

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
February 4th, 2024

Praise Medley: Deep In Our Hearts, Leaning On the Everlasting Arms, It's A Long Road To Freedom, God of the Bible

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: My Lord, What a Morning **VU 708**

Call to Worship:

God cares for all the creatures of earth, giving us food to eat and filling the sky with rain-filled clouds. God is filled with goodness. We lift our praise to you, O God.

God lifts up those who have been trampled under the feet of abusive power and comforts them with sacred shelter. God is filled with justice. We lift our praise to you, O God.

God heals those whose hearts are broken, taking away the scars of their memory and giving them peace beyond understanding. God is filled with compassion. We lift our praise to you, O God.

God lifts us up, gathering together the forgotten ones and making us into a new community. God is filled with love. We lift our praise to you, O God and offer our worship.

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

As a mother eagle lifts up her young, lift up those who wait for you, O God, and renew us in this time of worship. Trusting in your steadfast love, we wait for your presence. Believing you are the source of strength, we wait for you to empower us. Longing for your healing touch, we wait for you to transform us. We wait, O God, for you. Amen.

Hymn: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus **VU 357**

Prayer of Confession:

It is easy to become weary and overwhelmed by the countless tasks that are at hand until our bodies become weak and our spirits no longer spark with life.

Reach out your healing hand and lift us up, O God.

The needs around us are great, and the call to address them seems endless, yet we confess a fatigue can take over until our efforts are strained and we become marginally effective at best.

Reach out your healing hand and lift us up, O God.

In an attempt to create balance, we make lists, discern, prioritize, and set aside time to get away from it all, but voices still cry for our attention, and we are asked to give more from a storehouse that is running on empty.

Reach out your healing hand and lift us up, O God.

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear these words from Isaiah: God is everlasting, the Creator of all that lives. God does not tire or wear out; God understands more than we can imagine. Rely on God and renew your strength – fly on wings like eagles, run with endless energy, continue on and you will not grow tired.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: His Banner Over Us Is Love

A Time With the Children

Offering: We Praise You, O God **VU 218**

Offertory Prayer:

Bless our gifts of money, time and ourselves, O God, as they support acts of healing in our world. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures	Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalms 147	page 869 of VU, Part One
Gospel Lesson:	Mark 1:29-39

Hymn: Lord, Speak to Me **VU 589**

Meditation

Ministry of Music: God Is Calling Us

Celebrating The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn: Eat This Bread and Never Hunger **VU 471**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing the Bread and Wine

Hymn: We're Marching to Zion

Blessing and Benediction