



May this time of worship genuinely nurture your spiritual needs and powerfully transform some aspect of your life. A warm welcome to all visitors and persons seeking a relationship with a faith community. Please fill out the blue friendship pad located in each pew and/or sign our Guest Book found in the entryway and/or email/call our Minister. Following this service please join us for refreshment and community building in the Rev. Ewen Moase Memorial Fellowship Hall. You never know who you might meet...

Our hosts for today are... **The Reardon and Rice Families**  
**Phillip, Kim, Lucy, and Heidi & Greg, Stephanie, Ryan and Andrew**

*Today's bulletin is in loving memory of son  
Dale Woodworth and granddaughter Emma Layne  
from Alfred & Diane Woodworth and family.*



**Bethany United Church**  
**Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

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**The Preparation**

**Music for the Gathering**

Praeludium

D. Bedard

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

We are thankful to be here this morning. We are blessed to know the spirit of resurrection and new life in Jesus, in Creation and in each other. In the spirit of knowing and respecting each other we acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the Mi'kmaq people. May we live with respect on this land that was first theirs and live together in peace.

**Introit**

**Praise God for this holy ground, place and people, sight and sound.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.**

**Call to Community:**

Jesus challenges us in today's gospel:

**Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.**

Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them; and taking the child in his arms, he said to them:

**Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.**

We are still learning today what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago. To change the world we must change the way we love and welcome all children!

**May we learn to love all children as if they were our own!**

Will all the children present please lift up your voices so all of us adults can hear you? Say your name and say "Hello!"

Children: Say their names and "hello"

**Welcome, children!**

**Prayer of Confession**

Let us think about all the children in our own lives, our community's life, and in our world. What are their needs; where do we fail as individuals and community in welcome, nurture and care for them? (Silence)

**Dear God, We often have not welcomed the children as Jesus has commanded. Too many children in our community and world suffer from violence, abuse, neglect and poverty. We know that if we were to join together to welcome and care, to celebrate and honor our children we**

would save ourselves and our world. We need forgiveness. We want to make amends. We want to change. We want to learn to welcome all children, for in loving and caring for them, we welcome your reign of justice and peace.

### Words of Forgiveness

We give thanks for our savior and teacher Jesus Christ, who was born among us as a child needing nurture and care, and grew to reveal your power to make all things new. We give thanks and rejoice that in Christ we are forgiven and given strength to grow in discipleship.

**Thanks be to God!**

Hymn VU#312 Praise with Joy the World's Creator

## Our Response in Giving and Prayer

Welcome and the Life and Work of our Church Family

Ministry of Music: Brother James' Air

G. Jacob

Hymn VU#345 *Come, Children, Join to Sing*

All God's Children Louisa Duck

Mission Minute: Sandra Nicholas, Executive Director - Brunswick St. Mission

Presentation of Ourselves and Our Offerings

Ministry of Music: Bless the Lord, O My Soul

M. Ivanoff

Prayer of Dedication: VU#537

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share. Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

## The Ministry of the Word

Sacred Readings:

*Psalm 1* VU#724

Ann Bradley

*Mark 9:30-37*

Hedley Brenton

Sermon: *Who do you welcome?*

Passing the Peace

## The Sending of the Church

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn VU#664 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Blessing:

Go forth and welcome all God's children, making the last, first, and becoming a servant to all. Like Jesus, take a little child and put her among you; take her into your arms, and remember, Whoever welcomes one such child welcomes

God! Go forth to change the world as Jesus has commanded by offering welcome, justice and compassion to all children and to the “least of these.” Go forth in God’s welcome and love. **Amen.**

**Prayer for Going forth: (Sung)**

The time has come, O God, for us to leave this place.  
Guide us and protect us, and lead us in Thy grace.  
Wherever life may take us, as we go our separate ways,  
Help us share with others, the things we’ve shared today.  
May the peace of God the Father, and the love of Christ His Son,  
Guide us in the days ahead, and shelter us each one;  
May the blessings of the Spirit, fill us from within,  
Protect us and return us, to this fellowship once again

**Music for going forth**

**Voluntary**

**D. Bedard**

*“Our Worship has ended -- Now our Service begins.”*

**Ushers - September 2018 - Elroy McKillop, Les Russell, Gary Armstrong & Kyla Mills**

**TRANSPORTATION DRIVER** - If you require a ride to church, please make arrangements by 9 p.m. of the Friday before the Sunday Service. If you need to cancel the pick-up, please notify the volunteer. For driver information please call **Heather Gillis at 902-454-5309 or Harriet King 902 477-5851**

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**PAR:** If you contribute to the Church through PAR and wish to acknowledge this during the offering, there are PAR cards available in the narthex for you to place in the collection plate. Please remember to indicate your envelope number and/or name, and address on any plain or visitor envelopes. To confirm your envelope or PAR number contact the Office.

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**Quote of the Week:**

*“Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth.” Marcus Aurelius*

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**Time to put on your God Suede Shoes -  
Sunday September 30th at 7:00 PM  
with the Bethany Jazz Quartet,  
The Bethany Choir, Lyn MacMillan, and Rev. Kevin Little.  
There might even be a little Elvis! A reception will follow.**