

CALVARY UNITED CHURCH
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Tell Me the Stories of Jesus – The Story of Jesus Lost

As we join in worship this day, we celebrate that Calvary United Church is an Affirming Ministry. We commit ourselves to being a place of worship that is open and welcoming to all those seeking Sanctuary and celebrate the diversity that exists among us.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 Territory. We honour the Cree, Dakota, Dene, and Metis people for whom this place has been a homeland. We respect the sacredness of our ancestors, the home we share, and the ground on which we walk, and we are grateful to gather together here in peace and hope.

WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

TIME OF SHARING

HYMN: "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" VU374

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by the Rev. Madison Shockley)
One: From deep within us we know of a loving presence.

All: All around us we see glory and beauty, life and light.

One: We have no words good enough for what we experience so we cry out: "God!" "Holy One!" "Creator!" "Source of Life!"

All: In this moment of worship may that Loving Presence of Holiness grow deeper, may our awareness of the Divine Presence around us grow more intense. May we, gathered

in this place, learn to pay attention to God, who loves us at all times and in all places, and who never loses track of us.

One: Come, my friends, to this House of Prayer that God may be more and more in us, that we might live more and more in God.

OPENING PRAYER

(published by World Alliance of Reformed Churches)

God of Life: may Your light shine on us today, as it has shone in each moment of history. May the light of Your presence inspire our worship, inspire our lives, that together we will praise You and recognize You, as the Source of all creation, as the Strength that sustains, as the Sap that nurtures, as the Wisdom that foresees, as the Clarity that discovers, as the Love that understands, as the Mercy that forgives. May the light of Your presence, eternal and inextinguishable, shine on us now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

SING: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

VU663

Silent Prayers of Confession

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: In this moment, may we open ourselves for God's peace to dwell in our hearts trusting that the Holy One gives us hope, gives us peace, and gives us new life through the gift of endless grace and mercy.

All: We join our hearts in thanksgiving, for in receiving God's forgiveness, we are freed to love and forgive ourselves and others. Thanks be to God. Amen.

DOXOLOGY: "Halle, Halle, Halle"

VU958

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN:

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" VU541

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (written by Katherine Hawker)

We offer these gifts today, signs of our faith and our sacrifice. May Your lifegiving Spirit bless them that they may be used not to build monuments to Your distant glory, but as examples of Your intimate love within our church and our community today. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN: "This Is the Day" MV122

CHILDREN'S STORY

HYMN: "This Is the Day" MV122

SCRIPTURE:

Psalms 111 VU833
Luke 2:41-52

REFLECTION**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(Based on the poem "IF WE MISS YOU" by Andrew King)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: "Bathe Me In Your Light" MV82

BENEDICTION

One: Before we go, before our minds are filled with to do lists, before we turn to face the week ahead with all its obligations, before we allow our hearts to take in the busy, the stress, the highs and lows of living, what's say we steal a couple of extra moments in this temple of our God.

All: Let's breathe in the peace we find here, let's embrace the hope that is ours to claim here, let us linger a little longer, in the light of our Christ, that somehow shines a bit brighter when we're here together.

One: And when it is time for us to go, may we do so, trusting the blessing that goes with us.

All: The blessing of Mary, who never stopped thinking, the blessing of Joseph who never stopped searching, the blessing of Jesus who never stopped learning.

One: The blessing of God who never stops loving.
And all God's people said:

All: Amen.

BENEDICTION HYMN:

"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light" MV211

MINISTRY OF MUSIC