

Recognition of Sunday School

June 22, 2025

Gathering Music “Let Us Build a House” (MV # 1)



Lighting the Christ Candle



Week after week, we light the candle, reminding ourselves that Christ is the light of the world. And yet, we don't need a candle to recall this important truth. Our lives are directed in the way of faith, hope, and love. If we commit ourselves to these guiding principles, the Christ light shines in us ! Amen.



The illustration features four diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, all smiling and holding a large white rectangular sign. From left to right: a boy with short brown hair, a girl with dark curly hair in pigtails, a girl with blonde pigtails, and a boy with orange hair and large black-rimmed glasses. They are standing behind a green grassy hill with small blue flowers. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds, a rainbow, a sun, and several birds flying. The word 'Announcements' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font on the white sign.

Announcements



Prelude

“This is My Father’s World”

Call to Worship

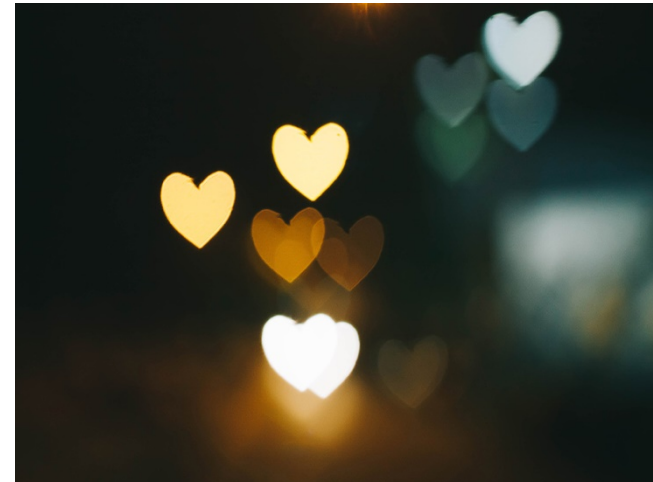
We gather in the presence of God, our Creator.

We gather in the love of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

We gather in the embrace of the Holy Spirit.

**We gather as God's people, created in promise,
forgiven in love, and made new by the Spirit's
breath. Amen.**

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.



2

All your works with joy surround you,
Earth and Heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.



3

You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest !
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.



4

Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.



Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Dear God, may you help us in our living and our loving. Let your love for us bring us peace and courage, blessing us with your eternal mercy.

May you help us recognise the fear that too often divides us and remind us that your love has no end and no boundaries.

May you strengthen us with your love, provide support when we feel vulnerable, and gather around us a community when we live in fear of uncertain future.

Let our lives shine as beacons of your love, that all the world may know us by our loving and give thanks that we are yours. Amen.

Prayer of Promise with God

Colleen: We are thankful our Erin United Church is here.

We are happy to be with others, and to learn and grow in our faith.

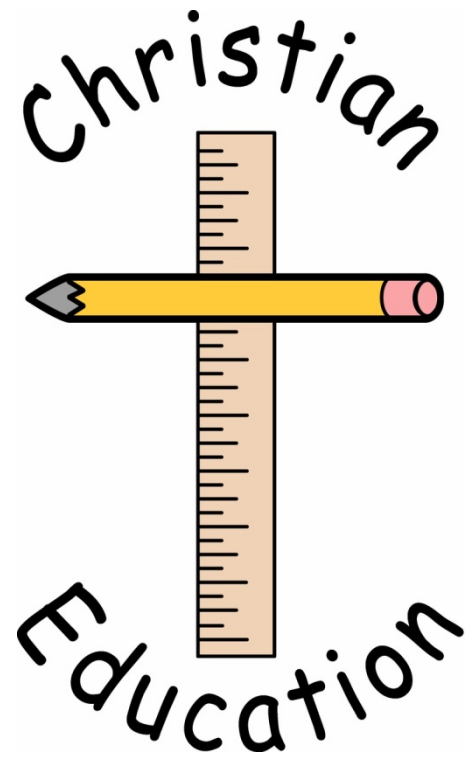
We remember today promises made at baptism to support one another as we grow in faith. We want to honour and fulfill these promises.

We promise to encourage each other, to support our Church, and to join in the journey of faith. We are called to pray, to learn and to play. We will share with each other our experiences and insights.

Colleen: We share in the life and ministry of the Church.

We commit ourselves to the joy and task of following Jesus - learners and teachers, every one.

Loving God, bless our Church. May you help us to keep the covenant we have made today; guide us as learners and teachers of your love, in the name of Jesus, Child of God, Teacher and Friend. Amen.



Prayer for the Teachers

Linda M.: Loving God, in Christ you show us the way of truth, grace, justice, and love.

May you guide us in that way, knowing that you are in our midst, we pray for those who serve as teachers; send your Spirit to nurture them and all who are entrusted to our care. May we all be teachers and learners together.

Linda M.: Bless the ministry of this congregation, Erin United Church as we pledge our support for the education ministry of your Church in this place.

Amen.

Prayer for the Children

Cathy: Triune God, the outside world is loud. The pressures our children face in today's society are overwhelming at best. Please help us equip our children;
to make informed decisions that align with your truth;
give them opportunities to soften their hearts to the world around them so that they can see those in need;
allow them to react and respond with gentleness and kindness.

Greg: Caring God, may you shield our children and preserve their innocence; give them a childhood that will one day bring forth sweet memories. Please help us as forerunners to give them a safe refuge and soft place to land in a world overflowing with danger and deception. Also, give us the wisdom on when to speak out with truth and grace to protect our children.

Cathy: Precious Redeemer, we want our children to grow into faith-filled adults that yearn to abide in you. May you give them a heart to love your teaching with truth and grace.

Greg: Lord, use this generation of children to do what is noble, good, and right by equipping them to use their gifts and talents to shed light on the darkness and restore peace. Let us pray together.

Spirit of God, as adults, we have the honour and privilege of raising our children to love and faithfully believe our God. May you grant us soft hearts to forgive when needed and open up lines of communication to foster our relationship with one another and with you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Ceremony of Sunday School Recognition

led by Wanda





Music

Drum Circle

The Scripture

John 6:5–14

read by Noreen K.

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat ?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite !”

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many ?”

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.”

There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

We give thanks for inspiration.

Reflection

“Stone Soup”

by Rev. Yun-Hee

Pictorial Presentation

“Erin’s Sunday School”





Music

Drum Circle



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come. thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass against
us. And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the
Kingdom, the power and the glory
forever. Amen.



We Offer Our Gifts

Musical Offering VU # 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Offering Prayer

**We lift these gifts of our hands and hearts to the
glory that is in you, O Christ. We offer our gifts of
talents and time that each of us bring to this
community of faith. Receive these gifts, given freely
for the greater good of the world. Amen.**



Refrain **Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of Life, sanctified
Called by earth and sky**

1 Precious these waters endless seas,
deep ocean's dream
Waters of healing, rivers of rain
The wash of love again

Refrain



2 Precious this gift the air we breathe,
wind born and free
Breath of the Spirit blown through this place
Our gathering and our grace

***Refrain* Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of Life, sanctified
Called by earth and sky**

3 Precious these mountains ancient sands,
vast fragile land
Seeds of our wakening rooted and strong
Creation's faithful song ***Refrain***

4 Precious the fire that lights our way,
 bright dawning day
 Fire of passion sorrows undone
 Our faith and justice one

Refrain **Called by earth and sky,
 promise of hope held high
 This is our sacred living trust,
 treasure of Life, sanctified
 Called by earth and sky
 Called by earth and sky**



Blessing

Raspberry, blackberry, strawberry, blueberry, mango, 'n' banana, pineapple, too. The fruits of the Spirit grow as we go: love and joy, peace and patience, those we know.

Kindness, generosity, faithfulness guide as gentleness and self-control always abide.

Raised up with Christ from the waters of our baptism, we now leave the vineyard Church for the marketplace, sealed by God's promise of everlasting love. **Amen.**



Commissioning *“Go Now in Peace”*

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of
every day.***

***Go now in faith, steadfast strong
and true. Know God will guide you
in all you do.***

***Go now in love and show you
believe. Reach out to others so all
the world can see.***

***God will be there within, around,
above.***

***Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.***



God, we thank you for being with us.
Thank you Congregation for worshipping today !



**Thank you for the Teachers'
attentive care and diligent work
for our Sunday School !**

Thank you children.

**We appreciate the parents and
grandparents' passion and love
for their children's well-being !**



(adapted from the United Church of Canada's 'Gathering', and 'Celebrate of God's Presence'
and <https://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/powerful-prayers-to-cover-your-children-every-day-of-the-week.html>. Images from the public domain)