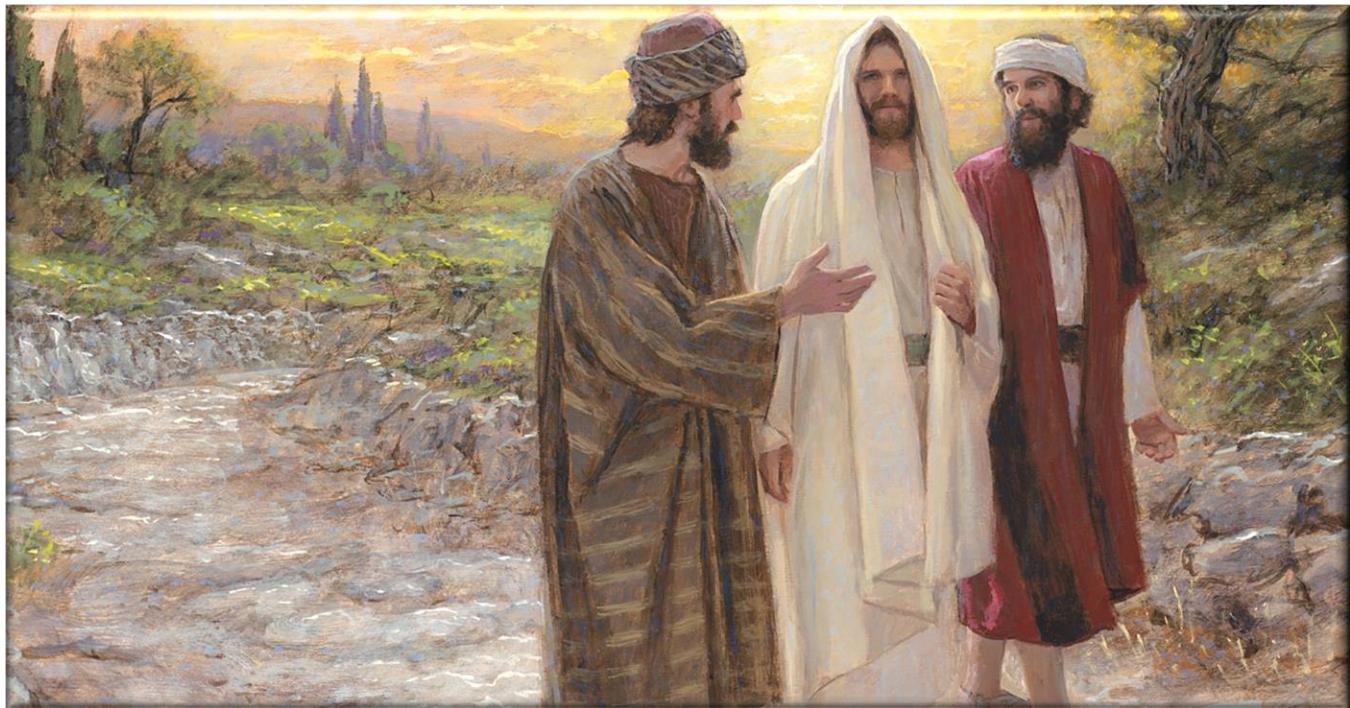




SUMMERLAND UNITED CHURCH
*celebrating faith
seeking justice and
serving others in a loving community*

**Sunday, April 18th, 2021 ✝ 10 a.m.
A Joint Sunday Service for Summerland and Westbank United Churches**

Rev. Donald Schmidt – Presiding



**Judi Ritcey – PowerPoint Creation – Summerland United
John Bubb – PowerPoint Presentation – Summerland United
Words of Welcome – Olive Hunter – Summerland United
Scripture Reading – Ken Bridges – Westbank United**

GATHERING TIME	9:45AM
INTRODUCTION	Rev. Donald Schmidt
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	Rev. Donald Schmidt

ANNOUNCEMENTS	Summerland & Westbank United
BELL RINGING	
WORDS OF WELCOME	Olive Hunter, Summerland United

A warm welcome to our friends from Summerland and Westbank 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	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You – VU 232
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CALL TO WORSHIP – The Whole People of God

Walking along the road, fishing, eating a meal; in the ordinary, everyday things, the disciples met the risen Christ.

Jesus is present among us.

Everything written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms has come true. We do not need to feel alone or confused. Jesus will always be with us.

Jesus is present among us.

Jesus loved his disciples, and Jesus loves us, too.

Jesus is present among us.

Let us praise God on this wonderful day!

Amen! Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER - Whole People of God

Holy God, you are like a parent, teaching and challenging us to be the best we can be, delighting in us and offering us all that you have. Help us to open our minds that we may hear

what Jesus is telling us. Open our hearts to hear what the Spirit is saying. Help us to discover the new possibilities that you lay before us. Help us to be the hands and feet of Jesus on earth, that we may do your work, as Christ's Body, in our world. Help us to be like Christ, that we may experience holiness in your creation and in each other. Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

Come, Children, Join to Sing – VU 345

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24: 13-35 – Ken Bridges, Westbank United

REFLECTION**WE SING TOGETHER**

Rev. Donald Schmidt

As We Walked Home – VU 184

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Rev. Donald Schmidt
THE LORD'S PRAYER	Rev. Donald Schmidt

OFFERING	Rev. Donald Schmidt
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we choose to give, as a way of giving thanks for the gifts that we have received, for the love that we have shared, for the healing we have felt. Amen.

WE SING TOGETHER

We Meet You, O Christ

BLESSING**CHAT ROOMS**

Rev. Donald Schmidt

MINUTE FOR MISSION

April 18 - The Incredible Difference Your Gifts Make: Bill's Story

In 1971, as a young adult who had fallen in love with nature at camp, Bill Darnell anxiously climbed on board a boat called Greenpeace with a small group of friends. Together, they set sail for the Arctic Ocean to stop the testing of a nuclear bomb, and the Greenpeace movement was born. "It was camp that really made me aware of nature and made me want to save it," says Bill. Your Mission & Service donations support 25 United Church-run camps across the country. Every year, your generosity gives thousands of children an opportunity to attend

camp. Who knows? One of them might be so impressed by our natural world that they create another movement to save it. An inspiring story perfect for Earth Sunday!

None of us can go a single day without having an impact on someone's life. And we can't always predict how what we do to help change a life might wind up changing ours, too.

Take Bill Darnell. Bill's love affair with nature began at camp, but it didn't end there. Far from it. Bill's childhood experience of camp wound up inspiring



one of the world's most influential environmental movements.

"Camping had a big effect on me. I grew up in suburbia and didn't have much access to the natural world. Camping was an opportunity to go out and be in nature. It was amazing. Being at camp solidified my strong connection with the natural world," he says.

Bill's early camp experience instilled such a love of nature that when he became an adult, he became an environmental activist. "When I was 25 years old, not far removed from my years in camp, I saw that they were testing nuclear weapons. That was so obviously wrong that I felt I had to do something to stop it," he says.

So, Bill and a small group of friends anxiously climbed on board an 85-foot fishing boat later dubbed Greenpeace. Together, they set sail for Alaska to stop the testing of a nuclear bomb. Greenpeace as a movement was born.

Bill's story proves that camping experiences in childhood can lead to a lifelong commitment to care for God's creation. As scientists and activists sound the alarm around climate change and experts report that not spending enough time outside is having an impact on our children's health and well-being, outdoor ministry has never been more crucial. It's just one of the many reasons why Mission & Service really matters.

Your Mission & Service gifts support over two dozen United Church-run camps across the country. Every year, your generosity gives thousands of children an opportunity to go to camp. There, they learn life skills, meet other campers, explore faith, and spend time outside.

Like Bill, some young people may leave camp so impressed by the natural environment that they get on board a movement to take care of it. "Camping made an incredible difference in my life. I know it will make an incredible difference to young people across Canada. I give thanks to those who support it," Bill says.

Please make a gift to Mission & Service today. Your support not only makes a difference right now but also has an impact on the future for all of us who are blessed to live in the beautiful world God created.