

**August 30, 2015**  
**Pentecost 14 - Year B**  
Lay Leaders: Zion UCW

♪Praise music

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

We light this candle – the Christ candle – to remind us that Christ is present with us now.

Meditation:

You have called us in love, O God, to be your children. May we remember this love when we feel unloved. May we practice this love when others rely on us. You, O God, are love. So may we be love in you. Amen.

♪Hymn: VU #226 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Call to Worship:

People of God, what so we see?

**We see God moving among us.**

What do we hear?

**We hear the good news of redemption for all.**

So what do we perceive?

**We perceive God's will to honour the weak and stand with the poor.**

People of God, what do we know?

**We know God is with us always.**

So what shall we do?

**We will do justice.**

And what shall we accomplish?

**The restoration of the excluded into community.**

People of God, what do we contribute to the world?

**We are bringers of peace.**

And reconciliation?

**Yes, it is at the heart of who we are.**

So what shall we honour?

**We will honour and praise our generous God.**

People of God, what do you experience?

**We experience the salvation of everyone and everything on earth.**

This is a bold claim.

**We claim it in the name of the Christ who has gathered us into the family of God.**

How will others be able to discern this claim?

**They will see it in how we live.**

And how will you live?

**We will be love.**

Opening Prayer:

Generous God, you give us life, and hold out the hand of righteousness to us. You stand with us in our distress, and rejoice with us in our joy. We humbly accept that your will is that we be blessed with justice and peace in our lives, and take seriously our call to extend this blessing to all of the earth. With grateful hearts we pray. Amen.

♪**Hymn:** VU #236 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*

Prayer of Confession:

We are the beloved people of God, and we speak the power of love, yet there are circumstances when we doubt that love will ever overcome the destructive forces that exist in the world. We falter in our faith, for sometimes we cannot bear to see what we see. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Come away from what has left you wallowing in hopelessness. Yes, there are stormy times, but those times will not last forever. Flowers will reappear on the earth, and the time of singing will come again. Come, walk the pathway of love and nestle into the embrace of God, for nothing will ever separate you from God's love and care.

♪**Hymn:** VU #660 *How Firm a Foundation*

Prayer for Illumination:

Let your Word be for us, O God, the bread of life and the water that quenches our thirst for you. Amen.

Scriptures:

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 - *Arise my love, and come away!*

Psalms 45 VU #769 - *Praise for the anointed hero!*

James 1:17-27 - *Be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.*

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 - *Not from outside, but from within a person is defiled.*

Sermonettes:

A – Part 1

B – Part 2

C – Part 3 - *A Letter from James*

♪**Hymn:** VU #506 *Take My Life and Let It Be*

Offering Invitation:

As we have been blessed by God, so we return some of that blessing to help enrich the lives of others less fortunate. Your tithes and gifts will be received.

♪**Offertory:** MV #115 *Behold, Behold*

Prayer of Dedication:

These gifts are another way in which we can be your love in the world. We give them unreservedly. Amen.

Prayers of the People

♪ **Hymn:** VU #508 *Just As I Am*

Extinguishing the Christ Candle:

We extinguish this candle – the Christ candle – knowing the light of Christ still glows in our hearts.

Blessing:

People of faith, as you leave this place and join the throng of humanity that travels the world, who will you represent, who will you be?

**We will be God's people. We will be love in action.**

Be blessed and go in peace, for God is with you always.