discernment.

We come, some with souls that are burdened and others with hearts that are joy-filled, seeking comfort, open to being changed, ready to be commissioned.

Help us give ourselves fully to you in this time of worship, that we may hear all you need to say to us, that we may feel all you need us to feel, that we may be filled with all the purpose you long for us to carry. In the name of Jesus, we pray, amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

One: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

We Sing:

Christ Be Our Light

by Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Chorus:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Chorus

Longing for food, many are hungry,

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

shared until all are fed.

Chorus

Longing for shelter, many are homeless,

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones.

Chorus

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kin-dom come.

Chorus

© 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Used with permission, One License A-736543

A Time of Wondering

We Sing:

I'm Gonna Shout, Shout, Shout Out My Love (MV183)

I'm gonna shout, shout, shout out my love
for Jesus, for Jesus!

I'm gonna shout, shout, shout out my love
for God's most holy child!

For whatever I might do today,
at home, at school, at work, at play,
I've got Jesus' love deep down inside of me!

Words and music: Bruce Harding, 1998. Used with permission, all rights reserved. One License A-736543

Prayer of Illumination

One: O God, your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light upon our path.

All: Give us grace to receive your Word in faith and love. Amen

Sacred Reading: Acts 8: 26 – 40

Herein lies Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Lynn Knapp

Reflection: Sharing Our Faith with Others

Invitation to the Offering

Your donations today support our church programs and operations, as well as outreach projects and programs in our community and around the world.

Gift of Music: Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing

Contributors: Gordon Young Text: © 1956, ECS Publishing Used with permission, all rights reserved. One license A-736543

Giving Thanks:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah Give Thanks (VU179)

Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Give thanks to the risen Christ;

hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give praise to God's name.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Just as there are myriad ways to know God, and myriad gifts we are given by God, there are myriad ways we can show our gratitude and love to God, to each other, to the whole of creation.

May these gifts of money, along with our hearts, be transformed to fulfil the needs of God's people and creation. Amen.

Prayers of the People and Prayer of Jesus

We Sing:

Go to the World (VU420)

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!'
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*Words: Sylvia Dunstan 1985 © 1991 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906.
Used by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. One License A-736543*

Blessing & Sending Forth

Choral Blessing:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah Give Thanks (VU179, v2)

Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen.

Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.

Postlude: Be Thou My Vision (VU642)

*Words: Irish ca. 8th century, translated by Mary Elizabeth Byrne,
versified by Eleanor H. Hull. Music: Irish traditional melody. Public Domain*