

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada
We acknowledge that we live on the traditional territory
of the Mississauga People of the Anishnaabe Nation*

September 23, 2018; Pride Sunday

A warm welcome to all who have joined us for worship today.

Please note this is a scent free environment. (*please rise in body or spirit)

Prelude: "A Meditative Improvisation" - Stanley Vann

Welcome and Announcements

Bringing Light to the World - lighting of candles

Centering Time for Worship

*Hymn: MV #138 "My Love Colours Outside the Lines"

Call to Worship

God calls us here

That we may celebrate with pride

who and whose we truly are –

beloved children of God, sisters and brothers in Christ.

Christ is present with us in ways

that strengthen and sustain us.

We come longing to share Christ's healing and hope.

The Spirit is alive and at work, challenging us in new ways.

We hear the call and are ready

to act with passion and purpose.

Gathering Prayer

Holy Mystery, Wholly Love. You call each of us by name as you gather us into community, daring us to be people of passion and action.

Delight us in our diversities that we may bridge gaps so that all will know and trust they are truly valued and respected, welcomed and

included. Help us to be fully alive in your presence today and always

that we may become the person . . . the people you have created us to be. Amen.

*Hymn: MV #145 "Draw The Circle Wide"

Prayer of Confession

Leader: O Christ, you open up the closed-minded,
You soften the hard-hearted,
You lift up the downtrodden.
We confess we have experience -

Choir: We have been closed-minded

Congregation: We have been hard-hearted.

All: It freezes us.

**Soon we are too numb to care –
about ourselves or for others.**

Silence

Leader: We confess we have experience -

Choir: We have been shut out, downtrodden.

Congregation: We have been excluded, unwanted.

All: It freezes us.

**Soon we are too numb to care –
about ourselves or for others.**

Silence

Leader: O Christ, forgive us and free us, we pray,

**All: Warm our spirits with your mercy and your grace
so that closed minds open up ...**

hardened hearts soften . . .

and those who are downtrodden are lifted up. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Candles of Joy and Concern

Worship with the Young at Heart

Prayer for illumination – Deb Donovan

**All: Wise and Wonderful God – as we listen now to the witness of
scripture, open our minds to hear your Word; open our hearts to trust
your Word; open our lives to live your Word through the power of your
Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

Scriptures: reader - Deb Donovan

Psalm 36: VU #762; John 15:12-17,
1 John 3, 4 – selected verses

Anthem: “We are a Rainbow” - David Kai

Reflection: Pride/Passion – Sin or Strength?

*Hymn: VU #643 “Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom”

Minute for Mission: reader - Phyllis Elvidge Bell

Offering: "Lyric Sketch" - E. Grieg; arr. Benton Price

*Hymn of Presentation MV #191 "What Can I Do?"

**Offertory Prayer*

Gracious and Generous God, accept these gifts we offer – and with them our lives.

Pour out your spirit on all that we share of what we have and who we are that your Will may be done and your Vision fulfilled in and through each one of us, this community of faith and the wider church. Amen

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Closing Hymn:* MV #154 "Deep In Our Hearts"

**Commissioning & Benediction:*

Postlude: "Sing and Rejoice!" - Randolph Johnston

The Prayer of Confession adapted from a prayer written by Rev. Dr. Betty Lynn Schwab and included in the compilation of LGBT2S liturgies, ***Courage to Love.***

This morning we welcome back retired United Church minister, Elizabeth Macdonald who, for 14 years, served the first Affirming ministry in Bay of Quinte Conference, Sydenham Street United Church in Kingston as an out married Lesbian.

In Appreciation

Music: Arlene Gray and the Choir

AV: Lyn Miller & Brian James

Refreshments: Penny Carson & Affirming Committee

Flowers: In Memory of Rev. Don Gillies

Elevator: Christine Lewis

Ushers and Greeters: Dave & Judy Stephenson, Ina Stenner, Leona Clark