

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, May 18th, 2025**

Praise Medley: The House That Love Is Building
Companions On The Journey

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: As We Gather

Call to Worship:

Praise God, all people!

Praise the Lord, all creation!

Whales doing backflips in the air,

squid and octopi dancing on the ocean floor;

giant redwoods stretching to the sky,

tomato vines cuddling around a stake.

Five-year-olds sitting in a story-time circle,

grandparents singing 'their song.'

Redbuds decorating our backyard,

grass growing faster than our children;

seals getting a suntan on the rocks,

teenagers knotted together at the mall.

Praise the Lord, all creation!

Praise God, all people!

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

Ever-Giving God, when you put bandages on skinned knees; when you hold the hand of a teenager grieving unrequited love; when you wipe away the tears of parents at graduation day: you show us your new creation.

Brother to little children, when you hang out with the world's outcasts; when you stay a little longer with those we rush past; when you will not take sides in our petty little games: you show us the new earth.

Holy Spirit, when you turn on the 'no vacancy' sign as death comes our way; when mourning becomes a distant memory; when pain is found only in dusty history books: you show us the new heaven.

Holy One, make us new, as we worship you this day. Amen.

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth **VU 226**

A Time for All People

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Who are we to get in your way, Holy God? We put people into neat little boxes, but you rip them open, so folks can dance in your joy. We imprison others with our unmet expectations, and you set them free with a Word. We build walls around those we don't know, and you tear them down, so they can run free in the kingdom.

Who are we to get in your way, especially in the way of your forgiveness offered to all! Give us your vision that sees everyone as equal - forgiven, graced, loved - even as we seek to follow our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. (Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

We know who God is by the love shown to us in Christ Jesus.

We will show others who we are - and whose we are - by the love poured out by our lives.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Hymn: It's a Song of Praise for the Maker

Offertory Hymn: A Gift From Your Children

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

Generous God, you know what the world needs, and our faith in your guidance inspires us to give. You bless us in so many ways and with so many gifts. As we praise you, may we offer our gifts so those who have so little may be fed, clothed, healed, restored, and graced. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148 on page 871 of VU

Epistle Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

Gospel Lesson: John 13:31-35A

Hymn: I See a New Heaven **VU 713**

Meditation

Ministry of Music

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Alleluia

Hymn: Go Make a Difference

Commission and Benediction:

Let us go now to praise God with our hearts.

**To see the imagination of God in every moment of
creation, in every person we meet in the days to
come.**

Let us go now to praise Jesus with our lives.

**To bring justice to those who are oppressed,
to bring hope to those who live in despair and worry.**

Let us go now to praise the Spirit with our lips.

**To speak peace into all the broken places of our
communities, to whisper grace to all those forgotten
by the world.**

May the Source of life hold you in the faith;
the Word of life speak clearly in truth around you;
and Breath of life, of grace, of wisdom,
sing in your inmost being this day and all your days. Amen.