

**Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
And Westminster United Church
Joint Worship, August 13, 2023**

Territorial Acknowledgment and Announcements

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississauga of the Credit First Nations. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibway and other allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in their community, and to share and respect Mother Earth.

Centering Music: “Gather Us In” MV 7

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in,

Ground us, ground us in you.

Call to Worship:

We gather in the name of Christ,

to offer our praise,

to share stories of Jesus,

and to be inspired by the Spirit

to journey in the way of the Spirit.

Lord, bless us as we worship today. Amen.

Written by Heather Ferrier, 2023 Gathering, p. 38.

Opening Prayer: *(in unison)*

All: Loving God, in response to your call, we humbly worship you this morning.

May our worship this day feed our work.

May our praise energize our faith.

May our prayers and songs feed our souls for the life of service. Amen.

Written by Beth W. Johnston. 2023 Gathering. P. 41

Opening Hymn: “We Praise You, Creator” VU 293

We praise you, Creator, in earth, sea, and sky:

our Ruler, our Maker, our Sovereign most high.

Each new generation lifts voices in praise;

how good your creation, how gracious your ways!

Each springtime the blossoms bloom fragrant once more;

each summer and autumn brings forth its rich store.

With witness compelling our praise and our prayer,
creation is telling of your faithful care.

Your wondrous works teach us, Creator, to trace
the limitless reaches of your love and grace.
Your grace dwells among us, your love goes before:
from eldest to youngest we praise and adore.

Time of Wonder: “Coat of Many Colors” by Dolly Parton (YouTube)

Back through the years
I go wonderin' once again
Back to the seasons of my youth
I recall a box of rags that someone gave us
And how my momma put the rags to use
There were rags of many colors
But every piece was small
And I didn't have a coat
And it was way down in the fall
Momma sewed the rags together
Sewin' every piece with love
She made my coat of many colors
That I was so proud of

As she sewed, she told a story
From the Bible she had read
About a coat of many colors
Joseph wore and then she said
Perhaps this coat will bring you
Good luck and happiness
And I just couldn't wait to wear it
And momma blessed it with a kiss

My coat of many colors
That my momma made for me
Made only from rags
But I wore it so proudly
Although we had no money
I was rich as I could be
In my coat of many colors
My momma made for me

So with patches on my britches
And holes in both my shoes
In my coat of many colors
I hurried off to school
Just to find the others laughing
And making fun of me

In my coat of many colors
My momma made for me

And oh, I couldn't understand it
For I felt I was rich
And I told 'em of the love
My momma sewed in every stitch
And I told 'em all the story
Momma told me while she sewed
And how my coat of many colors
Was worth more than all their clothes

But they didn't understand it
And I tried to make them see
That one is only poor
Only if they choose to be
Now I know we had no money
But I was rich as I could be
In my coat of many colors
My momma made for me
Made just for me

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 Joseph is sold into slavery

Then Jacob took up residence in the place where Isaac had settled, the land of Canaan. These are the generations of Joseph. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he used to accompany his siblings, the children of Bilhah and Zilpah, Jacob's spouses, as they herded the flocks. Joseph would tattle on the others to Jacob while they tended the animals, always presenting them in a negative light. Now, Israel doted on the youth, because he was a child of his old age; he loved Joseph more than the others. And Israel gave Joseph a richly ornamented robe.* When the brothers saw that Israel loved him best, they were jealous and had nothing but words of contempt for the boy. The brothers had gone to tend the herds at Shechem. Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers are tending to the herds at Shechem. I will send you to them." Joseph replied, "I am ready." Israel told Joseph to see if things were going well and to report back to him. So Joseph set off from the valley of Hebron. When he arrived at Shechem and was wandering in the fields in search for the herds, someone asked, "What are you looking for?" Joseph answered, "I am looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are tending sheep?" The person said, "They have moved on. I heard them say they were going to Dothan." So Joseph left that place and caught up with the herd at Dothan. They saw Joseph approaching in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to murder the lad.

They said to one other, "Here comes that dreamer. Now's our chance! Let's kill Joseph and throw his body in one of these pits. We'll say a wild animal devoured him. Then we'll see what becomes of Joseph's dreams!" Reuben intervened and saved the boy from their hands, saying, "No bloodshed! Throwing him into a pit in the wilderness is one thing, but let's not lay a hand on him." Reuben's intention was to rescue Joseph and return him to Israel. So when Joseph came upon his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe he wore, and picked him up and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty, and there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat. As they were eating, they

noticed an Ishmaelite caravan coming from Gilead, with loads of gum, balm, and resin, on its way down to Egypt. Judah said to the others, "What is to be gained by murdering Joseph and concealing his death? Why not sell Joseph to these Ishmaelites? He is, after all, our flesh and blood, and in that way his blood will not be on our hands." The others agreed. Meanwhile, some Midianite traders passed by, and pulled Joseph out of the pit. They sold him for eight ounces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph with them into Egypt.

Psalm 105: Parts One and Two VU pages 828-829

Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

Give thanks and call on God's name.
Make known to the nations what God has done.

**Sing, O sing the songs of praise;
tell of all God's wonderful deeds.**

Exult in God's holy name;
let those who seek God be joyful in heart. Refrain

Turn for help to the One who is your strength;
seek God's presence continually.
**Remember the marvels the Most High has done,
the wonders and judgements God has given,
O children of Abraham and Sarah, God's servants,
O offspring of Israel, chosen of God. Refrain**

You are the eternal God,
your justice reaches every corner of the earth.
You are ever mindful of your covenant,
the promise you gave to a thousand generations,
**the covenant you made with Sarah and Abraham,
the oath you gave to Isaac.**
You confirmed it for Jacob as binding.
To Israel your everlasting covenant you declared,
**"To you I give the land of Canaan,
as your appointed inheritance." Refrain**

You called down famine on the land,
and cut off the supply of bread.
**But you sent one ahead of them,
Joseph, whom they had sold as a slave.**
His feet were hurt with fetters,
his neck collared with iron,
**until his predictions came true,
your word tested him.**
Then the king sent and released him,
the ruler of nations set him free.
**He made Joseph master of his house,
ruler of all his possessions,**

to correct his officials at will,
to teach his counsellors wisdom. Refrain

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection: "Finding God in our Struggles" Rev. Irene Ty

Hymn: "In the Quiet Curve of Evening" VU 278

In the quiet curve of evening,
in the sinking of the days,
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.
In the lapses of my breathing,
in the space between my ways,
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

In the rests between the phrases,
in the cracks between the stars,
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.
In the melting down of endings,
in the cooling of the sun,
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

In the mystery of my hungers,
in the silence of my rooms,
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.
In the empty cave of grieving,
in the desert of my dreams,
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

Invitation to Offering

Gift of Music

Hymn of Dedication: "Know that God is Good" MV 104

Know that God is good,
know that God is good,
know that God is good,
God is good, God is good.

Offering Prayer:

**All: Loving God, we ask you to bless our gifts
and with the addition of your blessing,
just as it was with the loaves and fishes,
there is enough for all. Enough justice, enough hope, enough food for bodies, minds, and
spirits. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (sung) VU 959

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.

Closing Hymn: "O For a World" VU 697

O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.

We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,

and all but love will cease.

Commissioning /Blessing:

One: You are disciples of Jesus Christ; go faithfully to work in his name.

All: We have received God's Word and now respond faithfully.

We will pray carefully, praise joyfully, and listen attentively.

We will receive the challenges of our leaders and work diligently.

We will notice those who are vulnerable.

We will search out those who are lonely and offer friendship.

We will offer hospitality to those without shelter.

One: God will strengthen you as disciples of Jesus!

All: Thanks be to God!

Written by David Sparks, 2023 Gathering, p. 53

Sung Amen: VU 967