



Shall we gather by the river?

A service on the Levitical Purity Code in Light of The Novel Coronavirus

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Cover Photo by Lorraine Powell

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

APPROACHED TO GOD

Before the service, meditate and speak to God. During the service let God speak to you. After the service talk to each other and the wider community about God.

KEYS

Words printed in ALL caps & bold are spoken or sung by everyone. At places marked †, you are invited to stand, as you are able.

Functionaries

ON PIANO

- Lindsay Lundquist

SINGERS

- Elaine Nielsen
- Leona Harrison

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER

- Rev. Lorraine Powell
- Allison Glanfield

SCRIPTURE READING

- Lindsay Lundquist



Order of Worship

CENTERING HYMN: ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY MV # 4[†]

CANDLE CEREMONY



As we light this candle, it is a sign of our faith and love for God. It symbolizes the Holy Spirit continual presence with us.

Like this candle, we are ready to be used in the Service of God.

Even as this candle, we are the light of God shining in the world. We are the calming glow amid the chaos being experienced in our world at this time.

WELCOME & NOTICES

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: As we take a personal and collective journey through life's uplifts and hassles today.

People: We recall each step our ancestors took in traversing dangerous lands, roaring bodies of waters, faced disease and isolations yet survived. This reminds us of our resilience as a part of God's creation.

One: It was a journey filled with uncertainties, pain, and the fear of isolation.

People: But God's love was ever-present then, in the same way, God is present in our midst as we too face our times of uncertainties, fear and isolation.

One: Yes, indeed God is here!

People: How can we tell?

One: Do you feel the caress of the wind? Does your spirit sing with music? Can you see or imagine someone who makes you smile? Do you feel a sense calm, even in the chaos around you? Do you have a deep yearning for something more? Do you sense the healing of running water?

People: Is that of God?

One: The caressing of the wind, the music, the smile, the calm the yearning and the healing sound of water— these point to the presence of God.

People: Ah, I remember. Jesus said God is spirit, and the worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth. While the apostle Paul reminded us that we are God's temple and God's Spirit lives in us.

One: Come then, let us worship our Holy God who is always with us.

HYMN: RIVER RUNNING IN YOU AND ME MV #163 †

OPENING PRAYER

Ever Present and Holy God,

You are our Alpha and Omega, our Strong Hold and Place of Refuge. We thank you for drawing us to this place and time and for breaking out in our midst. It doesn't matter how often we become anxious or troubled, your healing words always falls afresh in our spirits. Thank you for visiting us anew moment by moment.

Even in these chaotic times with the pandemic and pandemonium of the coronavirus, you startle us with your revelation of goodness and mercy and stagger us with your healing presence. As we worship you this morning and go through these periods of isolations, sway us with your hope and patience that our eyes will remain wide open to the wonders you are doing in our world and in us. This we ask in Christ name. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God of Compassion and Grace,

You have given us your creation to be good stewards, talents and intellects to solve various problems. You give us gifts and resources in abundance for all we need. Yet we often hoard the gifts you have given us and misuse the resources we have been given. Forgive us, God. Though you have created us to be fruitful in spirit, we produced less of the fruits of your Spirit and more of the fruits for our self-interest.

People: Forgive us for the things we have done that you ask us not to do, the things we have left undone that you asked us to do and are causing us to weaken and stumble.

Time for silent confession

ASSURANCE

One: Amid emptiness, chaos and uncertainty, God is present. In our repentance and rest, is our healing, and in quietness and trust in God is our strength.

ALL: Thank you, God. Amen

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- **SPECIAL SELECTION: DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Leviticus 11 – 18 (**14:1-9**) Message Version
- Hebrews 10:22-25 Message Version

THE REFLECTION

RESPONSE HYMN: RIVER MV #3 †

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

God of Love, God of Peace and God of Joy,
We praise you for the many ways you fill our souls with what we need.
When we feel alone, you are ever-present.
When we feel unworthy, you wrap us in a deep love that knows no end.
You cherish each of us as your children, no matter how imperfect and fallen we may be.
We pray for those who long to know your love,
and we pray that you can use us to offer love to even our hard-to-love neighbor.

You are a God of peace, a God of *shalom*.
When we feel torn apart and divided by the conflict of the world,
you give us a peace that transcends all understanding.

Our hope can be found in your calming Spirit.
Although we cannot understand the big picture,
although we cannot understand why some things happen,
we can rest assured knowing that you have got it all within your grasp,
your love will undeniably conquer our brokenness.

You are a God of joy, and with that we have hope.
We pray that you, our God of hope,
will fill us with all joy and peace as we learn to trust in you,
so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Allow us to become instruments of your joy
and hope in a world that so desperately seeks the Good news you alone can offer.
We pray all of these things in the name of the one who modelled your sacrificial love on earth,
the one who taught us to pray saying, "Our Father...."

Adapted - originally delivered 11/11/2018 at New World UMC Traditional service

HYMN: SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER? VU #710 †

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

One: Go into your communities. Do not linger. Here you have heard and has been blessed.
You are the blessing of God to the world. There is no other word you need to here than these
words, go and tell in words in actions the gospel message of healing and hope and may the
Peace of Triune God journey with you. **Amen**

PASSING THE PEACE

RESPONSE: JESUS SAY THEM FISHING MV #113 †

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Announcements & Credits

Thank you to all who participated in today's worship, I pray you have been greatly blessed.

Remember, for those we are unable to connect with any reason; call to buoy up their spirits,
and/or pray for them and entrust them to the care of the divine.

Due to physical distancing caused by the Corona Virus, COVID 19, all church activities that
require physical contact are suspended until further notice.

Those of you who are on PAR and those who mailed in the gifts and offerings thank you. You can
also e-transfer your gift and offerings to zionunitedarmstrongbc@gmail.com

*We are always happy to hear your comments and queries. If you have a prayer request you may
use the messenger tab here or email them to standrewsenderby@hotmail.com*

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All who are thirsty More Voices #4

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River running in you and me More Voices #163

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Down to the river to pray

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River More Voices #3

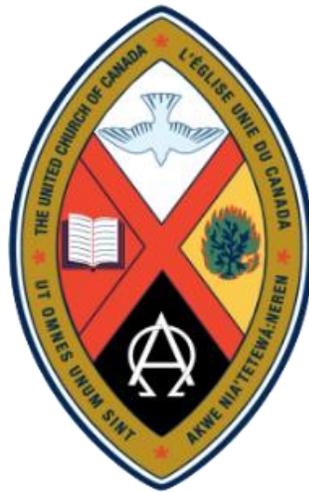
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Shall we gather at the river? Voices United #710

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Jesus say them fishing More Voices #113

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