

**ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019
MISKANAWAH**



***Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an
Affirming and Inclusive Community***

Value of the Month: Compassion

WELCOME TO ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

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Sunday, November 24 2019

Peggy McDonagh presiding with the people of St. David's
Guest Speakers Lynette Persaud and Jessica Ulloa,
members of our Home Visitor Team at Miskanawah



We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this place. Come as you are -- and be.

Prior to the service the Affirming and Value candles were lit to affirm that all humanity and creation must be respected and valued. The Treaty 7/Metis Region 3 candle was lit to show respect for the land and to affirm our continued commitment to live into right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters.

SEED OF MEDITATION

"Sometimes it's easy to walk by because we know we can't change someone's whole life in a single afternoon. But what we fail to realize is that simple kindness can go a long way toward encouraging someone who is stuck in a desolate place."

- Mike Yankoski,

PRELUDE

Improvisation

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

As we move into worship today let us consider some of the values of Miskanawah: Connecting, Strength, Resiliency and Integrity. May these same values be reflected in our lives and in all our interactions with others.

HYMN

Many and Great, O God, are Your Works

VU #308

Many and great, O God, are your works,
Maker of earth and sky.

Your hands have set the heavens with stars,
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.

Lo, at your word the waters were formed;
deep seas obey your voice.

Grant unto us communion with you,
O star-abiding one.
Come unto us and dwell with us,
with you are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
eternal life with you.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light the Christ candle to acknowledge the many and great works of God
and to be reminded of Jesus' compassionate and liberating life that broke
down barriers, loved the stricken, and accepted each person as
God's own presence.

HYMN In Loving Partnership We Come vs. #1 VU #603
**In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.**

ENTRANCE INTO WORSHIP

We gather in loving partnership,
ready to engage song, word, ritual and community.
We gather to expand our compassion
that we might be more inclusive
**of those who struggle to survive, to find security and safety,
and to feel the wholeness and warmth of love.**
May the light and love of God be with us in this worship time and flow through
all our acts of compassion.

GATHERING PRAYER

God of love, as we hear about the compassionate endeavours of the many
people who work for Miskanawah and hear stories of renewal,
**may we honour the humanity of all people and value all life,
especially people who are needing support, resiliency, purpose,
understanding and love.**

Open our minds to hear and learn from different lived experiences.
**Open our hearts toward understanding and acceptance so that
each of us will reflect the compassionate way of Jesus. Amen**

HYMN In Loving Partnership We Come vs. #2 VU #603
**We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.**

To receive the wisdom of God.

READINGS Matthew 25:34-40 Aramaic Bible in Plain English; Adaptation of Jesus' parable about the Kingdom of God; Quote by the Dalai Lama

ANTHEM

Fill the Well Within

Sally DeFord

REFLECTION

Lynette Persaud and Jessica Ulloa, Miskanawah

We respond. . .

HYMN

Christ of Compassion

(Tune: VU #307)

(Words by Rev. Peggy McDonagh)

Christ of compassion, Christ of all giving,
Our hearts are filled with your kindness and care.

Love's living presence, Spirit of Sharing,
Nourish and strengthen the faith that we bear.

Love for all families, living in crisis,
gently we open a place in our heart.
Hope for our sad ones, fearful and lonely,
spirits renewed through the care we impart.

Love from the heart, the sweetest expression,
tells of the Spirit alive in this place.

Spreading that love to people who need us,
touching our living, with goodness and grace.

NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY & INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace

setting by Craig Courtney

RECEPTION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER

We dedicate these gifts, freely given and gratefully received,
to the work of this congregation: Building honest, caring relationships
across all lines of difference; Growing in spirit and searching for
meaning, together and apart; Promoting religious freedom, practicing
compassion, and working for justice. May these gifts, and the work of
our hands and hearts, give power to all we stand for as a community of
faith. Amen.

SUNG ENTRANCE INTO PRAYER

Spirit Divine, Attend our Prayers vs. #1 VU #385

**Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
And make this house your home;
Descend with all your gracious powers:
O come, great Spirit, come!**

MEDITATIONS OF THE HEART – A Circle Prayer

Prayer response: God of Creation, God of Compassion
Hear the ripples of our prayers

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER

Spirit Divine, Attend our Prayers vs. #5 VU #385

**Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
Make a lost world your home;
Descend with all your gracious powers:
O come, great Spirit, come!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

VU #593

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you

Neighbours are rich folk and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours and far away.

These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbours to us and you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends;
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you

...and are blessed.

BLESSING

SUNG BENEDICTION

Like a Rock

MV #92

Like a rock, like a rock God is under our feet.

Like the starry night sky, God is over our head.

Like the sun on the horizon, God is ever before.

Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore. (Repeat)

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Greeters.....November Sacred Service Team
UshersNovember Sacred Service Team
Counters.....David Mitchell & David Layton
Projection.....PSALT Team
Reader.....Bonnae McTavish
MusicAngel Voices
Minute Speaks.....ACTS, Friendship Club
Accompanist.....Colleen Charter

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Please stay for a light lunch following worship and for our important
Annual General Meeting.**



ADVENT SPIRITUAL JOURNEY SERIES

“Heaven and Nature Sing! 300 years of JOY to the World”

“Joy to the World,” a beloved Christmas classic, turns 300 this year.

Composer Isaac Watt’s interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a “new song”—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than “joy” being yet another word for “happiness,” we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially amid suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of

Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.©
Join us this Advent on a spiritual journey to reclaim the deep joy within.

**GROWING AND DEEPENING OUR LIVES THROUGH WORSHIP AND
SPIRITUAL NURTURE**

BEGINNING OF OUR ADVENT SERIES

December 1 2019

Guest Speaker: Jessica Melnychuk, Closer to Home

Advent 1 “Prepare Him Room: Hopeful Joy”

The season of Advent is a time of anticipation. In the momentous conversation between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama that resulted in the publication of the Book of Joy, one of the “pillars” of joy they identified was “perspective.” Opening ourselves to different perspectives and to the lives of others can bring a sense of hope during despair—allowing joy to creep in no matter what. Opening our hearts to others shifts our fear to compassion. Salvation is near, says the scripture, when we prepare room in our lives we awaken to new insight and renewed hope.



Friends at St. David's, last year your spirit of generosity was truly remarkable. Your acts of compassion have resulted in an abundance of necessities for families in need via the Giving Tree. This year again we are supporting two organizations:



Miskanawah

Mission

Guided by Indigenous teachings, MISKANAWAH (mis-con-a-wa) offers supportive programs and services to people in Calgary as they strengthen their circles of self, family, community, and culture.

Vision

Children, youth and families thrive within a culturally responsive community. Working from a trauma-informed and strength-based perspective, we work

with people to build skills and resiliency by forming natural supports. Our work is founded on Indigenous teachings and traditions, and how they can help people live the good life.

Our Approach

Tapisahotiwinn is the act of connecting, engaging and fostering relationships, which is an integral component in the work we do with our clients.

Our own relationships and connections with those we serve are the foundation for the services we provide. Respect and recognition of culture is embedded in the work we do with individuals and families, and within our community. We are focused in meeting the needs of Indigenous children, youth and families enabling them to strengthen their resiliency and capacity for success.



Founded in 1995, Closer to Home Community Services (CTH) mission is: Empowering Families to Stay Together. This is the focus of everything they do.

Closer to Home serves children and their families many of whom are at risk of family breakdown and require supportive intervention services. We have evolved into an essential community and family support service offering programs in Calgary, Airdrie, and surrounding rural areas.

We provide a broad array of strength-based and family-centered services that teach, coach, and support families to create new possibilities and achieve better futures together.

Our group and foster care services ensure that children have stable, healthy and safe living environments in which to grow and develop. In some cases, when families are separated, we provide a place for children and youth to call home while offering therapeutic support with the ultimate goal of family reunification.

Starting November 24 please take a gift tag from the tree in the foyer. Each tag has a gift suggestion on it. Place the gift and the gift tag in a bag and place it under the tree in the foyer. There are special containers for gift cards.

In order to give us time to sort and deliver we request that all gifts be in on or before Sunday, December 15 and no later than December 18. We

deeply appreciate your continued generosity and compassion that will touch and bless the lives of others this Christmas.

Worship Committee