

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH, MOUNT PEARL

January 28th, 2024

**Praise Medley:** By Our Love, Come and Fill This Temple, His Name  
Is Wonderful, Grace Alone

## Greetings and Announcements

**Introit:** Dance With the Spirit

### Call to Worship:

In the presence of God, whose Word called the stars into being,

**we stand in awe.**

In the presence of Christ, whose arms held little children and  
whose eyes sparkled with laughter,

**we stand in trust.**

In the presence of the Holy Spirit, who stirs within us and causes  
our hearts to thirst for love,

**we stand in longing.**

Before you, God, in search of love and truth and wholeness,

**we come in worship.**

**Prayer of Approach:** (unison)

**Companion God: take us by the hand and bring us near to you.**

**Take us by the hand and bring us home: to the place where the  
well-springs of life never run dry; to the place where we can be  
sisters and brothers once again; to the place where we can join  
hands with all, and sing and dance and proclaim the glory of your  
new creation and your holy name. Amen.**

**Hymn:** A Light Is Gleaming **VU 82**

### Prayer of Confession:

Though we are the prophets called and empowered to be the Body of  
Christ,

**sometimes we feel helpless, God.**

Bombarded by endless images of suffering on the nightly news,

**sometimes we feel hopeless, God.**

When we put effort into justice and peace only to have our efforts lead  
to dead ends,

**sometimes we feel discouraged, God.**

When we see resources used for non-essentials instead of alleviating  
poverty and suffering,

**sometimes we feel ashamed, God.**

When we hear your name lifted up to justify torture, murder, war and  
imperialism,

**sometimes we feel angry, God.**

When we feel the changes in our environment and hear the voices of  
careless denial,

**sometimes we feel afraid, God.**

When we experience setbacks in places dear to us, relationships,  
family, vocation, faith,

**sometimes we feel like failures, God.**

Secure in your unconditional love for us, we share with you our  
deepest feelings....(silent reflection)

### Assurance of Pardon:

Everywhere we turn God offers us another chance. Know that  
whenever you come before God, the Holy One is gracious with you  
and offers you forgiveness.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

**Hymn:** God, We Pray at This Beginning **VU 443**

**Offering:** Spirit, Open My Heart

### Offertory Prayer:

**Christ's body we are. Christ's body we seek to be – Christ's body,  
Christ's healing, Christ's message of love to the world. We  
dedicate the money we have offered, and the offerings of  
ourselves, in service of Christ's body, Christ's healing, and  
Christ's message of love to the world. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111 **on page 833 of VU**  
Mark 1:21-28

**Hymn:** As a Fire Is Meant for Burning **VU 578**

### Meditation

**Ministry of Music:** Take This Child Into Your Keeping

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Response:** Alleluia

**Hymn:** What a Friend We Have In Jesus **VU 664**

## Blessing and Benediction