

## AUGUST 16 – ATTITUDES TRANSFORMED

### 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* and a *More Voices* 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

## [AUGUST 16 - Attitude Transformation - Opening](#)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Copyright 2020 Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.)

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth. It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a mountain or through a crowded city street. God meets us here. We have gathered to worship the Maker of Our Days, the Restorer of Our Souls and the Breath of Our Lives.

**PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)** (Copyright 2020 Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.)

**One:** Maker of Our Days, you created each of us unique beings with differing strengths and weaknesses. Help us not only to use our strengths to assist others but also to allow others to use their strengths to meet our weaknesses.

**All:** **Restorer of Our Souls, you have seen the parched places we have made in our lives, along with the devastation thrust upon us by the action or inaction of others. Meet us in the places of our deepest pain so that our facades of self-sufficiency might fall away, and we might be drawn into right relationship with you and one another.**

**One:** Breath of Our Lives, fill us with your presence, invigorate our worship, set us on fire so that others might be drawn into your light and nurtured by the warmth of your loving care. **Amen.**

HYMN: [Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness](#)

Voices United 375 – sung by the choir of Ebenezer United Church Markham, Ontario

TIME FOR ALL AGES: [The Calamead Dragon - A children's story about respect](#)

HYMN: [Growing in God's Way by Jim and Jean Strathdee](#)

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:

Genesis 45: 1-15 (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 Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and Joseph cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And Joseph wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer Joseph, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. Joseph said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; God has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all Pharaoh's house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then Joseph fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with Joseph.

Introduction:

**Matthew 15: 21-28** (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.)

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." Jesus answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." The Canaanite woman said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

ANTHEM: [Holy Spirit, Come into Our Lives by Ken Canedo](#)

(The words are found at #6 in More Voices)

MESSAGE: [AUGUST 16 - Attitude Transformation - Message and Closing](#)

#### 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 share 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/>

## OFFERING DEDICATION

Holy God, you provide us with life and hope for a better future. We dedicate to your service our lives and these offerings from your blessing and our labor. Work in us the transformation of your spirit of inclusive justice for all peoples and through us to extend your love and care here in our own community and around the world. Amen.

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You have been reconciled with Christ.

Do the work of Christ in the world:

extend support to those in need,  
speak up for those cast aside,  
build bridges of reconciliation,  
strengthen bonds of community,  
knowing that  
the Maker of Our Days,  
the Restorer of Our Souls  
and the Breath of Our Lives  
will be with us this day and ever more.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: [Go Make A Difference - Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek](#)

(The words are found at #209 in More Voices)