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September 10, 2017

Welcome Back Sunday

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.
All points marked * those who are able are invited to stand.)

Approach

Welcome and Announcements

- * Gathering Hymn MV #122 – “*This is the Day*”

Call to Worship

One: Awake from your sleep for night is gone

All: And the dawn of a new day has arrived!

One: Darkness once ruled our lives,

All: But now the light of Jesus brings our salvation to life.

- * Opening Hymn MV #1 – “*Let Us Build a House*”

Prayer of Approach and Confession

You, O God, illumine our world with the light of a new day, the day of our new lives living in Jesus’ love. Bring his presence here as we lay aside the deeds of darkness and learn to live in light and truth. God of light and life, you set before us today the challenges of laying aside the works of darkness; of putting on the light of Christ; of being watchful and prepared for your coming in our midst in the person of Jesus Christ. As the people of God in this place, we know that a crucial part of our witness is in revealing Christ to the world through the way we love and care for one another. Forgive us when people do not see any evidence in us of the One who is to come. So many people, young and old, grope helplessly in the gloom of despair and suffering, yearning for the light of hope to dawn in their lives. Remind us that the light of Christ shines through people like us. Merciful God, cleanse our hearts and minds of all that hinders us from loving you and loving our neighbour. so that our lives radiate faith active in love, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more in the person of Jesus Christ. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon / Passing the Peace

- * Hymn VU #603 – “*In Loving Partnership We Come*”

The Word

📖 Scripture Readings – Romans 13: 8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Scripture Response (MV #14)

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.**

Reflections – “All you need is love!”

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – “Love One Another”

The Response

- * Offering / Response (VU #538)

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
And the gift of the Spirit by which we love;
We thank you and give you the fruit of our hands;
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Children’s Time / The Lord’s Prayer

Blessing of School Supplies:

One: God, bless this all of these backpacks and school supplies that have been so generously donated, and bless all of the children who will be using them this coming year.

All: Let them not be scared as they enter a new year, but rather feel your presence with each and every one of them. Be with them as they learn and grow this year.

One: Show them how to love each other as you love us.

All: In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Blessing of all School Workers:

One: Loving God we ask your blessing on these individuals who serve you in so many ways.

All: We pray that you would give them patience, wisdom, and a sense of humour.

One: We pray that you will use them to show all children you love and guide them as they grow into loving, just, and compassionate people.

All: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Commitment of Community:

One: We all are called to support, encourage, and pray for all the children. We are all called to be teachers and learners with children; we are to teach them about God's love, and also to learn from what children have to teach us. We bless you now as you support these children. Let us pray.

All: Lord God, bless all the people you have gathered here today. Especially bless us as we work to support, protect, and encourage the children among us. May we all, with the children, be both teachers and learners. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* Hymn MV #209 – *“Go, Make a Difference”*

* Benediction / Response (tune VU #460)

**From this place of prayer and praising,
Cross and table, well-worn pews,
God, we leave to work and witness,
Living every day for you.
Bless your people as we journey,
Loving Parent, Holy Friend;
Spirit, guide your people onward,
'Til once more we meet again.**

Patrick Woodbeck, Student Minister
Luci Toews, Office Administrator
Caitlin Saindon, Liturgist

Laura Steidl, Music Director
Myrna Hagues, Organist
Gina Grant, Custodian