

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

Welcome to our Sunday Service

Rev. Donald Schmidt - Presiding
Sunday, October 10th, 2021



Rain and Restoration

PowerPoint Creation: Judi Ritcey, Summerland United
Scripture Reading: Kathryn McLaughlin
Words of Welcome: Larry Harder

GATHERING TIME
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

9:45AM
Rev. Donald Schmidt

ANNOUNCEMENTS
BELL RINGING
WORDS OF WELCOME

Larry Harder

A warm welcome to all, those from Summerland United and those joining us from other communities or congregations. If there are any visitors today, 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

Friends, we gather apart but together. I invite you now to switch to gallery view or scroll through your screen to witness the children of God gathered with us today.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE
WE SING TOGETHER

Rev. Donald Schmidt
VU 516 – Come You Thankful People Come

CALL TO WORSHIP

Responsorial

Dear children of God, rejoice and be glad!

The world is full of wonder and delight; God's creation echoes with joy.

When life seems to become a nightmare,

God can fill us with dreams of hope and courage.

By God's grace, our seeds of sorrow can yield a bumper crop of thanksgiving.

By God's love, our flood of tears become fountains of grace.

God does wonderful things.

We rejoice and give thanks.

OPENING PRAYER

In Unison

Hot showers in the morning, and cool breezes in the evening; work that provides for our families, and abundance that makes us generous; funny jokes told by third graders, and the silent tears of a grandmother lost in her childhood forever.

These blessings are ours, Joy of Creation.

Teachers who patiently help us with our math, and mentors who keep us on the right paths; friends who clear off sidewalks before we waken, and employers whose hearts are greater

than their profits; piano teachers who smile at our repeated mistakes, coaches who teach us (one more time) how to curl the ball into the goal.

These blessings are ours, Servant of Joy.

Dogs who bounce us awake early in the day and cats who lullaby us to sleep at night; grandfathers who teach us how to whittle and sisters who give up a date to babysit; little boys who always forget to wipe their mouths and people who always remember to say, “thank you.”

These blessings are ours, Joyous Spirit.

God always present in our gathering we offer you our never-ending thanks.

Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 291 – All Things Bright and Beautiful

SCRIPTURE READING – Joel 2: 21-27 & Matthew 6: 25-33

Kathryn McLaughlin

The Message

The Trees Are Bearing Fruit Again

²¹⁻²⁴ Fear not, Earth! Be glad and celebrate!

 GOD has done great things.

Fear not, wild animals!

 The fields and meadows are greening up.

The trees are bearing fruit again:

 a bumper crop of fig trees and vines!

Children of Zion, celebrate!

 Be glad in your GOD.

He’s giving you a teacher

 to train you how to live right—

Teaching, like rain out of heaven, showers of words

 to refresh and nourish your soul, just as he used to do.

And plenty of food for your body—silos full of grain,

 casks of wine and barrels of olive oil.

* * *

²⁵⁻²⁷ “I’ll make up for the years of the locust,

 the great locust devastation—

Locusts savage, locusts deadly,

 fierce locusts, locusts of doom,

That great locust invasion
I sent your way.
You'll eat your fill of good food.
You'll be full of praises to your GOD,
The God who has set you back on your heels in wonder.
Never again will my people be despised.
You'll know without question
that I'm in the thick of life with Israel,
That I'm your GOD, yes, *your* GOD,
the one and only real God.
Never again will my people be despised.

Matthew 6:25-33

The Message

²⁵⁻²⁶ “If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

²⁷⁻²⁹ “Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

³⁰⁻³³ “If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can respond to God's *giving*. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

These words come from the Scriptures of our traditions. May we find wisdom for our daily lives.

REFLECTION

Rev. Donald Schmidt

We SING TOGETHER

VU 356 – Seek Ye First

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Donald Schmidt

THE LORD’S PRAYER

An Adaptation by Jim Cotter

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain Bearer, Life-Giver, source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all, loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen

OFFERING

Rev. Donald Schmidt

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As you refresh us with all your gifts, God of Joy, we offer our gifts so that others might be touched by your grace, feed on the gifts of your creation, be clothed in the graciousness of your compassion, and embraced in your loving arms. Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

VU 236 – Now Thank We All Our God

BLESSING

Rev. Donald Schmidt

CHAT ROOMS

Dignity Is on the Menu

“We saw such a change in how people felt about themselves after experiencing this kind of a meal”



Rose enjoys a warm meal at Centre 507.

Credit: Centre 507

Most of us appreciate a well-dressed table and can afford to go out for dinner from time to time. Many of us will be sitting down to elaborate Thanksgiving dinners. Our daily experience doesn't involve standing in line for every single meal with a tray in hand.

That's why special dinners like Café Cinq-Zéro-Sept that Ottawa-based Mission & Service partner Centre 507 hosts are so important. Several times a year, the adult drop-in centre sets up a small room for a special fine-dining meal with gourmet food, decorations, and candlelight. For just two dollars, participants have their choice of meal accompanied by full service and great company.

“We realized that people in our community struggling with poverty had to wait in line a long time for a meal. When they were served, they weren't given any choice and felt pressured to leave so that the next person could be served. That's why we started Café Cinq-Zéro Sept,” says Richard LeBlanc, Centre 507's Executive Director. “We saw such a change in how people felt about themselves after experiencing this kind of a meal that our ultimate goal is that this dining experience becomes the norm rather than the exception.”

While COVID-19 has been challenging, it has also helped the drop-in take an important step toward achieving their goal. “One of the great things that happened is that when COVID hit, we had to start a system where everyone sat down and was served,” says LeBlanc.

Centre 507 now serves 25 people at sit-down meals and provides 150 people with meals to go each day. The café has incorporated a training program where participants learn to be servers, too. “We are taking the next step toward achieving our goal. We aren’t going back to line-ups after the pandemic,” vows LeBlanc.

Thank you for giving generously through Mission & Service. Your support helps create a world where everyone has enough food AND it’s served with dignity.