

Outline of Worship May 11th, 2025

Worship leaders: Simba at SUC Holly at NUC Pianist: Sabrina at SUC

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Simba

WE GATHER

NUC-Holly

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: VU166 Joy Comes with the Dawn *chorus only (remain seated)*

Words and music: Gordon Light copyright © 1985 Common Cup Company Arrangement copyright © 1995 Nan Thompson

Joy comes with the dawn,
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn

LIFE AND WORK of our churches and communities

Holly/Simba

SONG: VU574 Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love *vs 1,2,4*

Words: Robert Walmsley. Music: Adam Watson. Public Domain.

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee

Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,

PRAYER

Loving God, Holy One, speak to us today. As a people of your calling, we come into your presence. We come from various situation with different experiences, trusting the sufficiency of your mercies. We seek to encounter your warmth in ways that will empower us to transform the community. Grow something good in us and our community. Expand our imaginations of what is possible. Stretch out our understandings, that we might do more for our communities. Teach us to seek fully know more about the depth and breadth of your love for all Creation. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THEME TIME “Hands Reaching Out!”

NUC-Judith

SONG: VU575 I’m Gonna Live so God Can Use Me vs 1-4

Words & Music: African American spiritual Arr. Copyright © Estate of Wendell Whalum Words: Public Domain.

I’m gonna live so (live so) God can use me
anywhere, Lord, any time!
I’m gonna live so, God can use me
anywhere, Lord, any time!

I’m gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, any time!
I’m gonna pray so God can use me
any where, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, any time!
I’m gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna sing so God can use me
any where, Lord, any time!
I’m gonna sing so God can use me,
any where Lord, any time!

HERITAGE SONG INTRODUCTION

HERITAGE SONG: VU238 How Great Thou Art vs

Words: Carl Gustav Boberg Music: Swedish melody, arr. Stuart K. Hine

O Lord my God,
when I in awesome wonder
consider all
the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars,
I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout
the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art!
How great thou art!*
*Then sings my soul,
My Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art!
How great thou art!*

When through the woods
and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds
sing sweetly in the trees;

when I look down
from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook
and feel the gentle breeze.

*Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art!
How great thou art!*
*Then sings my soul,
My Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art!
How great thou art!*

But when I think
that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die,
I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross,
my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died
to take away my sin.

*Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art!
How great thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art!
How great thou art!*

When Christ shall come
with shout of acclamation
and take me home,
*How great thou art!
How great thou art!*

what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
in humble adoration
and there proclaim,
“My God, how great thou art!”

*Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art!
How great thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Saviour God, to thee,*

SPIRITUAL READINGS:

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43

NUC-Holly

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷ About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!” ³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived, he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing, that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. ⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴² This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

Contemporary “No Greater Service” by Gretta Vosper

SUC-Lil A

There is no greater service
that we offer
than to heal the sick,
to clothe the naked,
to find water for those who thirst,
to bind up the broken-hearted-
Much is asked of us
only because we know, in our depths,
that we are capable.
As we fill ourselves
with the gifts of peace and hope in this hour,
may we fill our hearts to overflowing
with an urgent need
to do the work to which we are called,
May we overflow in our zeal
for a realm of justice and peace,
of equity for all.Amen

REFLECTION

“Witnessing Outside the Building Happens Through Acts of Kindness.”

The story of Dorcas is a popular one, in the history of the Early Church. The significant thing about her giving was that of her recipients. The societal norm would be giving to someone who has the capacity to give you something in return. Not for her. Tabitha gave to people who had no means of reciprocating the love. What also makes her charity stands out is the value of her giving. Sometimes doing the right thing becomes more significant or even crucial, if the conditions are critical. For people who had no other source of provision, her kindness & generosity was their hope. We need to consider doing the right things when it's the right time.

The Early Church grew so fast in the days of the apostles, & we may need to look at what was the reason. They had two things central to their growth. First, everyone was a witness to their story of Jesus. Everyone had an obligation to witness, on a daily basis, and in every place of their daily life. The followers of Jesus shared their new found hope, knowledge & understanding of God, as revealed in Jesus. They engaged in who Jesus was, is & shall become. They shared the word of God, like no other philosophy. They shared their faith in the streets, in the courtyards, farms, business communities, and even in shipyards, as they either travel with vessels or as they send parcels. Everything in their lives was associated with the Easter Story and message.

Second, **they were radically generous and sought justice for everyone.** The early church was **aggressively kind, and sought justice with unusual sense of urgency.** Remember Acts 6:2, Peter said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the Word in order to wait on tables.” Otherwise, the community was demanding that everything was to be suspended until the widows get their share. This was a key component of the church's ministry & witnessing. No bible verses were recited but they lived them out. Let us know how to live out the scriptures more than citing bible verses that are never substantiated but our action.

In our UCC they say; “think globally but act locally.” But would I say, we need both. We probably need to be; “angels at home & abroad.” Kindness is like light; it begins where it is lit, and it shines all the way.

In the history of the Church or in the Scriptures, Tabitha was never pointed out for being the most educated, richest, or most experienced. It is not how much we know, but how much we care. Tabitha/Dorcas was never mentioned as a preacher, but a practical believer. She lived out compassion, kindness & generosity. She was remembered by the beneficiaries of her life-style, not friends or relatives. Eulogy is great but it is often given by friends & relatives. This was a display of radical love in empirical evidence or tangible evidence. Her witness was in action. Let us seek to make an impact by serving our communities.

More Action, Less Words

When she died, Peter was called to deal with that kind of loss. They needed her back. Most of us may not be in that category. When we die, I hope no one will say, “they better be gone.” In some cases, people may even wish their colleagues negative stuff. In the economic sense, she was an asset, not

a liability to either the church or the community. This lady stirred an uproar among the strangers, the marginalized and the vulnerable. The leadership had to do something. Tabitha demonstrated one of the ways to make people believe in you. It is to act. Words may be misinterpreted but rarely do people misinterpret action. What our world needs now is not a lot of empty Bible quotes, but living out the verses. Let us pray that God may raise among us, people of aggressive compassion, radical love and non-negotiable principles of justice.

God Can Do More with & Through Us. The other element adopted by the early church charismatic gifts employed in private spaces. The charismatic members sought to make a difference in the lives of others, rather than creating a spectacle. The mega churches today invite the crowds to come & see the show & display of the extra ordinary gifts of the “prophets.” Peter had learned from Jesus, went inside for Ernest prayers.

God can do more through us. God’s hand is being witnessed in our work. Do we believe God can use us, to change somebody’s world? Tabitha changed people’s lives, the disciples demanded equal share of the money. God is at work through us. We need the zeal, urgency and rational. Peter was invited and left immediately. Let us treat this message of God’s love with urgency.

Pope Francis in his Last words; reminds us that we should “care for one another, increase our mutual solidarity & work for the integral development of each human person.” He finishes by describing “helping the needy, fighting hunger, & promoting development” as “**weapons of peace; weapons that build the future.**” In his time, he visited & apologized to the Indigenous peoples of Canada. We are called to do more than just words or witness, but action that might even cause pain.

Assessing Our Impact in the Community.

Everyone’s work is measured by the impact you make, more than the intention. The modern day advocates for justice will argue that; “It’s not enough to have a good intention.” You need to check the impact, if one is injured during the event.” Tabitha had a significant impact. Farther Jerry Orbos once said; “**Do not prepare the road for your children. Prepare your children for the road.**” They should not only go far and fast, but learn to slow down, helping the need, be compassionate and attend to emotional needs of the people along their life journey.

May we open our lives to God, to be transformed, so that we can transform our communities, serving as disciples. May God be present in our generosity, in our food drives, donations, & any other works of kindness should be blessed.

SONG: MV169 When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides vs 1-3

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When hands reach out beyond divides and
hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away and bells of
peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,

each chain of hate will fall away and bells of
peace shall sound.

When fear no longer guides our steps and days
of war are done,

God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts
will heal as one,
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one,
God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts
will heal as one.

When race and creed blind us no more, a
neighbour's face we'll see,
and we shall dance the whole world round, for
love will set us free,
for love, yes love will set us free,
for love will set us free,
and we shall dance the whole world round, for
love will set us free.

OFFERING INVITATION

May we take this opportunity to offer what we feel called to offer from the heart. Let us present our topic.

SONG: MV 182 Grateful (*chorus only*) *stand and remain standing until prayer is said*

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

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, this offering represents our hearts, our time, talents, & treasure. May these gifts be used with compassion, justice, & wisdom in the church & in the wider world. This we ask, through Jesus. Amen.

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

SUC- Jan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dear God, as a people of your calling, we open up ourselves to your indwelling, guidance and inspiration. We come with hearts that are willing to be shaped & reshaped by your calling. To serve as we are able, lead as we are able, give as we are able and especially, to bring about a positive impact in our community.

We pray for one another; we pray for our church. We take this moment to whisper names of individuals who are not here today for various reasons (silence.....). We ask that you seek them out and respond to their unsaid needs. Our hearts go out to our colleagues who are grieving, those who need comfort. We pray for peace in war zones, our country, our province & our families. We pray for those who are hurting. May they find healing from any other form of affliction they are suffering.

We pray for our volunteers. As we witness in various ways, forms and places, may your spirit inspire us to meet the needs of your creation. May the life we live be the good news to the community. This we ask as we recite the prayer taught by Jesus

“The Prayer Jesus Taught” Indigenous

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: MV209 Go, Make a Diff'rence vs 1-3

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Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a diff'rence in the world

So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
And the Spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence.
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

BLESSING

May God who called you from the Community, send you back to the community and live out your faith. Go out & serve with grace, to share God's love and be in communion with the world and all creation. In the name of the Trinity. Amen.