

**September 20, 2020 Dorchester United Church Worship Service**

**Prayer of Approach:** (based on 1 Samuel 3, Psalm 139, John 1: 43-51)

Leader: We are gathered here not because we have seen fit to choose Christ, but because he has looked upon us, and called us to be his own.

**ALL: O God, you have searched me and known me, you read my every thought from afar, There is not a word on my tongue that you do not know altogether.**

Leader: The joy of those who hear the call of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.** written by Bruce Prewer,

**Hymn: Deep In Our Hearts More Voices 154**

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;  
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;  
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,  
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;  
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;  
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,  
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.

Jesus You are the one I live for  
You gave perfect love to Your people  
We rejoice in Your love forever  
All creation sing

**Prayer of Confession:**

Forgiving God, We are spirit beings on human journeys' and, in that, we struggle. We struggle to follow the road to peace that Jesus showed us and, so, create a gap between who we are and who we strive to be. In Jesus, You showed us the alternative to dis-ease of the spirit with a life led in accord with Your will. But, often with good intentions, we let ego prevail and miss the mark. Sometimes with intentions that we hide even from ourselves, we create discord and then balk at its fallout. Our walk does not always reflect our talk. The Spirit of Truth is among us but we often fail to silence our mental clamour enough to feel that breath, to listen to that message, to respond creatively to its promise. Parent God, set us aright, each time we stumble, and help us keep our hearts and minds focussed on Your loving guidance. Amen.

**Lord Listen to your Children Praying Refrain**

**Prayer of Assurance:**

Beneficent God, Our hearts are troubled and afraid. Though we know You are there, still we tremble. You do not give to us as often the world gives – dis-ease and discord. Rather, You give us hope and peace and, so, we turn to You in prayer. Nurturing God, be with our children that they may lead healthy lives of purpose. Healing God, strengthen the physically afflicted and grant them the comfort of feeling Your Holy Presence. Leader God, guide the path of our church that it may survive and thrive to serve those who worship here and for us, following Christ's example, to serve those beyond our doors. Righteous God, shift the reins of power in our world to those who would be guided by Your Spirit of generosity and justice rather than those who worship greed and power. Lead us from humanity's curse of the ideology of the few causing the destruction of the innocent. Holy Spirit of Truth, Love, and Grace, be actively present in our lives, reminding us that we know what to do and inspiring us to do it. Amen. by Cheryl Stenson.

**Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow: Doxology**

**Children's Time:** Ashley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFSY-41pVzw&t=40s>

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Jesus is the light of the world

Jesus is our friend who loves us always

### **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

We bless God and pray for our world, our communities and our lives to be shaped by God's will; We pray for daily needs to be met, For forgiveness for wrongdoings, strength to resist temptation and protection from danger

### **Hymn: Jesus Bids Us Shine**

Jesus bids us shine  
with a clear, pure light,  
like a little candle  
burning in the night.  
In this world of darkness,  
so let us shine,  
you in your small corner,  
and I in mine.

2 Jesus bids us shine,  
first of all for him;  
well he sees and knows it  
if our light grows dim:  
Jesus walks beside us  
to help us shine,  
you in your small corner,  
and I in mine.

3 Jesus bids us shine,  
then, for all around,  
many kinds of darkness  
in this world are found:  
sin, and want and sorrow;  
so we must shine,  
you in your small corner,  
and I in mine

### **A New Creed**

We are called to be the Church...to proclaim Jesus,  
crucified  
and risen, our judge and our hope...  
We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

**Anthem:** Simple Gifts performed by Nancy Quinn

**Scriptures:** Scripture Readers: Pat & Brian Courtis

### **1 Corinthians 12: 12-31**

#### **One Body with Many Members**

**Reader 1:** 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

**Reader 2:** 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

**Reader 1:** 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

**Reader 2:** 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this.

**Reader 1:** But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

**Reader 2:** 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

**Reader 1:** 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

## **Romans 12: 9-18**

**Reader 1:** 9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.[e] 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

**Reader 2:** 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;[f] do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

### **Reflection: What's Love Got to Do with It?**

### **Hymn: Love Divine, All Love Excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling  
Joy of Heaven to Earth come down  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling  
All Thy faithful mercies crown  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art  
Visit us with Thy salvation  
Enter every trembling heart

Breathe, O breathe, Thy loving  
spirit  
Into every troubled breast  
Let us all in Thee inherit  
Let us find that second rest  
Take away the love of sinning  
Alpha and Omega be  
End of faith, as its beginning  
Sets our hearts at liberty

Come almighty to deliver  
Let us all Thy life receive  
Suddenly return and never  
Never more Thy temples leave  
Thee we would be always blessing  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above  
Pray, and praise Thee without  
ceasing  
Glory in Thy perfect love

Finish then Thy new creation  
Pure and spotless let us be  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee  
Changed from glory into glory  
'Til in Heaven we take our place  
'Til we cast our crowns before Thee  
Lost in wonder, love and praise

### **Closing Prayer:**

Jesus, through your death and resurrection you reconciled the world to God, and through your example you have shown us a way to peace. Give us strength as the people of God to be channels of peace in the world, speaking your peace, living your peace, and always longing for that moment of eternal peace when we shall see you again. Amen

### **Postlude**

**Reflective Questions for the Week:**

1. What role do I play in the body of Christ
2. In what areas am I challenged in relating with others in my faith community
3. In what ways does my attitude and actions reflect the passage in Ephesians 4.
4. What are the unresolved issues I have with others in the church? Have I been hurt? Have I hurt others knowingly, intentionally or unintentionally?
5. If the church community is described as being like a body, that every part is essential, how can we honour and restore harmony with one another?
6. Will you take your thoughts to God daily, asking what God wants you to do to bring about healing in our community