

Outline of Worship

Confirmation in NUC

June 1st, 2025

Worship leaders: Simba at NUC

Carolien at SUC

Pianist: Julie at NUC

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Simba

WE GATHER

SUC-Carolien

As we gather in worship this morning,
let us pause to remember that we live, work and worship on Treaty One land,
and in the heart of the Metis Nation.

We acknowledge with respect,
the history, spirituality and culture of all peoples.

We acknowledge the stories, and the stewardship
of the land and water, the plants and animals,
throughout the many generations.

May we live with respect on this land,
and live in peace and friendship with all peoples and all creation.

Today we light these candles acknowledging the presence of the risen Christ among us.

Hallelujah! Amen

SONG: MV21 Open Our Hearts x2 *(remain seated)*

Words and music: Jim Strathdee; French trans. David Fines, 2006 Words and music copyright © Jim and Jean Strathdee (Desert Flower Music)

Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you, O loving God.

Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you, O loving God.
Open our hearts.

LIFE AND WORK of our churches and communities

Carolien/Simba

SONG: MV142 Oh, A Song Must Rise vs 1-3

Words and music copyright © 1995 Paul B. Svenson, Dad's Songbook MusicArrangement copyright © 2006 Bryn Nixon.

*Oh a song must rise
for the spirit to descend.
Oh a song must rise once again.
Singing out God's - praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must - rise for the spirit to descend.*

a song must rise once again.
From the voices of our leaders,
the voice of you and me,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

*Oh a song must rise
for the spirit to descend.
Oh a song must rise once again.
Singing out God's - praises and glory,*

From the mountains to the valleys,
from the desert to the sea,

*the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must - rise for the spirit to descend.*

From poverty and riches,
from the voice of young and old,
a song must rise once again.
From the free and the imprisoned,
the timid and the bold,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

*Oh a song must rise
for the spirit to descend.
Oh a song must rise once again.
Singing out God's - praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must - rise for the spirit to descend.*

From ev'ry house of worship,
in ev'ry faith and tongue,
a song must rise once again.
From the villages and cities
a new song must be sung,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

*Oh a song must rise
for the spirit to descend.
Oh a song must rise once again.
Singing out God's - praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must - rise for the spirit to descend.*

PRAYER

Coming into your presence, we gather with gratitude, O God. We pray that our spirits, souls & hearts are knit together by love. We come as who we are, seeking transformation. We gather to celebrate one of our own, witnessing growth and celebrating the mystery of Faith. May this day create divine mysteries, special encounters and moments of renewal. We ask that each one of us may experience your presence. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SONG: MV161 I Have Called You by Your Name vs 1

Words and music: Daniel Charles Damon copyright © 1995 Hope Publishing Company

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called and chosen;
you are mine.

Confirmation of Alexandria Kuxhouse

Simba

By baptism we are made members of the Church of Jesus Christ and are adopted into the family and household of God. The blessings of confirmation are conferred upon those who have been baptized as children & now profess Jesus as the Christ, Lord and Savior and are now received into the Church. We have an opportunity to reaffirm and renew the faith we proclaimed at baptism. In confirmation we respond with 'Yes' to God, and we proclaim that God alone makes the difference to human life. In confirmation we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit; we are welcomed to Christ's table; with joy and thanksgiving, we rededicate ourselves to the life and work of the body of Christ; we are commissioned to serve in the world.

Presentation of Candidate:**Judith**

On behalf of the congregation of Niverville, I am pleased to present to you the name of this individuals for Confirmation, who by profession of their faith desire full membership into our church family. The name is **Alexandria Kuxhouse**

PROMISES BY CANDIDATE

I will ask you these questions that you may publicly profess the proclaimed before or in baptism

1. Do you profess your faith in God known as the Father, in Jesus Christ as your Liberator/Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your Teacher and Guide?

Answer: I do.

2. Will you be faithful in joining God's People in the worship of God, in prayer and in serving the community?

Answer: I will God being my helper.

3. Will you enter into the life and work of the church, supporting it with your gifts/talents/resources and sharing in its mission to all people?

Answer: I will, God being my helper.

4. Will you endeavor daily to respond to God's love, to do God's will, and to fulfill your Christian calling and ministry in the world?

Answer: I will God being my helper.

NEW CREED

All: We are not alone; we live in god's world, who has created and is creating; who has come in Jesus; the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit; we trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and to serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION:

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the church, I declare that **Alexandria Kuxhouse** is now received into the Church of Jesus Christ, and subsequently, the congregation of Niverville United Church of Canada, with all the rights and privileges therein.

Amen.

Confirm, O God, this your servant **Alexandria Kuxhouse** with the help of the Holy Spirit, that she may continue to be yours forever.

Amen.

Go into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill your high calling as a servant of Christ. Pursue justice, faith, love, fortitude and humility. For to this you were called.

Amen.

VU958 Halle, Halle, Halle will be sung when certificate presented.

Arrangement copyright © 1990 WGRG, The Iona Community, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Words: Public Domain.

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

SONG: MV161 I Have Called You by Your Name vs 2-4

Words and music: Daniel Charles Damon copyright © 1995 Hope Publishing Company

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,

choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.
I have given you a name, it is mine;

I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

SPIRITUAL READINGS:

Scripture: John 17: 20-26 & Ephesians 4: 11-12

NUC-Alex

John 17: 20-26

²⁰ "I pray not only for them, but also for those who believe in me because of their message. ²¹ I pray that they may all be one. Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me. ²² I gave them the same glory you gave me, so that they may be one, just as you and I are one: ²³ I in them and you in me, so that they may be completely one, in order that the world may know that you sent me and that you love them as you love me. ²⁴ "Father! You have given them to me, and I want them to be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory, the glory you gave me; for you loved me before the world was made. ²⁵ Righteous Father! The world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you sent me. ²⁶ I made you known to them, and I will continue to do so, in order that the love you have for me may be in them, and so that I also may be in them."

Ephesians 4: 11-12

¹¹ It was he who "gave gifts to people"; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. ¹² He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ.

Contemporary: This Happy Communion by Bruce Sanguin

SUC-Satiety

Holiest Mystery,
Community of Love,
Creator, Christ, Spirit,
Three in One,
you in Christ,
Christ in us,

and everywhere, Spirit,
connecting, caressing, cajoling
us into the image of wholeness
tattooed on the heart and the soul
of every living thing.

We are not alone,
never isolated except in the imagination
of our wounded hearts.
Christ abides in us,
and we in Her,
and the joy of this is why we sing,
and why we pray,
and why we take our place

in this happy communion.
Thank you for this banquet of love,
this feast of joy,
this miracle of common purpose
in Christ.
Amen.

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REFLECTION: “Unity of the Church is a Desirable Virtue”

In his farewell discourse, (a long and winding speech), Jesus had to address the few pressing issues at the time. One of the important ones was that of maintaining unity among the disciples. He did not only say it in their presence but said it in prayer. He needed to pray for them. I figure out that sometimes only encouragement is not enough. We need to pray for one another. Jesus foresaw the challenges and realized the importance of prayer. At least for Jesus, prayer was very important.

He prayed for them in this passage, he prayed for Peter, he prayed before he asked Lazarus to come out. He prayed before he could feed 5k people, and even before the communion. I understand that everyone has their own approach, but there a lot of evidence that Jesus prayed. He even prayed before he began the ministry, before he was arrested and many other recorded times. If prayer was optional or not important, Jesus, as the Christ Child, could have dispensed with prayer. This and other passages, point to the significance of prayer in our lives and especially our ministry. Jesus even taught the disciples how to pray. In his difficult times, he thought of the rest of them & interceded.

Maintaining faith needs prayer. It was not enough for Jesus to teach them about the kingdom. He had to pray for them. Intercession is a gift that we can give to others. Teaching & training our children is not enough, we need to pray for them as well. The same applies for our community of faith, our volunteers, our community & world at large. They need our prayers. Praying for them is acknowledging that we have not figured all it out. God will guide the process. It's not a done deal yet. We have things that we are not in charge of, but we trust God.

His prayer was unique; **“that they may be one.”** Jesus knew & realized the challenge that lay ahead of them, **“of staying united as one.”** He offered some of the models in Matthew 5. Be meek, humble, selfless, patient, resilient. That way, we can unite with one another. Unity does not mean being similar. It actually requires diversity. In Ephesians 4, the gifts are highlighted, and the goal is not to distinguish but to complement one another. **Like body parts**, a metaphor that pointed out that we are better off together, than separate. We need one another, more than we think.

The Church in Unity is a Beautiful Tapestry: Unity is different from being together as a heap. There must be proper sync, coordination, cooperation and augmentation. That clears the spontaneity,

coincidence or anything that is accidental. Unity is a result of intentional coming together and sustain the oneness for very obvious reasons. We need to embrace our diversity as a strength and to celebrate the richness it brings to our community. Unity does not mean uniformity, but rather, **a beautiful tapestry woven from our unique gifts**, backgrounds, and experiences. **Unity is so beautiful if displayed in the tapestry of love, in the way we interact, serve, support each other and listen to one another.**

The Church in Unity is More Efficient in Ministry: Paul, writing to the Ephesians, addresses the diversity of gifts. It's not only cultures, languages or backgrounds. Paul underscores the significance of every expertise, talent, passion and everything extra-ordinary to be weaved into one effective & efficient means of serving the community, addressing various needs through relevant talent, skill or passion. This is more than just unity as individuals, but our gifts & talents should be weaved into one whole multi-faceted body that serves the community with love & treat everyone with dignity. To be a body that respects the roles we play, completing the full circle. It reminds of the word **TEAM; Together, We Achieve More!** Let us unite in **who we are & what we can do.**

We have to ask God to knit our hearts together with love, transcending any differences that might divide us. Seek to see one another through God's eyes, with compassion and understanding. We need the humility to seek reconciliation and the courage to address issues with honesty and grace. With all our differences in identity, preference, age, cultures, genders, views, theology, and many others, let us come together as one, in unity. The tapestry of such diversity is so beautiful if knit together with love, & especially for God's sake.

SONG: VU468 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ vs 1-3

Words: Fred Kaan 1975 Music: Jamaican Folk Song Music Adaptation Doreen Potter 1975. Words, Music copyright © Hope Publishing Company

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken
and seen and heard.

*Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound! (x2)*

*Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound! (x2)*

Jesus calls us in, sends us out,
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.

*Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound! (x2)*

COMMUNION

God is with you;

And also with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right for us to do so.

Jesus Christ, you came to love us unconditionally just as we are. It is with love that you came as a human being, taking our human nature, to give us life everlasting.

With joy & celebration, we offer thanksgiving, remembering the night he was betrayed & arrested.

He sat with his followers, took bread and broke it; he gave it to his disciples saying, "this is my body that is broken for you, eat this always in remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and gave it to his disciples saying, "this cup of blessing is given for you; drink from it in remembrance of me."

O God, send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these elements, bread and cup, that we may be united as one in Christ, one body built by love. Through this table, remind us of our oneness, that we are welcome, & have a seat at the table. Quicken our faith, renew our commitment to serve and strengthen our bond. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP - *while communion is served songs VU467 One Bread, One Body and VU466 Eat This Bread will be played*

SONG: VU467 One Bread, One Body

Words, Music, Harmony: John B. Foley copyright © 1978 New Dawn Music, Oregon Catholic Press.

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord*

Many the gifts, many the works,

one in the Lord, of all.

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord*

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all.

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord*

VU466 Eat This Bread

Words: Robert J. Batastini and the Taizé Community 1982 Music: Jacques Berthier 1984 Words, Music copyright © Les Presses de Taizé, G.I.A. Publications, Inc

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

OFFERING INVITATION

As one church, let present of offerings from different backgrounds & circumstances.

SONG: MV182 Grateful (*chorus only*) *stand and remain standing until prayer is said*

Words and music copyright © 2003 Tom Tomaszek Published by spiritandsong.comarr. Sarah Hart and Tom Tomaszek

*Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing
over all, O God of Love.*

*Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing,
we - will - praise - you.*

PRAYER

God of many talents. We offer these gifts, visible & invisible, time talent, skill and commitment. May they all be accepted to serve your purpose. Amen.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: HERITAGE MOMENT (UCC 100th nuggets)

SUC-Pearl

After church union in 1925, Sunday School resources were provided by the Board of Christian Education. Some of you may remember coloured bible story sheets which we took home. By 1950, 20 million were being distributed annually from a variety of sources. Churches were free, however, to decide which materials they would use, and many began to choose American resources which were less expensive and more conservative theologically. With the surge in church attendance following the Second World War, the desire for a United-Church-specific curriculum was strong and the baby boom was fertile ground for such a project.

In 1950's the General Council agreed to develop a curriculum for all ages and approved a set of principles. One of them was that adults need to become more knowledgeable about the Bible in order to effectively teach children. In 1962 a resource for adults called "*The Word and the Way*", meant as preparation for teaching, sold 600,000 copies. It wasn't until 1994 that materials for children and youth were produced, in the form of text books and film strips.

"*The New Curriculum*", as it was known, offered a more liberal and modern perspective on the Bible, with the goal of making biblical study more engaging and relevant. It invited people to draw from a more scholarly approach to scripture, as was being taught in our theological schools and seminaries. It was met with much enthusiasm, and much criticism.

Eventually, those text books became dated, and many were sitting idle on church shelves or had been thrown out. Many Sunday School teachers were wishing for some new and more current resources. In 1983, a group in Regina began to create their own resource which grew into *"The Whole People of God"*. This was a lectionary-based package for children, youth and adults with an intergenerational focus, including lots of music cassettes, and thoughtful engagement with scripture. It became very popular throughout Canada and beyond for many years.

In 2003, another lectionary-based curriculum was introduced called *"Seasons of the Spirit"*. This was a comprehensive package for all ages, including many ideas for congregational activities related to the lessons and themes of each season. Music, art and poetry were emphasized. As technology became more accessible, music CD's and resources for projection were provided. "Behold" was an additional resource introducing art and poetry, both classic and contemporary. *"Seasons of the Spirit"* was updated and available until 2023.

Over the decades, resources were also developed for the many mid-week groups that emerged. Who remembers Messengers, Explorers and CGIT for girls? And Tyros, Rangers and Tuxis for boys? And Hi-C? Confirmation classes, Summer Camps and Vacation Schools also flourished. And AVEL (Audio Visual Educational Library) with so many films! Remember threading those film projectors?

And what now? We have an abundance of on-line resources and digital downloads, representing many different perspectives, and requiring some discernment about which to choose. Currently, we are facing the reality that, in most United Church congregations, children are largely absent. This is very unsettling as we grieve "what used to be". Where are we being led? May we be open to signs of the promise ... "Behold I am doing a new thing".

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God & Creator, our origin & our destiny. In you we find our being. In serving you & serving your people, we realize who we are. In this moment of gathering, we celebrate our community as a people & as your people. We celebrate your presence among us. We celebrate our faith & trust in you & what we can become in you.

We ask that you bless us with your Spirit, the Spirit Divine, Sacred & Holy; to journey with us as our guide. To empower us for ministry, to overlook our differences & underscore the need for one another. We come seeking the grace to love, to unite, to care & to support. In this moment, we pray for our church, congregations and the whole cloud of Jesus' followers. We pray for those in pain, distressed, or grieving. We pray for those feeling lonely & isolated. We for your healing and comfort.

We pray for peace, much as we pray that you raise among us, prophets for justice & peace. May your Spirit guide us in our pursuit for justice, peace and unity.

May your grace embrace us regardless of our fears, doubts & limitations. Make us whole, renew us, sustain us and strengthen us to face our daily challenges with hope, gratitude and thanksgiving.

This we ask as we join in prayer;

“The Prayer Jesus taught” - Great Spirit

Great Spirit, Creator of all,
from the stars to all the earth,
loved and respected be your name.
May it happen that all shall live in a good way,
following your purpose for all Creation.
Help us to find what we need for today's
journey.

Forgive us when we go wrong
as we forgive those who wrong us.
Have compassion on us when we are
struggling.
Do not abandon us to fear and evil.
Our hope is in your new community,
as we do our part to bring it about.
We long for all Creation to be transformed
making everything new. Amen

SONG: VU884 WE Shall Go Out with Joy

*Words: Steffi G. Rubin. Music: Stuart Dauermann. Words and Music copyright
© 1975 Lillenas Publishing Company*

We shall go out with joy and be led forth with
peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth
before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the
field

will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while we go out with joy.

BLESSING

May the grace from the Greatest Shepherd, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit, be with you and keep you as one. In this life & the life eternal. Amen.