

February 20, 2022
Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Welcome

Gathering: Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain, love lives again, that with the dead has been: love is come again, like wheat arising green (VU 186)

Candle

A single drop of water may seem insignificant, but many drops of water can fill an ocean. One Candle may not seem sufficient but, as we all light our candles together, may their light shine through the darkness, bringing us closer to the true light, the light of Christ in these times of uncertainty. Amen

Call to Worship

We trust in God **and delight in God**, for God tends to the desires of our hearts, **and commits us to the bright day of justice**. Do not fret for God is near. **We gather for worship because God is good.**

Opening Prayer (based on Genesis 45: 11, 15)

Come closer to us, Creator, reconcile us to our brothers and sisters. Come closer to us, care for our ageing generations. Come closer to us, forgive us for our wrongdoing. Come closer to us, protect us from our future famine. Come closer to us, draw us nearer to each other through you. Embrace with us, weep with us, that we may be family again. Amen.

Hymn: VU 593 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Prayers for Grace & Transformation / Words of Assurance

God is our salvation, our refuge in time of trouble who rescues us and leads us into the bright day of justice and forgiveness. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Peace

Scripture

Prayer for Illumination

First Testament: Genesis 45 : 3-11, 15
Psalm 37: VU page 763
Gospel: **Luke 6 : 27-38**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

Reflection

Hymn: VU 382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Invitation to the offering / Doxology (VU 541)

Offertory Prayer
Announcements

Prayers of Hope / Lord's Prayer

** When we seek language to praise you, O God, all we can utter seems stale, tame, or odd. Tongue-tied and word-lost, we struggle to find phrases that slight neither heart, soul, nor mind. Infinite intimate unbounded friend, cosmic companion who loves without end, nearer than heart-beat, more subtle than breath, keener than insight, and stronger than death. (MV 49)*

Benediction / Commissioning

Hymn: VU 506 Take My Life and Let It Be

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The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples. SouthWest United worships on the traditional territory of the Mohawk, members of the Six Nation Confederacy, including Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga Seneca and Tuscarora peoples.

Pastor: Beryl Barraclough, DLM
Director of Music: Sarah Fraser
Clerk of Session: Dennis Brown
Office Administrator: Amy Barratt

SouthWest United Church **February 20, 2022** **Seventh Sunday of Epiphany**



*(Genesis 37:1–11) They saw their chance when they were feeding the flocks, the brothers saw **Joseph** from afar and plotted to kill him. They turned on him and stripped him of the coat his father made for him, and threw him into a pit. ... Judah, the strongest, thought twice about killing Joseph and proposed that he be sold.*