

**JASPER UNITED CHURCH**

**April 28th, 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to worship God and deepen our Christian faith. We strive to seek justice, be an inclusive, caring and accepting community, and to be stewards of God’s world.”

---

Sometimes I have loved the peacefulness of an ordinary Sunday.

It is like standing in a newly planted garden after a warm rain.  
You can feel the silent and invisible life.  
- John Ames, in Marilynne Robinson’s *Gilead*

**GOD GATHERS US IN**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Territorial Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**Celebrations and Remembrances**

**Settling Moment**

**Christ Candle**

At dawn the alpenglow brings colour.

**Light brings awe.**

In shadows a lamp shows a path.

**Light guides us.**

In worship we ignite this candle.

**Light brings reverence.**

In the light of the Christ candle we seek awe and guidance and reverence.

*The Christ candle is lit.*

**Solo:** *God lights a lamp From Then Let Us Sing!* with permission  
God lights a lamp, and she searches everywhere  
for the hidden, lonely heart.

God lights a lamp, and she searches everywhere.

When she finds you, oh, she sings:

“I have found my treasure, my precious silver coin.

I have found my love!”

Even angels will hear the news:

what once was lost is found.

**Call To Worship**

(based on Psalm 22)

From the Holy One comes my praise in the great congregation.

**From all that is sacred in this beautiful world come my words of awe.**

I will share this good news; I will not be silent.

**In the company of God’s beloved, I will speak.**

The holy promise is for abundance:

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied.**

In this and in all, we seek God’s Spirit.

**Those who seek God bring praise.**

May your hearts live forever!

**Amen!**

**Opening Prayer**

**Holy One,**

**under this sky, this roof, this peace**

**in this house, this room, this time**

**through your grace, your love, your care**

**with this company, these friends, these souls -**

**Weave your Spirit, bring us close, bless our day.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn: *God of the Sparrow***

**VU 229**

## Prayer of Confession

Holy One, for love shared we are grateful. For provision and nurture, we give thanks. For kindness given, we are glad to the root of our souls.

For the sorrow we've caused, we pray forgiveness. For injustice we've ignored, we pray for fresh courage to be attentive. For our selfishness toward others, we bring remorse.

May we notice the holy in the ordinary, company despite loneliness; may we bring healing in places of hurt. We remember that you, Jesus of Nazareth, lived through times of consolation and desolation and we take heart.

For encounters with you today, in stranger and friend, we bid you welcome. For a peaceful day, we pray. For a hopeful tomorrow, we trust in you. For a deeper generosity of our person and soul, we ask your blessing. Amen.

## Words of Assurance

**Conversation Time: *A Story Bag***

## WE LISTEN GOD'S WORD

## Prayer for Illumination

God whose grace is written in greening blades of grass and snow-capped mountain and dormant vine; for which interpretation we require word and prayer and friend; whose faithful evangelists traced the Love Divine; bless us with some wisdom or insight or awe from the cherished verses we hear. Amen.

## Scripture Reading

John 15: 1-8

**Reflection:** Lonely Pruning

**Hymn:** *Spirit God, Be Our Breath*

**MV 150**

## GOD NURTURES – WE RESPOND

### Offering

**Offering Hymn:** *This is the Day That God Has Made* VU 175

### Offering Prayer

As we nurture the community around us and the world in which we live and move and have our being, as we draw on God for courage and wisdom, we share what we have. We are grateful for this sacred opportunity to make a positive difference. Amen.

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

### The Prayer Jesus Taught

## GOD GOES WITH US INTO THE WORLD

**Closing Hymn:** *Love Divine*

**VU 333**

**Commissioning**

Numbers 6:24-26 *cf* W S Coffin

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

---

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God  
Clergy with Jasper United Church: Rev. Linda McLaren  
Leading worship today: Pam Jack, Larry Vien  
Rev. Dr. Catherine Faith MacLean and Rev. Earl Reaburn  
Pianist: John Mandelin