



## DOWNTOWN UNITED

September 3, 2017

Rev. Michelle Armstrong, Rev. Ellen Beairsto,  
Rev. Richard Bowley

---

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.  
At the points marked \* - those who are able are invited to stand.

### THE PEOPLE GATHER

#### Organ Prelude

#### Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle & Introit:** Lord, Prepare Me MV #18

#### Welcome & Announcements

\***Gathering Hymn:** In Loving Partnership We Come VU #603

#### Call to Worship:

People of God, come with a spirit of joy!

**We come to worship God with hearts and hands and voices.**

People of God, come with a spirit open to mystery!

**We come to worship God**

**Trembling, filled with awe and wonder.**

People of God, come with humility and simplicity!

**We come to worship God**

**Deeply aware that we long to be more. Let us worship God,**

**be filled with God, be changed by God. Amen.** Kate Crawford

## **Opening Prayer:**

Surprising God, you have an uncomfortable habit of showing up where we least expect you:

In a burning bush,  
in the face of an enemy,  
in a livestock feed trough,  
on a rough wooden cross.

Each time, you turn our lives upside down with your radical love. Help us welcome your surprises so that we may revel in the joy of being fully embraced by your all-encompassing grace, mercy and love. And follow your call to embody these gifts in the world. Amen.

-Adapted from prayer by Laura Bartlett, Ministry Matters

## **Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart**

**\*Family Hymn:**                      Come to My Heart                      VU #661

### **LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

#### **Connecting to Our Heart's Longing:**

**God of Mystery, we are constantly amazed (or surprised) by the depth and breadth of your love. Over and over again, you turn our expectations inside out and upside down. And still we don't understand the radical nature of your grace.**

**Too often we slip into pursuing our own interests and following our own rules of justice, leading us exclude and forget those we are called to love and defend. In our darkest moments of self-absorption, we doubt if we are worthy of your trust and love.**

**God help us remember that you have called us and given us all the tools we need. On the solid foundation of your love, we find strength to follow your call to be disciples of Christ. Surprise us again, O God. Surprise us again!**

Prayer adapted from Laura Bartlett, Worship Elements Sept 3, 2017 on ministry matters.

## **Words of Assurance :**

The God who brought our ancestors out of slavery will not desert us. God has promised to be with us throughout all generations. Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice, For God is with us! – Laura Bartlett

**First Scripture Reading:** Romans 12: 9-21 Kelly Ebbett

Herein is wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Musical Offering**

**Second Scripture Reading:** Matthew 16: 21-28

Herein is good news. **Praise be to God.**

**Sermon:** To Take Up The Cross Rev. M. Armstrong

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**\*Hymn:** God of the Bible (Fresh as the Morning) MV #28

## **Invitation to the Offering**

## **Offertory Music**

**\*Offertory Verse:** VU #543

**We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee.**

## **\* Prayer of Dedication**

## **Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (sung) VU #959

**\*Closing Hymn:** I Have Called You by Your Name MV #161

## Sending Forth

### **\*Commissioning:**

The God we worship is never confined to this holy place.

So go and travel with the God

who is found in ordinary and surprising places.

*(The candle is extinguished)*

**Walk with us as we move out from our security.**

**Motivate us to take risks like Jesus.**

**Reassure and recommit us to a life of service,**

**With no strings attached,**

**just love given freely and fully in Christ's name.**

**Amen.**

Adapted from Rev. Rex Hunt, Liturgies for the Celebration of Life

### **\*Sung Benediction**

VU #424

May the God of Hope – (verse 1)

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.

**Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all, working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

### **Postlude**

\*\*\*\*\*

If you wish, you are invited to remain for the Postlude as it is part of our Worship Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WELCOME** to our service of worship and thank you for being with us this morning. A special welcome to our friends from St. Paul's as we come together as Downtown United for our final service for the summer. Everyone is invited to join us for **ICED TEA & CONVERSATION** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall immediately following this morning's service of worship. Thank you to **Maggie Clarke** for hosting this time of fellowship.

**CONDOLENCES:** Our sincere condolences are extended to the Heard family on the passing of Steve's father, the Rev. Doug Heard. Rev. Heard was a United Church minister, retiring in 2002. His service will be held this afternoon (Sept 3) at the Kanata United Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with Steve, Kristie and Jamie.

**WILMOT NEEDS** more *Occasional Door Supervisors* on our roster! Great way to earn extra money! Door supervisors are responsible for security, admission of individuals into the building and would have light custodial duties. Door supervisors are particularly employed when Wilmot has been rented for an event or concert by outside groups. Possibility of Sunday morning employment approx. 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. – to be available before, during, after Sunday worship service to open up and close building, security and door supervision, some set up or take down along with light custodial duties as well as snow clearing at entrance during winter. Training is provided. This role would be suitable for senior high school, post secondary students, and adults of any age. Expressions of interest can be emailed to M&P Committee ATTENTION: Judy Coates, Chair of M&P [Judycoates@rogers.com](mailto:Judycoates@rogers.com) cc [wilmotuc@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:wilmotuc@nb.sympatico.ca) or submit your name and contact info to Marlene in the church office. Someone from Ministry and Personnel will contact you to discuss this position.



The deadline for articles and notices for the fall issue of *Words from Wilmot* is Friday, September 8, in order to have it printed and ready for distribution on Sunday, September 17. The fall edition will include activities and information from September 17 to November 26. Please send your contributions to Lucille Caseley at: [lcaseley@caseley.net](mailto:lcaseley@caseley.net).

**“WELCOME SUNDAY”** is September 10. Worship will begin at 11:00 a.m. Chairs of Committees are encouraged to start thinking about setting up an information display for that day. Thank you.

**WEDNESDAY AT WILMOT:** Old Mother Hubbard says *“The Cupboards are Bare!”* W@W will be starting again on September 13<sup>th</sup>. We have no supplies for the Top-Up table and funds for Victory vouchers are very low. The first Sunday of September is Benevolent Sunday. If you are able to donate to Benevolent or bring in food for the Top-Up table it would be greatly appreciated. We hope to be able to provide food and vouchers to 75 of our Wednesday friends as they have received no help in this regard for the past three months. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. Also, we are looking for volunteers to join one of our four teams. If you have three to four hours to spare one Wednesday a month and are interested in joining one of our teams please contact Rita Roach at 206-2948 or Beth Paynter at 451-5082. Thank you for your continued support.

**WILMOT SENIORS:** Please join us on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon as we kick off our new year with a pot luck lunch. After lunch our guests will be John Beyea and Ian Stewart who will treat us to some musical fun and entertainment. It's going to be a great time with delicious food, fun and fellowship. All Seniors are very welcome!!



### **FALL BOOK SALE**

Wilmot United will be hosting a Book Sale on Oct. 5th and 6th from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. each day. If you have books you wish to donate, you may leave them at the church.

**ATTENTION WILMOTERS:** Parking stickers have arrived! Please see Marlene in the office to purchase your sticker (\$10).

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**SEPT. 7:** Brunswick Street Baptist Church is pleased to offer ***Grief Share***, beginning Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. a 13-week video series by Christian experts on grief and recovery, combined with support group discussions for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Please call **458-8348** if you would like more information.

**SEPT. 9:** Sheffield United Church, Lakeville Corner United Church and Scotchtown United Church are hosting a **QUILTING DISPLAY** on Sat., Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. It will include antique and modern quilting samples. Location: Sheffield United Church, 2169 Route 105, Sheffield, NB. An opportunity to travel down the beautiful St. John River, visit this beautiful old church and meet their members. Light refreshments will be provided.

**SEPT. 11:** St. Theresa's Catholic Women's League 16 Annual *Twilight Retreat* will be held at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, 1 William Street, Fredericton, on Monday, September 11, 2017 in the Anne Wrynn Hall. Registration is at 4:15 pm with the first session beginning at 4:30 pm and a potluck at 5:30 pm. This year's facilitator is Fr. Martin Arputham. The theme is "Inspired by the Spirit - Women Respond to God's Call". Men, women and teens are welcome. Contact person: Debbie at 472-2916 or Trish at 238-7121.

**SEPT. 12:** 7th Fredericton Beavers and Cubs (co-ed) will be registering on Tuesday, Sept. 12th at St. Paul's United Church from 6:30 to 8 p.m. We have leaders with lots of room for youth. Beaver age is 5, 6 and 7; Cubs are 8, 9, and 10. There is funding for registration through Scouting if needed. See Scouts Canada – "No one left behind" fund for details. Email contact for more information is [jocraighenry@mail.com](mailto:jocraighenry@mail.com) Scouts ages 11 to 14 will be registering at Saint Anne's church at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12th.

**SEPT. 12:** Divorcecare will be held at Grace Memorial Baptist Church on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 12 and running for 13 weeks. Cost is \$25 and scholarships are available upon request.

**SEPT. 13:** GriefShare will be held at Grace Memorial Baptist Church on Mondays from 7 – 9 p.m. beginning Sept 18 and running for 13 weeks. Cost is \$25 and scholarships are available upon request.

**SEPT. 27: Opportunity for Dialogue: Christian Theist/Atheist Perspectives**

You are invited to participate in a day of dialogue on this topic: with guest presenter Gretta Vosper and two of her West Hill United Church congregants in daytime sessions (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) held at Forest Hill United church and again in an evening public dialogue (7 – 9 p.m.) with Gretta and theist presenter Dr. John Valk at Dineen Auditorium, UNB. (Dr. Chris Levan will also be available to take feedback for Toronto Southeast Presbytery.) Lunch and refreshments are provided for daytime sessions. Participation is by your donation to cover travel, food and other costs for daytime, and \$10 admission for the evening but no one turned away. Contact Owen Washburn ([owenw@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:owenw@nbnet.nb.ca)) to register. Detailed brochure and program available in print or by email Owen or from Gail Wylie ([wylie1@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:wylie1@nb.sympatico.ca)).

