

**August 23rd, 2020
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome

Gathering *MV 85 Take, O Take Me as I Am*

Lighting the Candle

As we light this candle, let the light remind us of the sacred fire that dwells within our hearts and that our hearts are connected with Creator God, with our families, with our communities and with our universal family. May the flame of Christ's eternal light find and welcome every spirit. Amen

Call to Worship

Hidden in the quiet of our morning there is a blessing for us today.

Sheltered amidst the reeds of a busy world there is new Life awaiting our care and attention.

Floating above the currents of trial and tribulation, a peaceful Possibility approaches.

Blanketed in the love and compassion of God's grace, a new beginning is preserved.

People of God, the embracing and affirming arms of God are Reaching toward us with joy.

For we are God's children, holy and beloved.

Come, let us welcome God's embrace as we begin a new journey. **Let us worship with the confidence of God's abiding presence and rescuing love.**

Opening Prayer

Mothering and Fathering God, author of all our experiences and dreams, we thank you for the ways you have brought us into new life over and over again. We praise you for your protection.

when the threats of life ensue. We honour you for the cunning and ingenuity with which you have crafted our opportunities to grow and thrive. In humble devotion, we remember your rescuing intervention when the way has been difficult, and the light has grown dim. Gathered as your people, wonderful and diverse, we join as one body in worship – remembering your saving Spirit and embodying your creative purpose. Make yourself known to us as we worship, we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn VU 651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Prayers for Grace and Transformation

Words of Affirmation

Prayer Response *MV 90 Don't Be Afraid*

Scripture Matthew 16: 13-20

Reflection

Who Do We Say We Are?

Hymn VU 356 Seek Ye First the Kingdom

Offering

We move into our Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer
Our Benediction

Extinguishing the Candle

We extinguish the flame but carry the light in our hearts until we meet again. Amen.

Hymn VU 575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me