

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

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**A Joint Sunday Service for Summerland and Westbank United Churches**  
**Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt - Presiding**  
**Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**



*ephesians*

PowerPoint Creation: Judi Ritcey, Summerland United  
Words of Welcome: Colleen Power, Summerland United  
Scripture Reading: Ken Bridges, Westbank United

**GATHERING TIME**  
**INTRODUCTION & EXPLANATION**  
**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

9:45AM  
Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt  
Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt

**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**

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. Dr. Donald Schmidt  
**VU 268** – Bring Many Names

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Responsorial**

We come to worship God who is present in the nest built by a bird and in glorious clouds.

**We come to worship God, who provides sunshine and shelter.**

We come to worship God who cannot be contained by the universe, but is alongside us.

**We come to worship God who is never far away.**

Come, friends, and let us worship God.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**In Unison**

God our dwelling place, be close to us as we join together in worship. May our worship time be one of the ways we “get dressed,” one of the ways we get ready for our tasks so we will be equipped and protected, as together we work and walk with you. Amen.

**WE SING TOGETHER**

**VU 559** – Come O Fount of Every Blessing

**SCRIPTURE READING – Ephesians 6: 10-20 – CEB**

Ken Bridges, Westbank United

## **Put on the armor of God**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and his powerful strength. <sup>11</sup> Put on God's armor so that you can make a stand against the tricks of the devil. <sup>12</sup> We aren't fighting against human enemies but against rulers, authorities, forces of cosmic darkness, and spiritual powers of evil in the heavens. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, pick up the full armor of God so that you can stand your ground on the evil day and after you have done everything possible to still stand. <sup>14</sup> So stand with the belt of truth around your waist, justice as your breastplate, <sup>15</sup> and put shoes on your feet so that you are ready to spread the good news of peace. <sup>16</sup> Above all, carry the shield of faith so that you can extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word.

<sup>18</sup> Offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time. Stay alert by hanging in there and praying for all believers. <sup>19</sup> As for me, pray that when I open my mouth, I'll get a message that confidently makes this secret plan[a] of the gospel known. <sup>20</sup> I'm an ambassador in chains for the sake of the gospel. Pray so that the Lord will give me the confidence to say what I have to say.

## **REFLECTION**

Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt

## **We SING TOGETHER**

**MV 161** – I Have Called You By Your Name

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Dr. 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. Dr. Donald Schmidt

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt

We offer our gifts, trusting in you from whom all good things come and happy to share what we have. May our gifts be used to declare your love and care boldly. Amen.

**WE SING TOGETHER**

**VU 697 – O For A World**

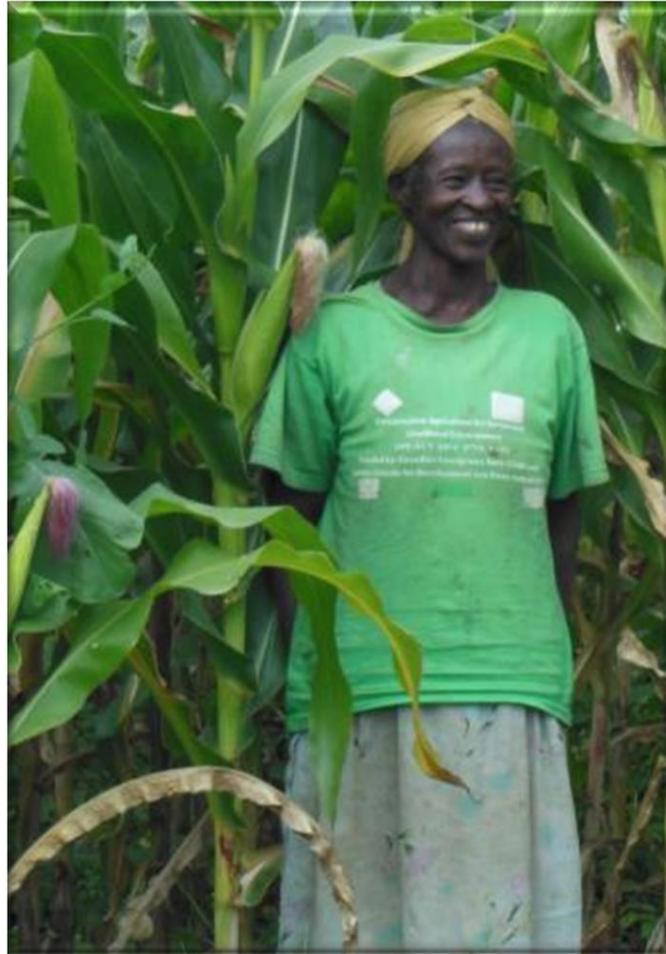
**BLESSING**

Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt

**BREAK INTO CHAT ROOMS**

# Women Farmers Like Barari Catalyze Change

Practicing conservation agriculture produces thriving crops.



Barari was the first farmer in her village to practice conservation agriculture.

*Credit: Emma Taylor*

It's not easy being a trailblazer no matter where you live. Barari was the first farmer in her small Ethiopian village to practise conservation agriculture, a method of reducing tilling and using intercropping and mulching to improve the success of crops.

Barari remembers the way the other farmers in her village laughed at her when she began to farm differently. "It is a waste of time," they said. "It will never work."

Fast forward three seasons: Barari's crops are overflowing. She beams with pride as she talks glowingly about her thriving crops, inviting visitors to taste her fava beans.

Barari's method of farming is so successful that she is able to feed her growing family of six. In fact, she has so much produce that she sells the extra to buy school supplies for her children. Barari learned these life-saving farming skills through a Canadian Foodgrains Bank program called Scaling-Up Conservation Agriculture in East Africa.

The program is important because most of the African continent's soil is poor quality compared to other parts of the world. In many areas the soil is so eroded that it is no longer productive. Conservation agriculture is key to improving the soil, which in turn saves lives. The United Church works in partnership with agencies that coordinate life-changing agricultural projects across the globe. Your generosity helps farmers feed their families and community.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please help save and transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world through [Mission & Service](#).

Supporting vital agriculture programs is how you—how we—help make a lasting difference. *This story is brought to you by Emma Taylor, who lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Emma participated in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank tour of Ethiopia through The United Church of Canada's People in Partnership program, where she met Barari. Check out her [blog post](#).*