

**AUGUST 30 – WE ARE PETER  
WELCOME TO OUR VIRTUAL WORSHIP**

[August 30 video for the worship service "You Are Peter" led by Valarie Ellis](#)

**COMMUNITY WELCOME**

Tawow, Bienvenue, Welcome to this worship in Covid times. While we continue to physically distance, let us remember that we are spiritually joined with the entire community of St. Albert United Church and others who are also participating in this worship opportunity each week. My name is Valerie Ellis and I am a lay person at St. Albert United.

As we come together we acknowledge that we do so on the traditional lands of Treaty 6 First Nations and a significant trading community of the Metis nation.

St. Albert United Church is an affirming congregation where all are welcome to share fully in the life, work, and ministry of the faith community regardless of age, race, gender expression, sexual orientation, belief, economic circumstance, ability or background. St. Albert United Church is a place where EVERYONE has room to grow.

If you have a concern regarding someone who is ill, grieving, or in need, or who would like to chat, please call on of the ministers or the church office and someone will get back to you in a timely manner. Contact information is found on the church website.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One:

Come from the freshness of the summer air

Come from the hint of autumn in the evening quiet

Come from the cool wet of rain

All:

**Into the love and grace of God,**

**Into God's presence as a worshipping people**

**As the whole family of God.**

Written by George Allen, *Gathering Summer/Autumn* 2011, page 33, Used with permission

## **PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)**

**We remember Paul's words to the Romans, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer", but this is not as easy as it sounds. Sometimes we forget that we do not have to do all these things on our own. With your help, O God, we can do much that we cannot do alone. Because of your great love for all humankind, we can take up our individual crosses and persevere in hope, patience and prayer no matter how difficult life sometimes is. With thankful hearts and heartfelt praise, we come before you this day. Amen**

## **HYMN**

I The Lord of Sea and Sky - #509 in Voices United

[I the Lord of Sea and Sky](#)

**TIME FOR ALL AGE What Does It Mean to be Kind?**

[What Does It Mean to be Kind?](#)

**HYMN:** Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands VU 570

[Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands](#)

**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:** In our first reading Paul is saying to the Christians in Rome, “Are you prepared to risk not living on the basis of power and individual self-assertion? This was a big step to take in that power-based society, and still today.

### **Romans 12:9-21**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap

burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Introduction: Here God asks us to face the mystery of risking our life in the hope of finding it.

### **Matthew 16:21-28**

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

## **MESSAGE AND CLOSING: We are Peter**

**SHARING OF GIFTS:** As a layperson, I have no idea how our church is doing financially in these Covid19 times, but I am thankful that because I am on PAR (pre-authorized credit), the church receives my offering each Sunday whether I am present or not. I have faith that if you are not on PAR, you are mailing in your financial support as you are able. Whether we can worship together or not, I know that the church is much more than a building and I am thankful for all the kindness shown me by our church family in the recent loss of my sister. Please check the church website for ways in which you can support ministry with time, talents, and resources.

## **OFFERING DEDICATION**

It seems a long time since most of us have been able to attend an event, but we remember there used to be someone at a booth or desk selling us a ticket to enter. The church is unique in that there is no fee to enter. The invitation is not to pay what it seems to be worth. In other words, please do not base your offering on my sermon! We give our offering out of passion for God's dream for this world. The offering is a time of motivation, determination, passion and compassion, and appreciation of gifts and people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer written by Gloria Wray **Gathering**. Summer/Autumn 2011, page 51 Used with permission

## **BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING**

Let us go from worship eager to learn more, to try again to fulfill our promise to follow, and to live out your word of God in the world.

May the God who is above all be the centre of our lives.

May the Lord who is the Risen Jesus, lead us,

May the Holy Spirit who resides within us be active through us, this day and always. Amen.

Written by Karen Pearce **Gathering**, Summer/Autumn 2008, page 44 Used with permission.

**SENDING HYMN:** Take My Life and Let It Be VU 506

[Take My Life and Let It Be](#)