**SUMMERLAND UNITED CHURCH***celebrating faith  
seeking justice and  
serving others in a loving community*

**A Joint Sunday Service for Summerland and Westbank United Churches  
PRESIDER – Judith Ritcey  
*Sunday, May 16, 2021 10 a.m.***



Power Point Creator: Judith Ritcey- Summerland United

Words of Welcome: Colleen Power, Summerland United  
Scripture Reading: Clive Saunders, Westbank United Church

Prayers of the Faithful: Rev. David Sparks

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| **GATHERING TIME** | 9:45AM |
| **INTRODUCTION & EXPLANATION** |  |
| **TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** |  |

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| **ANNOUNCEMENTS** |  |
| **BELL RINGING** |  |
| **WORDS OF WELCOME** | Colleen Power, Summerland United |

A warm welcome to our friends from Summerland, Westbank and Penticton United Churches who are with us today and to all those joining us from other locations. If there are any visitors today from other congregations or other places, we welcome you and thank you for joining us this morning. If you are comfortable, please unmute yourself and tell us where or what congregation you are from. Please remember to re-mute yourself.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE TO VIEW THE CONGREGATION**

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| **LIGHTING THE CANDLE** | *Dora White, Minnedosa UC, Minnedosa Man. The Gathering L/E pg. 42* |

Let the light of Christ draw us together as we ready ourselves for worship with the assurance that we are not alone and all are welcome.

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| **WE SING TOGETHER** | MV 7- Gather Us In |

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| **CALL TO WORSHIP** | *Dora White, Minnedosa UC, Minnedosa Man. The Gathering L/E pg. 43* |

The Ancient Holy Living God, Provider of every blessing in abundance, calls us to gather.

**May we overflow with prayers of thanksgiving.**

**May we shout and sing for joy.**

**Praise belongs to you, O God.**

Come let us worship.

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| **OPENING PRAYER** | *Jani Francis, St. Andrew’s UC, Indian Head, SK – The Gathering L/E 2021, pg. 44* |

O Holy One- we come, puzzling at you mystery, yet in adoration and wonder

**Creator God, we wonder at your mighty works.**

O Holy One – we come in quiet breathing.

**Spirit, we breathe in your gifts of gratitude.**

O Holy One – we come in silent movements.

**Beloved Christ, we follow you into the quiet space. Amen**

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| **WE SING TOGETHER** | MV 131 – You Creator God, Have Searched Me |

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| **SCRIPTURE READING:** | John 17: 6-9 – The Inclusive Bible |

So that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.”

6 I have manifested your Name to those you gave me from the world.

They were yours, and you gave them to me; and now they have kept your word.

7Now they know that everything you’ve entrusted to me does indeed come from you.

8I entrusted to them the message you entrusted to me, and they received it. They know that I really came from you; they believe it was you who sent me.

9And it’s for them that I pray – not for the world, but for those you’ve given me – for they are really yours,

10just as all that belongs to me is yours, and all that belongs to you is mine. It is in them that I have been glorified.

11I am in the world no more, but while I am coming to you, they are still in the world.

Abba, holy God, protect those whom you have given me with your Name – the Name that you gave me – that they may be one, even as we are one.

12As long as I was with them, I guarded them with your Name which you gave me. I kept careful watch, and not one of them was lost, except for the one who was destined to be lost in fulfillment of scripture.

13Now I am coming to you; I say all this while I am still in the world that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

14I gave them your word, and the world has hated them for it because they don’t belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.

15I don’t ask you to take them out of the world, but to guard them from the Evil One.

16They are not of the world, any more than I am of the world.

17Consecrate them – make them holy through the truth – for your word is truth.

18As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world;

19I consecrate, myself now for their sakes, that they may be made holy in truth.

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| **WE SING TOGETHER:** | VU 365 – Jesus Loves Me |

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| **REFLECTION:** | Someone Is Praying for You |

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| **MEDITATION HYMN:** | We are the World |

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| **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** | Rev. David Sparks |

We will abide in your love, O God,

**Response: a love that brings change for good.**

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| **THE LORD’S PRAYER:** | Traditional |
| **OFFERING:** | *Frances Flook, Emo/Devlin P.C.,The Gathering, Lent/Easter 2021 Pg. 37* |

For the love of the world, Jesus offered everything he had, even life itself.

In response to this powerful gift of love, let us offer our gifts and our lives to God, as we share in our offering.

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| **PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** | *Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P. C. The Gathering, Lent/Easter 2021: pg. 37* |

Hey God, it’s just us  
just this diverse crowd of people gathered.  
We come for your blessing on what we give,  
but also for your blessing for who we are becoming as we give.  
May “just us” by your blessing, become the justice of discipleship. Amen

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| **WE SING TOGETHER:** | VU 642 – Be Thou My Vision |

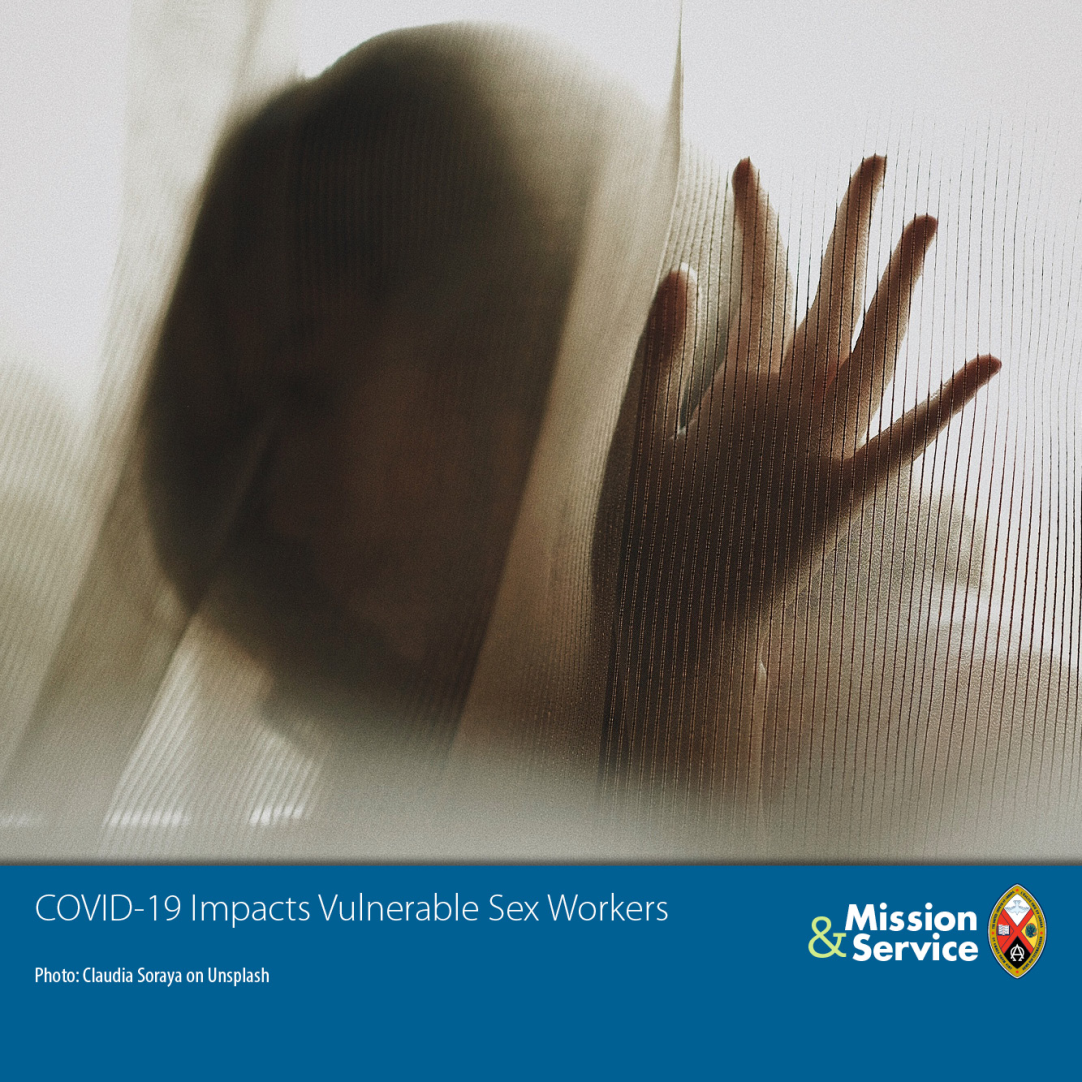
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| **BLESSING:** | *Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial UC, Oakville, ON – Gathering – Lent/Easter pg. 38* |

Let your path from here be guided by love, loving each other and serving God in the world. In the name of Jesus Christ who is love, shows us how to love and loved us first of all. Amen

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| **CHAT ROOMS:** |  |

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# COVID-19 Impacts Vulnerable Sex Workers

Your gifts through Mission & Service provide non-judgmental support and safe spaces.

Publisher On: April 16, 2021

**Body**

“I lived there for nine days, and there were three young kids. I think they lived in the cul-de-sac I moved into. They kicked in my door. They beat me with a baseball bat. They wrote “\*\*\* tranny” on my wall. They smashed most of what I own,” says Mikayla, a 47-year-old transgender woman. “My journey has been difficult. However, today those scars are symbols of my strength, not reminders of my pain. Those experiences have shaped the woman I have become, and are the inspiration for my trans rights advocacy and activism efforts.”

After the brutal assault, Mikayla turned to WISH, a Mission & Service partner, for support. Located in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, WISH’s goal is to improve the health, safety, and well-being of women who are involved in Vancouver’s street-based sex trade.

The vast majority of women WISH supports participate in the sex industry by choice. But choice is relative. Extreme poverty, lack of housing, trauma, mental health issues, stigma, violence, and more can limit the ability to choose.

“Systemic barriers mean that most are resorting to street-based sex work as a means of survival,” says WISH.

Everyone has felt the impacts of COVID-19, but vulnerable residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside are hit especially hard.

“Every sex worker we support has experienced sudden, total income loss. More women are turning to street-based sex work for the first time. There’s increased violence. The closure of safe spaces and public facilities due to COVID-19 has left hundreds of people without the ability to social-distance, and without access to basic sanitation,” WISH reports.

To respond to rising needs, the WISHING Well Initiative was launched to provide access to basic sanitation, including showers. A five-toilet washroom trailer and an outdoor safe respite area was added to their backlot. The MAP Van, which provides outreach services to street-based sex workers, added a day shift. The Drop-In Centre expanded its hours.

“This is the first time in WISH's history that we have been able to keep our doors open during the day, something we hope we can continue for years to come. You’ve made a tremendous difference during these dire times,” WISH thanks supporters.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**May 17**

**International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**

*THIS DAY* emphasizes that homophobia, transphobia and biphobia are still the reality in the daily lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, and trans members of our communities.

Despite legislation, there is *still discrimination.* Though great strides toward acceptance have been made, there is work to be done. Many find subtle methods are used to deny or hinder basic daily living. One of the hardest things to live with is the weight of indifference. But difference isn’t a physical thing: how can it have weight?

Clergy often hasten to mention their profession when they are in a room of strangers, such as at a party. They know that if they say they are a minister they will likely have people apologizing for swearing, telling friends to be good because there is a minister in the room, or saying, “Gee, I didn’t think ministers drank alcohol.”

That, in a small way, is the weight of difference. For LGBTQQIA2S+ people, the weight is much greater. You wonder is it okay to mention your partner’s name at work, to hold their hand while walking down the street, or to kiss them goodbye at the airport.

You wonder what the hotel clerk is thinking when they look at your partner and point out that your room only has one bed.

What is the weight like?

Think of **the lead-lined apron** you wear when you get an X-ray at the dentist’s office. Imagine if you had a coat made of that same material. Imagine what it would be like to have to **put that coat on** every time you left your house.

This is what the weight is like. It is always there. Unless you are in a safe place.

Isn’t it time that **all places of worship** were a safe place?

(excerpts from Mandate Magazine)

Jesus’ ministry included **ALL** who were excluded for any reason.

The **GOSPEL** calls us to do the same.

from your Affirm United Team

Summerland United Church

2021

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