

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

OF THE EAST DISTRICT, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CONFERENCE

Worship led by: Representatives of the Christian Development Committee
and Children in our Church Family.

Greeters Today: Sunday School Members, Mallory Gillespie and Jarret Harrington

Organist: Leslie Forward - **Supply Organists** - Sharon Dean, Ruth Davidge, Louise Drover

Caretaker: Wayne Parsons **Secretary:** Lisa Butt

Clergy: Rev. Beverly (Youth & Christian Education) & Rev. Stephen (Worship & Pastoral Care)

Children's Sunday - November 15, 2009

Worship Theme: "A World Fit For Children"

(Adapted from United Church resource, Seeds and Sowers, 2003)

Musical Prelude

Gathering Music: - "Though Ancient Walls" - VU #691

1. Though ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife be face,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!

Walls that divide are broken down;

Christ is our unity!

Chains that enslave are thrown aside;

Christ is our liberty!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship: Led by Explorers

Leader 1 (Morgan King): Our Call to worship is based on Matthew 18:1-5

Narrator (Laken Butt): Some people brought little children to Jesus so that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them...

Disciples (Kendra Kelly and Meghan Lehr): Stop bringing children to Jesus!

Narrator (Laken Butt) : When Jesus saw this he was displeased and said,...

Jesus (Morgam King): Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children.

Narrator (Laken Butt): Then Jesus took the little children in his arms and blessed them.

Leader 2 (Kendra Kelly): God welcomes each one of us here today, young and old, confident and doubting, rich and poor, women and men.

Leader 3 (Meghan Lehr): Together, let us praise the God who extends loving arms of welcome and blessing to all of us.

All: We run into God's loving arms, and offer thanks and praise!

Hymn - "Here I Am, Lord" - VU #509

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance - Led by Confirmation and Koininia Kin Members.

Leader (Koininia Kin member, Austin Matthews): Trusting in God's goodness and mercy, let us confess our human need for God's strength and guidance. May God hear the prayers of our hearts.

Leader (Confirmation and Koininia Kin member, Trent Clarke): Oh God, we confess we often forget that children in our community and global village have needs and rights. We forget that we are responsible for creating a world fit for all children. Help us to remember your concern for the smallest and weakest, the outsiders, and those who are poor. Help us to slow down and listen to our children, listen to our hearts, listen for your Word. Guide us to serve others, especially children who are being abused, neglected or are suffering from the effects of sickness.

Leader (Koininia Kin member, Austin Matthews) : Hear the good news! God sent Jesus to tell us that all of us are loved, and that we are ALL God's children! Let us rejoice!

Singing: "No! Never!" - Beginners' and Youth Choirs

A Vision of "A World Fit For Children" from Hebrew Scriptures - Led by Sunday School Members.

Leader (Michaela Case): "And the streets of the city shall be full of children playing in the streets." (Zechariah 8:5)

People: We will work and pray for the day when all children may play safely in the streets of the world's cities, towns and villages.

Leader (Michaela Case): "The wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child will lead them." (Isaiah 11:6-9)

People: We will work together with children to ensure that their gifts and leadership are celebrated and honoured, and help children lead all of us in the way of peace. We shall listen to the voices of children, and help them to lead the way.

Leader (Adam Matthews): "Sons and daughters shall prophesy and see visions. Old men will dream dreams. Everyone has equal rights to be part of God's world." (Joel 2:28)

People: We will pray together for God's guidance. May God help us walk together in hope, enabling the vision, hopes, and dreams of all ages.

All: We dedicate ourselves to spreading God's vision for the world, as spoken by the prophets of old.

Singing - "Connected" (by Sara Paxton) - Songbirds

A Vision of "A World Fit For Children" from the New Testament Scriptures
- Led by Sunday School Member.

Leader: (Adam Matthews): " Let the little children come to me; for, to such belongs the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:13-16)

People: We will welcome all children into our midst. We will welcome their giggles and squirms, their curiosity and wonder for all of creation, their honest expressions of sadness and joy. With God's help, we will welcome their leadership in our midst.

All: Let the children come!

Hymn- "One More Step" - VU #639

Message - When A Wall Divides... - A Christian Clowning Message by Rev. Stephen and Rev. Beverly, with Andrew Green.

Hymn: "Though Ancient Walls" - VU #691

Our Offering - Led by Junior Youth Group Members

Call to Offer Our Gifts to God (Destiny Butt): To give our gifts, and to give ourselves, is a matter of trust. As we give our gifts today, may we trust that God will receive our gifts with joy, and will guide us to use them with love! I invite you now to come forward to the centre isle and bring your offering and shoebox gifts as we sing together, the Hymn, "Spirit of Gentleness."

Offering Hymn: "Spirit of Gentleness" - VU #375

Our offering today is being received by Confirmation members:

Daniel Curran, Abbigayle Fong, Kerri-Ann Noel, and Brittany Tucker.

Offertory Prayer

Leader (Cody Green): Let us thank God, for all that we have is God's! God has blessed us with wealth beyond measure - not just material riches, but also a wealth of love and joy!

People: We thank you, God!

Leader: In this world, God has given more than enough, so there is no need for any of God's children to be without shelter, warmth, food and clean water! With thanks, led us promise to share!

People: With God's help, we promise to find creative and loving ways to share God's gifts with others!

Leader: May God bless our giving, today and always!

People: Amen!

Prayers of the People - A Five-Finger Prayer - Led by Rev. Beverly

Hymn and Act of Commitment - Led by Christian Development Committee Members.

Leader (Paul Gillespie): God calls us, not just today, but every day, to nurture, protect and walk with children. God has given each of us gifts and skills to use for the well-being of all children. Let us commit ourselves to creating a world fit for all children, to reaching out, caring for, and supporting children...affirming their value and worth, listening to

their needs, gifts, and insights, working with them for peace and justice, walking together to create a culture of peace, with justice for all.

People: "Walk With Me: - VU #649 - chorus, verse 1, and chorus

Leader (Verna Swain): Our God calls us to do justice and to speak out with those who cannot speak. Let us commit to being voices for justice, proclaiming God's concern with those who are young, weak, and poor. Let us find ways to support and walk with children as they seek justice and peace in their lives and the world.

People: "Walk With Me" - chorus, verse 2, and chorus

Leader (Paul Gillespie): As we serve and speak out for and with children, may we be guided and sustained by the One who came to us as Servant and Advocate. Let us rely on prayer and the believing community to keep our vision faithful, our hearts loving, and our commitment steady.

People: "Walk With ME" - chorus, verse 3, chorus, verse 4, chorus

Sharing a Thankful Cookie - Dale Traverse, CD Chair

Blessing and Sending Forth - Dale Traverse

Leader: Let us go forth to love, serve, and seek justice with all of God's children. Now, may the God who watches over us, cares for us, and works in and through us, be with us all. Amen.

Musical Postlude

A note about Christian Clowning

Some clowns use their art not only to entertain, but also to further their religious faith and to witness to that faith by sharing it with others. This is called Christian Clowning. Usually, Christian Clowns remain silent. (Actions speak louder than words.) Sometimes, they have a heart on one cheek, as a symbol of the love of God. Christian Clowns are not comedians. To quote Christian clown, Tom Raymond (aka. [Raynbow the Clown](#)), "comedians say and do funny things; clowns do things in a funny way."

A Christian Clown's Prayer

As I stumble through this life,
help me to create more laughter than tears,
dispense more cheer than gloom,
spread more cheer than despair.

Never let me become so indifferent,
that I will fail to see the wonders in the eyes of a child,
or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged.

Never let me forget that my total effort is to cheer people,
make them happy, and forget momentarily,
all the unpleasantness in their lives.

And in my final moment,
may I hear You whisper:
"When you made My people smile,
you made Me smile."

-Anonymous- CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

We welcome everyone to our service this morning, with a special welcome to all visitors. Please introduce yourselves as you leave.

MEMORIALS

A memorial has been received to the glory of God and in loving memory of husband **James Pynn**, and sisters **Rose Pitts & Shirley Dunne** and **loved ones** from Rosalind and the Pynn Family.

And
In loving memory of **James Pynn** from Ruby Swain, Darrell Swain and Gary & Janice Swain.

Reminders

Tuesday (Nov. 17) @ 7pm- Executive Church Council Meeting
and @ 7:30pm - Joint Needs Assessment Meeting.

Thursday (Nov. 19) @ 6pm- Church Council Potluck and meeting to follow.

Thank You!

We would like to express our thanks to those who have participated in the Operation Christmas Child.



Advent Camp

We regretfully report that due to the H1N1 virus we felt it was a need to cancel our Advent Camp this year.

THIS WEEK @ BETHANY

Monday - 7:30pm- Senior Choir

Tuesday- 10:30am: Bible Study, 6pm: Guitar,
7pm: Executive Church Council Meeting,
7:30pm: Joint Needs Assessment Meeting

Wednesday - 6:30pm: Songbirds, 7pm: Junior Youth Group

Thursday- 6pm: Potluck Council Meeting

Friday- Explorer's Meet at the church at 5:45pm for bowling.

Next Sunday- 11am: Worship