

GAETZ MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

“Sharing Faith – Serving Community”

November 19, 2017 – 10:30 am

Affirming Celebration

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\*An asterisk indicates stand as you are able

Bold face print indicates that we read together

VU indicates Voices United hymnal; MV indicates More Voices hymnal

**WE ENTER IN**

**Musical Prelude**

“Awake My Soul” Silver Bells

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Time for Centering**

**Introit**

“Rainbow Connection” Emma Van Hyfte

**Call to Worship** *responsive*

The rainbow is a sign of diversity and hope,

**a reminder of the covenant made between God and humanity.**

Red is the colour of strawberry and rose petal, passion and birth.

**Sweet and vivacious, colour of life: red.**

**Thank you God!** *(red sand is poured)*

Orange is the colour of pumpkin and flame, warmth and compassion.

**Bright and enlivening, colour of healing: orange.**

**Thank you God!** *(orange sand is poured)*

Yellow is the colour of lemon and sun, joy and enthusiasm.

**Radiant and bold, colour of hope: yellow.**

**Thank you God!** *(yellow sand is poured)*

Green is the colour of inchworm and pine, calm and growth.

**Restful and abundant, colour of nature: green.**

**Thank you God!** *(green sand is poured)*

Blue is the colour of sky and mountain ridge, depth and inspiration.

**Soaring and fluent, colour of harmony: blue.**

**Thank you God!** *(blue sand is poured)*

Purple is the colour of grape and lilac, strength and dignity.

**Profound and majestic, colour of spirit: purple.**

**Thank you God!** *(purple sand is poured)*

In God's sight, all humanity is a rainbow people.  
Come, let us worship God together.

**\*Hymn            God of the Sparrow            VU 229**

**Opening Prayer**     *together*

**God of brilliant sunsets and shining rainbows,  
God of golden daffodils and glowing autumn leaves,  
God of all the blues of sunlit seas,  
God of all the greens in bush and field,  
in rivers and oceans and lakes,  
in rough stones on a beach  
and polished jewels in a showcase.  
God of people,  
brown and amber, pink and ebony,  
artistic and athletic,  
practical and visionary,  
compassionate and laughter-bringing.  
God who colours us a world of variety,  
we thank you.  
We thank you that you have made  
each of us unique,  
that you call us to contribute our special colours  
to the life around us.  
We come to you in thanksgiving and worship.  
Amen.**

**Gift of Music**     "I Worship You, Almighty God"  
                                 Sanctuary Choir

**Prayer of Confession**     *responsive*

We gather now,  
to declare,  
with the repentant God of Genesis  
(the colours of the first rainbow  
still dripping from Her brush),  
                 **"Never again"**  
We gather under this prism of penitence,  
cosmic reminder  
of all that must elicit from us  
this sacred mantra:

## **“Never again.”**

Never again, to the xenophobic fear  
that issues in a holocaust.

Never again, to the colonizing arrogance  
that causes another species to disappear forever.

Never again, to the pursuit of private gain  
while Lazarus and his children  
sit hungry outside our gates.

Never again, to the world’s way  
of transforming suffering into violence.

**May we be a rainbow people,  
joining with God in keeping  
this ancient covenant,  
living the promise  
of a new creation  
being born through us.  
Amen.**

## **Moment of Silence**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

## **Sung Response**

VU 951

**Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are Holy God!  
Santo, santo, santo. Mi corazon te adora!  
Mi corazon te sabe decir: Santo eres Dios!**

## **WE ENCOUNTER**

## **Learning Together**

Rabbi Marc Gellman’s story “The Bird-Feather Rainbow”, based on  
Genesis 9:8-17

Narrated by: Dale Dickau and Rev. Sarah Fanning  
featuring our children & youth, as well as members of the  
Affirming Committee

## **Reflecting Together**

## **WE ENGAGE**

**Offertory Music** “For Good” Sam & Lisa Palmer

**\*Dedication** We Give You But Your Own VU 542

**We give you but your own,  
whate’er the gift may be.  
All that we have is yours alone,  
we give it gratefully.**

**Offertory Prayer** *together*

**Spirit of openness and affirmation,  
we dedicate these gifts to the ministry of love  
and acceptance in the world.  
May we ever seek to use all of our resources  
to create a world and a church  
where all are welcomed and honoured,  
loved and fully known.  
This we pray in the name of Jesus,  
Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer** (spoken)

**\*Hymn** As a Fire is Meant for Burning VU 578

**Letters & Certificate**

**\*Commissioning**, spoken “Our Vision Statement”

**\*Benediction & Bubbles**

**Gift of Music** “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” – Golden Gaetz  
Ringers

**Passing the Peace**



**Affirm / S'affirmer**  
**UNITED / ENSEMBLE**

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