

*“Surely God is in this place... help me notice”
(attributed to St. Lawrence)*

We Gather to Praise God

Welcome to our worship service today.

We pray you will feel God's presence as we worship together.

*You are invited to join in reading the responses and prayers, printed in **bold**.*

♪Prelude

Greeting and Welcome

Life and Work of the Church

Minute for Mission

Lighting the Christ Candle

♪Sung Introit: “Come, Let Us Sing” VU 222

*Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
Surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.*

The Call to Worship:

We gather on sacred ground, on the rich earth that nourishes us, under the great awning of sky that replenishes us, to once again listen to the voice that warms our hearts say, “Come, follow me.”

♪Hymn: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” VU 334

Invitation to Pray:

(Friends, in John 4:34 Jesus says, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.” Food is the source of our energy. What Jesus was saying is that the will of God energizes him to live out his mission. As we pray, we turn to God to replenish our sense of call and purpose. Let us pray:)

The Opening Prayer:

God, the stories of our faith remind us that you are manna from heaven and water from rock. You are the miracle of the loaves and fish. You are our Bread of Life. In this hour, fill us up with your Holy Word. Energize us with your songs. Make us thankful, aware, and inspired: thankful for the universe that feeds us, aware that food is a sacred gift given to all and yet still withheld from many, and inspired enough to make a difference. **AMEN.**

(When we eat, we give thanks for the people who grow our food and prepared it, and remember that food is sacred, because when we are about to do something important like eating it's good to pause).

🎵Hymn: **“This Is God’s Wondrous World”** VU 296

We Listen for God’s Word

Scripture Lessons:

Isaiah 58: 9b-11 Do these things, and live!

Matthew 13: 1-9 Let anyone with ears, listen!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Message: **Live Your Mission**

🎵Hymn: **“Will You Come and Follow Me”** VU 567

We Respond to God’s Word

Offering Invitation:

Our generosity matters. With God’s help, our offering makes a difference in peoples’ lives every day. Let us give generously as we worship God through sharing our gifts, tithes, and offerings.

The Prayer of Dedication:

Generous God, we offer our gifts in response to your call to care. We offer them with gratitude and love, trusting that you will use them to feed bodies, minds, and hearts. We pray in Jesus' name, **AMEN.**

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer:

Creator God, bless farmers, fishers, gatherers, hunters, migrant workers...all agricultural workers here in Canada and around the world. Bless those who transport, distribute, and prepare our food. Bless those pouring their heart and soul into fostering and protecting clean water, healthy soil, and biodiversity.

Bless those advocating for safe, healthy, culturally appropriate food. Bless those challenging systems that treat food as a commodity rather than a sacred right. Bless those working hard to understand where their food comes from and to have a healthy relationship with it. Bless those who share what they can so no one goes hungry. Bless the breakfast programs, community kitchens, shared gardens, food banks, and agricultural training programs we support through Mission & Service. Bless our church suppers, barbecues, luncheons, teas, and fellowship time.

(Consider adding words of blessing for your congregation's specific food-related ministries.)

Bless our home kitchens, our tables, and all who gather around them. Bless us as we bow our heads in thanksgiving for your abundant grace. Bless us now as we pray in the way of Jesus, saying,

Our Father, who art in heaven ... (found at VU 959)

🎵 **Hymn: "Let All Things Now Living" VU 242**

The Closing Words

These words of commissioning come from 1 Corinthians 10:31: “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” Do it all for the glory of God. And may God who is our Creator, and Jesus Christ who is our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit who is our Sustainer inspire us to live our mission this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**

🎵 Sung Blessing: “Go Now in Peace”

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above,
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

🎵 Postlude

Our Worship Ends – Our Service Begins

Announcements

✝ *As church, we are called to pray for each other
and for our mission in the world* ✝

Église Unie de Thurso,
Thurso, QC



Question of the Day:

Have you ever asked yourself, “Why me?”
What was your ultimate answer to the question
or did you find an answer?

Nursing Homes / Seniors’ Homes Services:

**All Nursing / Seniors’ Home Services
are cancelled until further notice.**

*The United Church of Canada gratefully acknowledges that
its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast,
are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.*

*Our vital, innovative, and healing ministries are supported by
generous Mission and Service donations.*

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Announcement Deadline: Wednesday @ noon



Minute for Mission

Emmanuel didn't want to just feed the children— he wanted to make sure they could one day feed themselves.

Have you ever stood in front of the pantry at 6 p.m. looking for dinner inspiration? For some of us, figuring out what to make for dinner is stressful. The truth is that if our family mealtime dilemma is wondering what to make, we are fortunate. We're fortunate because we aren't asking, "Will we eat?"

1 in 9 people around the world go to bed hungry each night. 191,000,000 children under 5 years old are malnourished.

As a young child living in Kenya, Emmanuel Baya went to bed hungry more nights than he can count. Sadly, his parents died when he was a young child, and he worked hard just to survive. That's why his heart stirred when he saw children

under the cashew trees near his property. He knew they were too busy looking for food to go to school.

“Most of the children who did not go to school were orphans. It saddened my heart so much that I decided to help,” he explains.

In 2008, Emmanuel opened the Magarini Children Centre. Today, over 287 children receive warm, healthy meals and education there. But Emmanuel decided he didn’t want to just feed the children - he wanted to make sure they could one day feed themselves.

So, he enrolled in the Asian Rural Institute (ARI), which your Mission & Service gifts support. There, he learned organic farming techniques. Long story short, he opened a demonstration farm next to the Children Centre. It’s now a learning hub for seven surrounding communities.

“This is my definition of love,” he says.

Isn’t Emmanuel’s story amazing? And isn’t it amazing that you have a part in it?

Please make a gift through Mission & Service this World Food Day.

Your gifts will help feed, educate, and advocate for the most vulnerable at home and around the world.

Your support makes a life-changing difference through extraordinary leaders like Emmanuel, whose lives define love every day.