

ORDER OF SERVICE

*KICK-OFF FOR A YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION
OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

*Please Stand Where Able

MUSICAL PRELUDE

BIBLE OPENING

WELCOME & CELEBRATIONS

TIME OF PREPARATION & GROUNDING

GREETING

God is good,
 All the time.
All the time,
 God is good.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

From deep soil comes bold and daring growth.
 **From the seeds of our past will come
 fresh new growth.**

We come today to marvel at what has been harvested
 and prepare for what will come.

We come to celebrate where we are and where we
have been.

**We come rejoicing with our ancestors
 in faith across generations:**

We give thanks to God for the blessings of past,
present, and future

and dare to plant these seeds of faith anew!

***HYMN VU #820** “Make a Joyful Noise”

OPENING PRAYER *(unison)*

**God, we come to this time and place with a song!
Each day, you give us a chance to begin anew: to
drink deeply of your Spirit, to boldly follow in the
Way of Jesus, and to dare to seek justice as we seek
relationship with our neighbours and you. Again
and again, God, you call us out of our old lives and
into your new day.**

And so, as we celebrate the 99th anniversary of this
United Church, help us to reflect back with clarity
upon all that deserves to be celebrated, all that
deserves to be lamented, and all that deserves to be
let go. We are not perfect, God, but we are yours,
and we trust that you are with us every day. This
day, and always, help us to be good grain that is
planted and tended by your love, so that in the year
to come we may flourish in this time and place.
Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

WE HEAR THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 33 – VU Page 760
(No Sung Response)
John 12: 20 – 28

Response: Thanks Be To God

SERMON “Celebrating Union”

***HYMN** “When Seed Falls on Good Soil”
(tune used from VU #714 – no refrain)

When seed falls on good soil,
 it’s born through quiet toil,
Where soil receives, the earth conceives
 the blade, the stem, the fruit, the leaves.
Good soil, O Mother earth, the womb,
 where seed takes birth.

God’s Word in Christ is seed;
 good soil its urgent need,
for it must find in human-kind
 the fertile soil in heart and mind.
Good soil! A human field! A hundred-fold to yield

Plough up the trodden way,
 and clear the stone away,
tear out the weed, and sow the seed.
Prepare our hearts your Word to heed,
 that we good soil may be.
Begin, O God, with me.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

INVITATION to Generosity

*We have a “Giving Station” at each Entrance
and one plate that will remain at the back entrance
throughout the service.*

***Please Stand for the Offering Hymn while the
Offering is brought forward**

Sung Response “What Can I Do?” (2 times)

*What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

***Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

**Teach us, God, to offer
the very best of who we are
in the service of your will
through the mission of this church:
may we offer hope, joy, and reconciliation
in the world so much in need.
Receive what we give for
the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen**

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer..... AMEN

***HYMN VU#420** “Go to the World”

*** BLESSING** (responsive)

As you leave this place, we invite you to care for and nurture the seeds that you have been given)

Beloved, as you go into the world this day and this year, may you receive this blessing as both gift and call:

Blessed are you who give your life to living deeply within the Spirit's call,
we who long to be planted fully within the heart of Christ and to love God's world with all our heart.

Blessed are you who give your life to bold discipleship:

we who plant the Saviour's seeds of love, faith, hope, and joy, and trust that God will nurture these seeds with a future good beyond our imagining.

And blessed are you who give your life to daring justly for all Creation,

we whose hearts break open like a seed in the Earth as we give us lives for the flourishing of all places and people.

Blessed are we who live this life and give this life, **for we are not alone in this living and dying and rising again. God is with us!**

We are blessed to be a blessing, now and always.
Thanks be to God!

*** SUNG BLESSING** MV #92 (vs 1 only)

“Like A Rock”

Organist will play through once
Sing Together 2 times through

*Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.
Like the starry night sky, God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in
God evermore.*

POSTLUDE

“London Road West United Church is a welcoming congregation celebrating God's presence through worship, music, spiritual enrichment and outreach.”

“Be with us: Celebrate GOD!”

**LONDON ROAD WEST
UNITED CHURCH**

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