

Dorchester United Anniversary Sunday Worship Service October 18, 2020

Prelude

Welcoming Hymn: Voices United 395

Come in, come in and sit down,
You are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
And we are a part of the family.

You know the reason why you came,
Yet no reason can explain;
So share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
For we are a part of the family.

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine,
We are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
But we are a part of the family.

God is with us in this place,
Like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
For we are a part of the family.

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
There's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
For we are a part of the family

(Words and Music by James K. Manley)

Call to Worship and Responsive Reading by Thom Shuman. Inspired by Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6.

Lead a life worthy of the calling
to which you are called.
We cannot do this alone,
we dare not try this alone,
so we gather as God's people.
Lead a life worthy of your calling,
a life filled with service and meekness.
We come to build up Christ's Body,
in humility and gentleness,
with patience and love.

Lead a life which reflects your calling,
that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.
We rejoice in our oneness in Christ;
we would share the grace offered to us.
Live a life worthy of the calling
to which you have been called.
We gather as God's family
at the Table prepared for us,
waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen
All: May we forever stand.
True to our God
True to our native land
Author: John Fawcett (1782)

Hymn: Voices United # 226

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r
Sun and Moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For each perfect gift of Thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of our past, we gather today to give thanks for the past.

We think back to those who first had a vision of a church in this place,
to those who put their names on a loan so it could come to happen,
to those who gave of their labour, their treasure, their time to make it happen.

And as we remember the efforts of the founders and builders we offer words of thanks and praise
God of growth, we remember too those who helped the new church to grow in wisdom and in faith.

And so we think of study group leaders, clergy, choir directors, Sunday School teachers, and many others who
provided leadership.

We remember Stewards, Board and Committee members, men and women who stepped forward to provide
governance and leadership.

And for all these varied forms of leadership we are grateful.

God of community, we remember events that brought us together;

Oyster Supper, Christmas Dinner, Baking Pies, BBQ Our Holy Diner, Bazaars, potlucks, coffee hour
And for the gifts of friendship and fellowship we say thanks.

We think also of the many groups that have met in this space:

UCW, Crafting Group, Guides,

Groups that provided times of fellowship and times of growth in community.

God of our present, on this day we remember all that led this congregation to this day.

For 164 YEARS of Ministry to and with this community, for years of growing together in love, for all that has made
us what we are now, we give you thanks, we give you praise. Amen.

Hymn: # 602 Voices United

1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

2. Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3. We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4. When we asunder part,
it gives us keenest pain,
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

5. The glorious hope revives
our courage on the way:
in perfect friendship we shall live
in God's eternal day.

Prayer of Hope

God of our present and our future, as we gather here today we look for hope.
The future is uncertain, we wonder what it will bring.
Fill us with a vision for what we could be.
Give us hope for our congregation and our community.
Help us find the choices that lead to life in abundance.

God of hope, in a time of uncertainty we so often fall into fear and worry.
Show us the opportunities in our chaotic world,
remind us to consider seriously where our priorities and loyalties lie,
push us to see how our choices matter, and then fill us with hope in a new heaven and a new earth.
God of our future, may we walk boldly into what may come, as people, not only of faith, but of hope.
May we share your hope and promise with the world in which we live. Amen.

Hymn: Put Your Hand in the Hand

Put your hand in the hand of the man
Who stilled the water
Put your hand in the hand of the man
Who calmed the sea
Take a look at yourself
And you can look at others differently
Put your hand in the hand of the man
From Galilee

My momma taught me how to pray
Before I reached the age of seven
When I'm down on my knees
That's when I'm closest to heaven
Daddy lived his life, two kids and a wife
Well you do what you must do
But he showed me enough of what it takes
To get me through, oh yeh!

Put your hand in the hand of the man
Who stilled the water
Put your hand in the hand of the man
Who calmed the sea
Take a look at yourself
And you can look at others differently
Put your hand in the hand of the man
From Galilee Oh yeh!

Put your hand in the hand of the man
Who stilled the water
Put your hand in the hand of the man
Who calmed the sea
Take a look at yourself
And you can look at others differently
Put your hand in the hand of the man
From Galilee Oh yeh!

Put your hand in the hand of the man
Who stilled the water
Put your hand in the hand of the man
Who calmed the sea
Take a look at yourself
And you can look at others differently
Put your hand in the hand of the man
From Galilee Oh yeh!

Put your hand in the hand of the man
From Galilee
Put your hand in the hand of the man
From Galilee, Oh yeh!

Source: LyricFind Songwriters: Gene Mac Lellan

Prayer for Others

God, like the Israelites in the wilderness,
we too have known Your love,
and experienced Your care and provision.
You invite us to extend that love to the world around us—
to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves.
And so we bring the needs of our world before You now.
In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the many who do not have enough:
enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm;
enough employment, or money to pay their bills;
enough medicine or medical care.
Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We also pray for those who have more than enough,
but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life;
who indulge in dangerous or self-serving activities
to dull their pain or loneliness.
Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

God, Your grace reaches out to all of us.
You call us to live as citizens of heaven,
working together with one heart and mind.
Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy
of the Good News we have received,
offering our lives in service of Your kingdom,
where the last are first, and the first are last,
and there is grace enough for all.
Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, Amen. ~ Christine Longhurst, re:Worship

Special Music: The Family of God

For I'm part of the family
The family of God

You will notice we say brother
And sister 'round here
It's because we're a family
And these folks are so near
When one has a heartache
We all share the tears
And rejoice in each victory
In this family so dear

I'm so glad I'm a part
Of the family of God
I've been washed in the fountain
Cleansed by His blood
Joint heirs with Jesus
As we travel this sod
For I'm part of the family
The family of God

From the door of an orphanage
To the house of the King
No longer an outcast
A new song I sing
From rags unto riches
From the weak to the strong
I'm not worthy to be here
But, praise God, I belong

Sing the song I'm so glad I'm a part
Of the family of God
I've been washed in the fountain
Cleansed by His blood
Joint heirs with Jesus
As we travel this sod
For I'm part of the family
The family of God

Yes I'm part of the family
The family of God

Offertory Prayer by Dr. Carl W. Kenney II. Based on 1 Corinthians 2:9

Leader: Lord, we remember the faith of those from long ago. We honor their courage, their wisdom and determination on this day of celebration. We stand on the shoulders of many clouds of witnesses. We bring to you our time, talents and money to continue the work you began with our ancestors. We stand in the middle of greater possibilities. You have carried us through many dangers, toils and snares. Eyes have not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of men and women, things which you have prepared for those who love you. We bring all we have to you. Use it to continue the work you started long ago.

Scriptures

Psalm 137:1-6 Lament over the Destruction of Jerusalem

1 By the rivers of Babylon— there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.	4 How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?
2 On the willows[a] there we hung up our harps.	5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!
3 For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”	6 Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

Philippians 1:7-14

7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart,[a] for all of you share in God's grace[b] with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. 12 I want you to know, beloved,[c] that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard[d] and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; 14 and most of the brothers and sisters,[e] having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word[f] with greater boldness and without fear.

Sermon: Discerning What is Best: Glen Pearson

Closing Hymn: Voices United Hymn # 649

“Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that God has planned where love shines through.

When Moses heard the call of God he said, “Lord, don't send me.”
But God told Moses, “You're the one to set my people free.”

Now Peter was a most unlikely man to lead the flock, walking with god
But Jesus knew his holiness and he became the Rock.

Young Mary Magdalene was sure her life could be much more,
And by her faith she dared to let God's love unlock the door.

And when you share your faith with me and work for life made new,
The witness of your faithfulness calls me to walk with you.

Walk with me and I'll walk with you

Closing Prayer

Postlude