

# DEVOTED

ACTS 2:42-47



## **Britannia United Church**

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**Sunday Service**

**May 7, 2017**

**10:15 a.m.**

**Meditation:** “Teamwork makes the dream work.” *Bang Gae*

**Welcome:** to Britannia United Church. Our **nursery** is always available to children three years of age and younger. It is at the end of the hall by the office. **Headsets** are available for those who need assisted hearing. Please speak to our sound technician. Please join in the reading if it is **bold** and *italic*. Coffee and Tea are available at the back of the church, after the service.

### **We Gather in God’s Name**

**Introit:** We Praise You for the Sun (225)

### **Announcements**

### **Prelude**

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 2:42-47 (NT, pg 120, Heather Wallace)

### **Sung Response:**

Day by day, day by day.  
oh, dear Lord, three things I pray:  
to see Thee more clearly,  
love Thee more dearly,  
follow Thee more nearly,  
day by day. (repeat)

**Call to Worship:** In This Community  
Dori Jensen and Rev. Jim

\* **Hymn:** Deep in Our Hearts

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;  
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;  
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,  
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;  
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;

deep in our hearts there is a common current,  
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.

**Prayer of Approach:** Finding God Together

The image you have shaped within us,  
mysteriously,  
incredibly,  
a reflection of your own Being,  
Is best seen in the multiple refractions,  
of our variegated humanity;  
in the prismatic kaleidoscopes,  
of our shared life,  
our interconnectedness,  
our being with each other.

*We seek you, God, we long for you  
and, thankfully, you are not far off  
not hidden;*

*We need only remember  
that you are most easily found  
when we find you together,  
and when we are humble enough to look  
even in the faces we find most strange and unfamiliar.*

**Anthem**

**Theme Presentation**

**Minute for Mission**

**We Hear God's Word**

**Scripture Song:** Psalm 23 (747)

**Message:** What Can We Learn from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm?

**Prayer:** Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd,  
Teach us to follow you

*to care for all that are close to us,  
to protect those who are threatened,  
to welcome those who are rejected,  
to forgive those who are burdened by guilt,  
to heal those who are broken and sick,  
to share with those who have little or nothing,  
to take the time to really know one another  
and love as you have loved us.*

Good Shepherd,  
Teach us to follow you  
*to spread compassion to those who are far away,  
to speak for those who are voiceless,  
to defend those who are oppressed and abused,  
to work for justice for those who are exploited,  
to make peace for those who suffer violence,  
to take the time to recognize our connectedness,  
and to love as you have loved us.*

Good Shepherd,  
Teach us to follow you  
*and to be faithful to calling you gave us  
to be shepherds in your name.*

\* **Hymn**: Bless Now, O God, the Journey (633)

### **We Respond to God**

#### **Prayers of Joy and Concern and The Lord's Prayer**

##### **Offertory**

\* **Doxology**: (218 verse 1)

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you,  
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

\* **Offertory Prayer**:

You have blessed us God,  
and ask us to bless others.

We give thanks,

and you ask us to be  
a reason for thanksgiving.

***May our offering be a blessing to others,  
and may they lift their song of thanksgiving to You. Amen***

\* **Hymn**: All the Way My Saviour Leads Me (635)

**Commissioning**: The Life that Ignores Limits

It hides in every corner,  
it crosses every boundary;

***Your life, O God, ignores limits.***

We know it in the safe ones we love and enjoy;  
but, if we look, it appears in those who are different,  
challenging,  
frightening,  
unknown,  
strange;

***Your life, O God, ignores limits.***

It's easy to see in those who are healthy and comfortable;  
vibrant, joyful and privileged to have access  
to the wonder-inspiring experiences that life offers;  
but, if we look, it appears in those who seem lost to life,  
poor and weak,  
sick and broken and unable to move  
beyond their limited horizons;

***Your life, O God, ignores limits.***

**And so we celebrate your life, wherever it may be found,  
and we commit ourselves to be life-seekers,  
discerning and acknowledging life  
in every person, every moment and every space.**

\* **Sung Response**: Threefold Amen

**Postlude**