

LOVE IN ACTION

A Worship Resource provided by Hamilton Conference United Church Women Spring 2015,

There are notes throughout and spaces for your additions. God bless your journey.

Prelude:

Welcome and Announcements

Gather

Introit: More Voices # 115 Behold, I Make All Things New
or More Voices # 18 Lord Prepare me to be a Sanctuary
or Voices United # 381 Spirit of Life

Opening Prayer ** *(unison)*

In and with God,

**We can direct our lives toward right relationship
with each other and with God.**

We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.

We can grow in wisdom and compassion.

We can recognize all people as kin.

**We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a curse,
but, as a challenge to make our lives and choices matter. Amen**

Gathering Hymn: Voices United # 232, Joyful, Joyful
or More Voices #1, All Are Welcome

Call To Worship ** *(responsive)*

We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe
**and a practice of opening ourselves to God's still,
small voice of comfort and; to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.**

Through word, music, art, and sacrament:

in community and in solitude,

God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.

Come, let us worship together.

Prayer or Approach and Renewal: *(unison)*

**Loving God, we join together in worship in this holy time and this holy place,
aware of our worries and burdens. We intentionally set aside the chaos of our
hearts and the clutter in our heads; seeking to release all of those things that
keep us from You.**

**We acknowledge that we do not always show your love in our actions towards
others. For this we ask for forgiveness. Guide us and lead us on our journey to
wholeness and peace. We pray this in Jesus' precious name. Amen.**

Assurance:

In God and through God, we are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God.

Time for the Young at Heart: or Children's Time

Note: Threads of various colours and thicknesses may be handed out before the story with card stock which would be cut and sized for bookmarks. Punch a hole in the top centre of the card stock to receive the thread at the end of the story. Alternatively, coloured threads may be handed out during the reading as the story goes along. This story can be read by one or more readers-

You are invited to sit back, unfold your arms, open your child's mind and enjoy.

A grandmother in Ladle Cove Newfoundland-Labrador asked her granddaughter to describe what colour God's love is for us.

Her granddaughter replied.

"God's colour of love for us is blue, like the rivers and streams and the water in the coves and oceans".

The grandmother thought, "Yes, blue the colour of meditation, and honesty".

A grandmother in Northern Western Ontario asked her grandson...

"Can you tell me what colour God's love is for us"

To which he replied – "Green, like the forest, the mosses and the feathers on the mallard duck".

"Wow", thought the grandmother...

"Yes, green the colour of healing, and renewal".

A First Nations grandmother posed this question to her granddaughter.

"What colour is God's love for us?"

"Brown" was the reply..."like the sacred stones, and the mountains.

Oh yes, and white, like the clouds in the sky..."

"Brown, yes", thought grandmother, "the colour of simplicity.

And white..the colour of Spirit, innocence and gentleness.

Yes, that is God's love for us".

A grandchild in Central Canada was asked "What colour is God's love for us"

The child thought and thought..."Can I only pick one?",

"Yes, if you can" replied the grandmother...

"Then the colour will be -----Orange/yellow, like the waves of grain in the field and sunflowers bowing their heads in prayer, the grandchild said.

"Yes", thought the grandmother..."these remind us of, vitality and happiness".

A grandmother in Tofino on British Columbia's west coast, asked her grandson to tell her what colour God's love is for all of us.

He responded....."Red, like the sunset !".

"Yes", thought grandmother...."that blaze of colour just before dusk, Red the colour of love, respect and courage".

From Ladle Cove in the East to Tofino in the West.

Our love is the colour of the rainbow, the colours in nature, the colours of all creations; gifts given to us.

And so, children in their innocence teach us of God's love,

----- The End

I invite you to choose one of your threads and fold it in half and loop it through the hole in the top of your book mark and pull it up snug.

As a reminder of God's Abundant Love

*Phyllis Buchner,
Hamilton Conference*

Hymn: Voices United #577 I've Got Peace like a River
or Voices United #575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
or More Voices #88, Over My Head
or More Voices #178 Kindred in Spirit through Jesus Christ

Grow

Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word
passed on from generation to generation
to guide and inspire,
that we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time and place
from the human experiences
and cultural assumptions of another era.

God calls us to be doers of the word and not hearers only. **

Scripture reading: Luke 10: 25-37 (*The parable of the Good Samaritan*)
and/or John 13: 33-35 (*love one another*)
and/or Romans 12: 9-13 (*love must be sincere*)

Ministry of Music:

Scripture reading: Psalm 15, Voices United #736
or Psalm 20 Voices United #742

***Hymn of Praise:** Voices United #333, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
or More Voices # 94, Love Knocks and Waits

Reflection: Love In Action

(add to this reflection from your community and beyond.)

Please pause with me as I pray:

God of goodness and love. this day we gather as your family. We set aside our worries to look at how we are in the world and to look at how we show our love in action.

May the words I speak and the thoughts of those who listen be acceptable to you O God. Amen.

Reflection suggestions

Muriel Stephenson lives in Brantford Ontario, and is a returned and long retired overseas missionary. She writes one wonderful poem each day. She has given permission for her poem SHOUT FOR JOY to be used for this worship service. It is based on Psalm 5: 11 and speaks to "love in action".

"Lord, as we put our trust in You
Help us to rejoice,
Let us ever shout for joy,
In praise we lift our voice.

In Your love, O Lord our God,
We have a sure reward,
You see our needs, You answer us,
In You we are restored.

When our hearts are anchored, Lord,
To Your heart of love,
We will sense Your deep desire
To bless us from above,

This world's love will pass away,
Forever You're the same,
You're the source of all true love,
We glorify Your name.
Muriel Stephenson April 15/15"

Other resources for your reflection of love in action and help shared in the world may come from neighbours, from newspaper articles, magazine articles which talk about shared love. You might have someone speak from the local food bank or tell the story or Mother Teresa's journey or another story of outreach. You could share stories of prayer shawl ministries, or stories from service clubs who donate to hospitals, or support Service Dogs. Be creative in seeking local inspirational stories of love shared. Mandate magazine and the Observer carry stories that may be useful for this purpose.

Offering:

*Share a reading or show a video from the current Minutes for Mission.
Followed by your traditional Offering introduction and Offertory music and or prayer.*

***Offertory:**

Prayers of the People

Gracious and Generous One, we lift up our thanksgiving for this day and this community of friends. We are thankful for this building we call church, and for this family we call church. With praise on our lips and love in our hearts we ask your blessing on all those gathered this day.

We wonder- where do we see 'love in action' in this community? (pause)
When do we read or hear of stories of 'love in action'? (pause)

The good news is, there are kind, generous and compassionate people in our midst. Folks who share with the food banks, or the women's shelter; who are active in the literacy programs, who participate in and share in
(local outreach and ministry mentioned by name)

For all they do for others we are thankful.

We lift up *(neighbouring churches/associations etc)*

as they also reach out to those in need.
May their journeys continue to be blessed as they bless others.

(insert other cares and concerns and words of thanksgiving here)

There are those who are not able to do and be all that they once were and we remember their gifts once given to our community with gratitude. There are those who are hurting and those who are healing, both of whom are in need of your strength,

In silence now we lift to Your Light the names of all those we know have need of you this day.

silence

We pray the words Jesus taught saying

Our Father.....

Closing Hymn: Voices United #288 Great is Thy Faithfulness
or Psalm 91, Voices United #808-809
or Isaiah 55, Voices United # 884-885 (sing two times)
or More Voices 214, May God's Sheltering Wings

GO

Commissioning

(unison) **

We are called together by Christ

**as a community of broken but hopeful believers,
loving what he loved,
living what he taught,
striving to be faithful servants of God
in our time and place.**

Blessings:

Go now, show and share your love with everyone you meet.

Go with God, as God goes with you. Amen

Postlude

*** based on The United Church of Canada, A Song of Faith*

*This service was created April 2015 by Phyllis Buchner,
National President, United Church Women. There is no copyright, however please give
credit to the writer when using any part of this worship service. Peace.*