

**Brunswick Street United Church
2107 Brunswick St., Halifax, N.S.**

Sunday Worship
Brunswick St United Church
29 January 2011

The congregation is invited to say the words printed in bold. Please feel free to sit or stand for the hymns. The offering plate is on the side table for those who feel called to make a contribution. All are welcome in this place! The offering plate should never be a barrier to your participation in this community of faith.

Welcome and Announcements

One: A warm welcome is extended to all. Especially those who are worshipping at Brunswick Street United for the first time or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together.

Lighting the Christ candle

Gathering Hymn VU #266 *Amazing Grace*

Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: By the authority of Jesus we come into this place.

All: By the authority of the Gospel we come before the Holy God.

One: We come to experience that loving awe which is the beginning of wisdom.

All: We make time for awe in busy lives, and discover the inner light of wisdom.

Hymn VU #299 *Teach Me, God, to Wonder*

Opening Prayer (Unison)

O God, whose essence is greater than anything we can sense, know us. Know us not in the way that a fact is known, but in the way that we are known by a beloved. Know us, O God, and we shall know you. In our neighbors we shall see you; in our neighbours we shall love you. We shall love and see and come to know that you are no idol whose life must be manufactured for the many. Rather, you are the One God, through whose life the many are made, through whose life the many are made one. Amen.

Hymn VU #427 *To Show by Touch and Word*

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

We think we know so much, O God, and with our meager knowledge we presume to judge others. We arrogantly announce our own righteousness without a compassionate thought. We proclaim your word when it suits us and often only to those with whom we want to associate. We shut others out because of our faulty judgment and our blindness. There have been so many times in which our humble help would have been a blessing to someone, but we have placed our comforts before serving others. In the competing voices of today's world, we have turned around and around, trying to find the way to live. Help us, merciful God, to again listen to you. Help us to truly open our hearts to you. Remind us again of your great love and presence in our lives. Forgive us our foolishness and our stubbornness. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to all. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Quiet your hearts, beloved of God, for God is speaking to you with love. Rest your spirits, struggling ones, for God will surround you with peace. Open your lives to God's power and presence and do not be afraid. God is with us, now and for all time. AMEN.

The Word ~ Mark 1:21-28



Sermon ~ *Spiritual Cleansing of a Home*

Ministry of Music (Choir)

Prayer for Others (Responsive)

One: Most holy Friend, Saviour of those who call on you, please give us more of the compassion and authority of Jesus. Embolden us to heal the multiple diseases that afflict humanity and drive out the demons that afflict our contemporary world. Hear us, O God.

All: Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers

One: Send your agents to lands that lie under darkness and oppression; where government is corrupt, justice is rare, abuse is endemic, and the weak and the

poor have nowhere to turn for hope. Please increase the spiritual authority of the Red Cross, Amnesty, and other partners who work for justice, to more adequately become your ready channels of compassion, justice, practical aid, reconciliation and peace. Hear us, O God.

All: Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers

One: Send your messengers to situations where diseases like Aids are reaping a grim harvest. Especially we pray for the afflicted nations of Africa and Asia. Please give authority to people of disciplined compassion, to provide pharmaceutical help, nursing care, and better health education that will drive out the demons of superstition and fatalism. Hear us, O God.

All: Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers

One: Send your servants into places where food is scarce and crops are poor. Please strengthen the authority of those local leaders and outside advisers, who seek to empower the people to conserve water, dig new wells, plant trees, grow new food crops, farm fish, start new cottage industries, and obtain better prices for their goods. Hear us, O God.

All: Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers

One: Send your human angels of mercy into situations, both here and abroad, where there is neglect, illness, sorrow, frustration and anger. Please give some of the compassionate authority of Jesus to chaplains in hospitals and prisons, to nurses and ambulance offices, physicians and surgeons, social workers and foster parents, police officers and counsellors. Hear us, O God.

All: Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers

One: Send your gifts of comfort and great joy among the many congregations of your church. May more of the spiritual authority of Jesus empower every ordinary church member, and the wisdom and compassion of Christ enlarge the ministries of lay leaders and ordained ministers. By the grace of Christ, may our deeds more adequately match our creeds, and our love expand to embrace those misfits who appear lonely and unlovable. Hear us, O God.

All: Loving God, in your abundant grace, hear our prayers

One: God, our most holy Friend, in your mercy may we go from strength to strength in things of the spirit, and become the lovers and the agents of that holy awe which is the beginning of true wisdom.

All: Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn VU #612 There's a Balm in Gilead

Sending Out (Responsive)

One: Jesus comes to us, offering healing and hope, speaking and acting with authority. Listen to him. Go into this world, confident in God's love and healing power. Go in peace. May God's love and peace always be with you.

All: Amen!

Christ candle is extinguished