



## OFFERTORY INVITATION

### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY CHORUS:** *Spirit, Open My Heart* MV79  
*Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit open my heart.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:** (together) Humbly we come, O God, offering gifts out of love. You have blessed us with the gift of Your Son. Bless us now that we may use these gifts, and ourselves, to follow the path Jesus trod, to become faithful disciples, Spirit-led and Jesus-called. Amen.

**HYMN:** *Fairest Lord Jesus* 341

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 42: 1-9  
Mark 1: 4-11

### MEDITATION

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION:** (One) God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (together) Loving God, we come into Your presence acknowledging the shallow places of our faith, but seeking completeness in You. In our hearts our resolve is to be more faithful. Our desire is to be filled more with hope and love. Hear our prayer for new beginnings. May our newness make us the instruments of Your peace. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:** (One) Our baptism marks us for life as one of the people of Christ. Christ upon us, the water of our baptism; Christ within us, the cup of new life. Let us sin no more, and let us accept the grace of the Risen One.

**A NEW CREED** 918

**HYMN:** *As We Gather at Your Table* 457

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Please follow the congregation communion liturgy.)

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE CUP

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:** (together) God of great mystery, we have shared in Your feast, not only with those who gather in this place this morning, we also share this

Holy Communion with sisters, brothers, and siblings around the world. A range of languages and smiles have praised You, O God, from all around the earth. Unite us to one another. Recommit us to Your cause. May Your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN:** *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

509

**SENDING FORTH:**

One: We go forth to love and serve others in the spirit of Christ.

**All: We will remember, and we will celebrate God's presence as we leave this place of worship. Thanks be to God.**

**BLESSING**

*(Let us share the peace of Christ with each other as we leave.)*

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

*St. James United Church Life and Work, January 12, 2020*

**We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:**

**\*to the General Fund** from Lorna Jamieson in loving memories of:

husband, Bas Jamieson,

mother Mildred Blackwood,

sister Ida Dowden,

brother Walter Blackwood Jr.;

**\*to the Organ Maintenance Fund** in loving memory of T. Alex Hickman from Nancy and family.

**Youth Group in 2020:** First meeting of the year today after the 11am Service.

**Are you looking to help in some way?** Our Lay Visitation Program Co-ordinator is seeking folks who may be interested in participating in the program. If this area of help speaks to you, please call or email SuAn in the office, and let her know your availability.

**Tuesday, January 14 at 2pm: Pleasant View Towers Worship Service.** Volunteers are asked to meet at 1:30 in the chapel to plan the congregation pick-ups; new volunteers are always welcome!

**Wednesday, January 15:** AOTS dinner meeting at 5pm for 5:30 in the Auditorium. New members are always welcome, and encouraged to join.

**Saturday, January 18 at 4:30pm: Contemporary Worship Service** on the new day at the new time! Please join us on Saturday afternoons at 4:30 for another chance to worship.

**January 18-25: Week of prayer for Christian Unity:** The St John’s and Area Council of Churches invites you to join them at the Annual Service to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 3:00pm on Sunday, 19 January at the Salvation Army Citadel, Adams Avenue. The theme is *“They showed us unusual kindness”* (Acts 28:2), prepared by the churches of Malta. Speakers are Lieut Col Eddie Vincent and Archbishop Peter Hundt.

**Monday, January 20: Loose Threads Sewing Studio Winter Session begins.**

**Valentine’s Day Fundraiser:** Our 2020 Valentine’s Day fund raiser will be held on Friday, February 14. Once again, the evening of fun and fellowship will include a concert followed by a dessert party. There will also be a silent auction along with other special events. If you’re interested in volunteering to assist, please contact Paul Walsh at paul.walsh@cim.ca or at 690-2767.

**Minute for Mission:** Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries to hold space for those who otherwise would be lost and unknown. A simple candle is lit in the chapel at First United Church in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. The gathering on unceded Coast Salish traditional territory is acknowledged. We honour a community member who has died from drug poisoning. People in our neighborhood have come for many reasons. In spite of living on or below poverty incomes, in inadequate housing or rough on the street, they have made this community their home. In a relatively small footprint of land, people know and care deeply for one another. Today the church opens its doors to hold space for affirming life. Across Canada, more than 12,800 opioid-related deaths occurred between January 2016 and March 2019. 82 percent of accidental opioid-related deaths involved fentanyl or fentanyl analogues. Likely every church and community has been affected by drug poisoning. Vancouver’s inner city has been profoundly shaken by this pandemic. Public education, access to harm reduction supplies and safe consumption sites have begun to slowly reduce the numbers. We advocate for change in drug policy, increased housing, easier access to treatment facilities, and more supports for those who struggle with mental illness. Your support for Mission & Service allows First United and other community ministries to continue a ministry of seeking justice and holding space for life.

**If you would like to participate** in any of the following activities on a Sunday, please fill out the information below and return it to the office.

I can help with the following on some Sunday:

<input type="checkbox"/> Testing the sound system	<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Hour	<input type="checkbox"/> Communion
<input type="checkbox"/> Ushering	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Scripture Reading

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE END**