

## **JUNE 28 - INTO THE SUMMER WITH HOPE**

### **COMMUNITY WELCOME**

- Tawow, Bienvenue, Welcome to this time of worship. While we continue to join remotely in our individual or family places of social isolation and physical distancing, please be mindful that in this moment we are joining in a spiritual way with the entire community of St. Albert United Church and others who are also participating in this same worship opportunity from their homes and places of safe physical distancing.

### **- Items to gather together before beginning:**

➤ ***A Voices United* hymn book if you have one**

- As you and/or your family move through the service, I invite you to read aloud the words of the prayers, readings, etc. Even if you are alone, speaking the words aloud can help internalize and deepen the worship experience. If there are other loved ones gathered with you, I invite you to share the leader parts with all who are comfortable with and able to read.

- In addition, at points in the service below there will be links to YouTube videos of an opening, the All Ages Time, the Message and the closing prayers. There will also be links to some music/sung hymns that unfortunately are not local but are legally accessible on the internet. I have included them because we are all aware that music is such an important aspect of worshiping. When you click on these links you may have to shut down the ads that pop up first and close the link as soon as the hymn is finished before it goes to another that may or may not be appropriate.

## WELCOME TO OUR VIRTUAL WORSHIP

### [JUNE 28 Into the Summer With Hope - Welcome and Opening](#)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from the poem “Our Gifts Are Gifts of Hope” by Ann Weems in her book *Searching for Shalom*, page 65 c1991.)

One: Our yearning after God, our hope for a better way, creates infinite opportunities...

**All: ... to touch the lives of the untouched; to reach the hearts of the unreached; to heal the wounds of the unhealed; to feed the bodies of the unfed; to accept the personhood of the unaccepted; and to love the being of the unloved.**

One: Our gifts are gifts of hope...

**All: ... as we worship, O God, touch; reach; heal; feed; accept and love us that we might love one another and know the transforming of the world as we know it.**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)** (Adapted from the poem “Prayer of Thanksgiving” by Ann Weems in her book *Searching for Shalom*, page 63, c1991.)

**Creator of All, you flower the gardens for us and make green the wastelands. The mountains burst forth with streams of water and the fields are filling with your bounty. Thank you, God, for all good gifts, and make our hearts your home that we might serve you all our days and live in the hope of your peace. May the Biblical vision of our heavenly home, transform our ritual of worship into a way of life that lives the heavenly vision in the everyday of our earthly existence.**

**Amen.**

**HYMN:** [Open My Eyes That I May See](#)

(The words are found at # 371 in Voices United)

TIME FOR ALL AGES: ["The World Needs More Purple People!"](#) [Written by Kristen Bell and Benjamin Hart and illustrated by Daniel Wiseman](#)

(This wonderful story lets us know that if our minds: are open to ask questions; free us to laugh; inspired to voice our truth; are committed to doing our part; and allows us to be our real selves... then we can allow others to do the same so the world can be a better place.)

HYMN: [The Arky, Arky Song \(Rise and Shine\)](#)

(Because I think Noah was a purple person!)

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Please share the reading among those who gather physically with you or out loud to yourself and experience the movement of the Spirit of God within you.

Introduction: Psalm 65 is the psalmist's interpretation of what God is doing all around us every day. Do we have eyes to see and ears to hear?

Psalm 65:1-13 (The Scripture quotation contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed,  
O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.  
Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.  
By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our  
salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest  
seas.

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy. You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

Introduction: The author of the book of Revelation paints a picture of God's promised glorious future – the future we pray for every time we pray the Lord's Prayer and say: "May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Do we have faith to trust that God can inspire us to find our way to that reality?

Revelation 22:1–7 (The Scripture quotation contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." "See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

HYMN: [Will You Let Me Be Your Servant \(SERVANT SONG\)](#)

(The words are found at #595 in Voices United)

MESSAGE: [JUNE 28 Into the Summer With Hope - Message and Closing](#)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/JESUS PRAYER

**Our Father and Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever Amen.**

MINUTES FOR MISSION 2020 - A SAFE HOME

Down a long road behind a large fence in Nairobi, Kenya, is a safe house for LGBTQIA and Two-Spirit refugees from Uganda, Somalia, and South Sudan, supported by Mission & Service partner Pembizo Christian Council. The refugees who live here dream of a day they are resettled in Canada or another country where they can live freely without fear of imprisonment. We are thankful that in The United Church of Canada there are opportunities to sponsor and support LGBTQIA and Two-Spirit refugees. Download the video here: <http://bit.ly/357HuvT>

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## SHARING OF GIFTS: A THANK YOU AND AN INVITATION

It is with deep gratitude that I give thanks for all the ways so many of you have shared your gifts of time, connection, prayer, talent and resources with God's people in our church, community and world. The ministry of St. Albert United Church is so much more than the efforts of Rev. Deborah and myself. During the trying months of pandemic restrictions your encouragement and support of each other through phone calls and other means, your continuing work on Council and committees, the remote study and discussions over Zoom, the maintenance of our building and nurturing of our flower gardens, and your dedicated sharing of financial resources, are inspirational reminders that the church is not the building but the church is the people. Thank you for being the church!

Please check the church website for ways in which you can support ministry with time, talents and resources.

<https://stalbertunited.ca/donations/>

As an invitation to continue your valued support and ministry, I share a poem entitled "Where Your Treasure Is" by Ann Weems in her book *Searching for Shalom*, page 72, c1991.

O God, some of us have mites  
some of us have millions  
and most of us fall somewhere in between.  
We know it's our responsibility  
to give from what we've been given,  
and Jesus made it clear that it is not the size of the gift,  
but the size of the giver's heart that matters.  
You, O God, know our treasures and our hearts.  
May our hearts swell to the occasion!

BLESSING Holy People” by Ann Weems in her book *Searching for Shalom*, page 75, c1991.)

Here we are, you and I, called to be God’s Holy People.

You say you are not the holy type,

but I’m not talking about holier-than-thou.

I’m not talking about religious ritual,

and the last thing I mean is self-righteousness.

Jesus chastised the self-righteous,

the ones who spent their days doing religious things,

the ones who spent so much time in religious ritual

that they didn’t have time for tenderheartedness.

I’m not talking about them; I’m talking about us.

I’m talking about paying attention to the things Jesus taught people,

ordinary people, people like you, people like me...

Look at the disciples: ordinary people

called to follow, called to be God’s Holy People,

called to live in this world with tender hearts.

Live holy lives.... impossible?

Is anything impossible for God?

That old woman Sarah thought it impossible to have a child...

The lepers thought it impossible to be healed...

The disciples thought it impossible to feed five thousand

with two loaves and five fish...

Mary and Martha thought it impossible that their brother Lazarus was alive...

The lame thought it impossible to walk...

The blind thought it impossible to see...

Here we are, ordinary people, called to be the Holy People of God.

If you have eyes to see and ears to hear,

see and hear Gods holiness in your life! Amen.

SENDING ANTHEM: [Howsham Hall School Choir, year 2000 @ Bossall Parish Church singing "ONE MORE STEP ALONG THE WORLD I GO"](#)  
(The words are found at #639 in Voices United)