# *Then Let Us Sing!* Hymn Sing

*More information for Then Let Us Sing! and how to support the work of the project can be found at ThenLetUsSing.ca*

## OPENING WORDS:

 God, open our lips,

 **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise**

***Glory to God (MV 36)***

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

 What lands are you worshipping on?

 Are there treaties, covenants, or agreements that govern these lands?

 What is your relationship to these lands and to these agreements?

## Words of Welcome:

God has given us the gift of song! Since long before Church Union, our communities of faith have expressed their voices of joy, gratitude, love, lament, and hope through singing together. Song has and continues to shape us as a people of faith. As such, we know that the songs that we sing will help us live into our call to be a people of Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice.

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

***Jesus Came Bringing Hope (MV 33)***

*(Sing Jesus Came Bringing Hope as the Christ Candle is processed up or walked around the worship space)*

 As we light this candle, we remember Jesus and his prayer

 that believers in him may all be one, as he was one with Abba God,

 so that we may be a witness to the world for his sake.

## Opening/ Processional Hymn:

***The Church’s One Foundation (VU 331)***

The Church’s One Foundation was the opening hymn at the Inaugural service of The United Church of Canada on June 10th, 1925, at Mutual Street Arena (the first home of the Maple Leafs). At this service we declared that the church of Christ was for: the worship of God in praise and prayer; the preaching of the everlasting Gospel; the administration of the Holy Sacraments; the edifying of the body of Christ; the evangelizing of the world; and the promotion of righteousness and goodwill. Since then, every generation has shared for themselves, through creed, songs and words, how we believe we are called to be the church of Christ in our time and place. For such a time as this, the United Church believes that we are ***called by God, as disciples of Jesus, to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.***

## Opening Prayer:

 Uniting God,

 you have called us from across oceans and throughout time,

 to be the church.

 Give us the courage, humility and grace to humbly accept this call, at this time.

 Forgive us our zeal, when we are overly deep, bold, and daring,

 slow and steady us

 so that we may consider how our piety, discipleship and witness

affects those around us, and best embody the way and teachings of Christ in the world.

 Guide and support us when the journey is treacherous,

 when the mountains are too high and the valleys are too low,

 so that for your sake, and by your grace we will be able to:

 Dwell deeper in our connection to you and to each other;

 Grow bolder in our commitment to your son and their way; and

 Be daring in our prayer, praise, and practice.

 May all glory be yours, now and forever,

 Amen.

## Song of Praise:

***Many and Great (VU 308)***

**Deep Spirituality**

**Deep calling out to deep**

## Learning Together

**Then Let Us Sing: What we will sing, when we sing together and new song!**

In 2025 The United Church of Canada will celebrate our 100th birthday with a new song (several actually)!

[*Then Let Us Sing!*](https://thenletussing.ca/), is a new digital music resource (available in French and English) that will include hymns from Voices United, More Voices, and Nos voix unies, plus a collection of new music, in partnership with Hope Publishing House and GIA Publications that will help us sing a new song together!

Singing is a way that the people of God (from Miriam, David, Hannah and Hildegard) communicate with God and each other.

We all sing in different ways.

 Some of us sing through our breath and with our vocal chords.

 Some of us sing with our hands and our facial expressions.

 Some of us sing with our feet and with our movements.

Some of us sing with instruments: flutes, lutes and horns; pianos, harps and organs; drums, shakers and tambourines!

How do you communicate through music?

What songs helps you to express your emotions? (For instance, what song do you like to sing or hear when you are sad? Angry? Happy?)

What songs help you talk to God? (What songs helps you to pray?)

What song helps you to explain to others what we believe as a church?

What song has taught you about what we believe as a church?

It is amazing how some of the songs that we use to communicate now are the same songs that people 100 and 200 years ago used. In order for there to be songs for the church to sing together 100 years from now, we need to work together now to share and learn new songs that communicate how we feel, what we believe, who we are, and who we want to become. If we do our work now, we might help to create music that future generations will treasure. Will you help?

## Hymn:

Sing a beloved hymn within your community of faith or

***When in Our Music (VU 533)***

*(introduce the hymn by saying: “Then let us sing!”)*

## Scripture Reading:

 Psalm 98 (VU p.818)

or

 Psalm 100 (VU p. 820–824)

The United Church has always been a uniting Church that seeks to partner with other people of faith and good will. Over the years, our theologies and spiritual understandings have deepened as we have grown in mutual partnerships nationally and globally. In recent years we have also declared our commitment to become an intercultural church. In intercultural spaces, everyone is impacted by each other’s presence; there is mutuality, reciprocity, and respect. In community and in partnership we have the unique opportunity to profoundly grow in ways beyond our own understandings.

 Choose from the following:

***In Star and Crescent (MV 159)***

***Mi pela I bung (God of All the World) (MV 22)***

***Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (VU 375)***

## Reflection/ Testimony:

What hymn or song invites you into a deeper spirituality?

Then let us sing *<<insert song of your choice>>*

 Sing:

 *(insert song from testimony)*

**Bold Discipleship:**

**Following in the way of Jesus**

## Prayer of Confession

*(Modified and adapted from the Inaugural service of The United Church of Canada)*

 Almighty and most merciful companion,

 we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.

 we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts and prejudices.

 We have offended against Thy holy laws …

 We have left undone those things which we ought to have done *[time of silence]*

 And we have done those things which we ought not have done *[time of silence]*

 And there is no health in us.

 But Thou, O God, have mercy upon us, and our miserable offenses.

 We who confess our faults, spare us, O God.

 We who are penitent, restore us, O God.

 According to your promise declared to humankind in Christ Jesus, the sovereign, deliver us.

 And grant, O most Merciful One, for Christ’s sake, that we may hereafter live a better and good life; to the glory of Thy Holy Name.

 Amen

## Assurance of Grace

***Take, O Take Me as I Am (MV 85)***

## Ministry of Music

## Reflection/ Testimony:

What hymn or song has inspired you to co-create with God the beloved community?

Then let us sing *<<insert song of your choice>>*

 Sing:

 *(insert song from testimony)*

1. **Daring Justice:**
2. **In our prayer, praise and practice**

## Gospel Reading

 John 17: 20–25

## Reflection/ Testimony:

In this confusing and threatening time, the church in all of its forms can be tempted to worry about our own survival rather than the gospel at the heart of our faith. The *Then Let Us Sing!* committee believes that faithful song can be a powerful antidote to the fear that may stop us from courageously daring to be the church. In our singing, creating, and praising we become signs of life and hope for the church.

What hymn has helped you to courageously testify to hope?

What hymn has leant you strength and courage when you were in need?

Then let us sing *<<insert song of your choice>>*

 Sing:

 (insert song from testimony)

## Offering:

*Then Let Us Sing!* helps with the holy task of being the church in this time and place; it is a hopeful investment in the future of the church and an expression of who we are, who we want to become in relationship with each other, and who God calls us to be. After all, by singing one another’s songs, we grow as a global community. You can support the vital work of Then Let Us Sing by singing and praying with us, and through financial support through [Gifts with Vision](https://giftswithvision.ca/products/then-let-us-sing?_pos=1&_sid=3b487b28c&_ss=r).

## Prayer of Dedication

***Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (VU 541)***

## Pastoral Prayers

Let us continue to pray, concluding each petition with

a call: God, receive our prayers; and response: **And in your love answer.**

 For the great cloud of witness that and all whom you would have us pray with …

 Steadfast God, receive our prayers: **And in your love answer**.

 For the music ministry of the church, and for all who work towards our spiritual growth and faith formation…

 Renewing God, receive our prayers: **And in your love answer.**

 For faithful disciples in our communities of faith who work towards our common purpose of extravagant welcome, proclaiming the gospel, dancing with creation and mending God’s world…

 Uniting God, receive our prayers: **And in your love answer.**

 For the dreamers, teachers, artists and prophets who share our common longing to be in harmony with Christ, with creation and with each other…

 Creating God, receive our prayers: **And in your love answer.**

 For those around the world who work towards our sacred message of justice and peace in harmony…

 Justice-Seeking God, receive our prayers: **And in your love answer.**

 For the prayers we name to you now in the silence of our hearts (moment of silence)…

 Embracing God, receive our prayers: **And in your love answer.**

 We gather these prayers together in the prayer that Jesus taught us …

 Our …

## Sung Response:

Through worship we seek to create spaces that offer us a taste of the beloved community that Jesus taught us. In this beloved community the image of God is celebrated in all people and the creative contributions of individuals; communities, and cultures are all honoured and valued equally. Within *Then Let Us Sing!* two of the ways that we celebrate and honour all people are by using the original language for the music in our collection whenever possible and by practicing copyright justice. When we practice [copyright justice](https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/what-we-believe/copyright-justice) we reflect our commitments to becoming an intercultural, anti-racist, anti-oppressive and affirming church by deepening just relationships. We are aware that dominant culture voices in the Global North have used and abused the cultural treasures of people from the Global South and those marginalized in the Global North. As a church, we have pledged to work against this reality. Within *Then Let Us Sing!* we have redistributed the royalties of several of the songs in this service in partnership with the All Africa Conference of Churches and the Federación Universal de Movimientos Estudiantiles Cristianos en América Latina y el Carib.

***Asante sana Yesu, (MV 188)***

## Affirmation of Faith:

*(this Affirmation of Faith is taken from the Full Communion service with The United Church of Christ)*

**We Sing our Praise**

 In the communion of the Holy Spirit,

 that joins us together in discipleship:

 We sing our praise to the One and Triune God,

 the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love;

 We confess that Jesus is the Christ,

 the Holy One embodied that calls us to witness and service; and

 We receive the Holy Spirit,

 the guide that empowers the whole people of God to receive the gift of ministry

 for the mending of the world.

 By the bonds of Christian faith,

 We are called to be the church:

 To yield ourselves to God,

 whose covenant of love binds us to one another;

 To celebrate the transforming works of the Spirit through,

 God’s reconciling power in the waters of baptism, and

 Christ’s saving acts in bread and cup; and,

 To proclaim Jesus Christ, crucified and risen,

 our judge and our hope.

 In life, in death, in life beyond death,

 the triune God is with us,

 we are not alone

 May all blessing, glory and honour be to God,

 Now and forever.

## Sung Amen

*(insert a favorite sung blessing from your community)*

## Closing Hymn

***Go to the World (VU 420)***

## Commissioning and Benediction

*(modified and adapted from the Inaugural service of The United Church of Canada)*

Now the God of Peace,

that brought again from the dead, Jesus, our Christ,

 that great Shepherd of the sheep,

 who leads us, Christ’s Church, with an everlasting covenant of love,

make you perfect in every good work to do Christ’s will,

working within you all that is well-pleasing,

through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,

to whom be the glory for ever and ever.

Amen

## Sung Blessing

*(insert a favorite sung blessing from your community)*