

May 30, 2021
First after Pentecost

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song MV 2 "Come All You People"

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come now and worship the Lord.

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

The church is the place where the broken gather.

Let us worship God

who reconciles us to one another and to God.

The church is the place where sinners are welcome.

**Let us worship God who, with forgiving hands,
shapes us into new people.**

The church is the place where the lost,
the least, the forgotten, the ignored gather.

Let us worship God who looks at us with the eyes of love.

Hymn VU 315 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth
and sky and sea;

holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, you touch our lives with mystery and hope. We come to this place today to feel the warmth of your love, as the sun warms the earth. We come to this place today ready for you to pour your blessings upon us, as the rain falls upon the fields. We come to this place to be fed, we come for ourselves. We confess that we judge others according to their background, while you care only about the soil their heart is grounded in. We appraise others by their looks or their athletic prowess, while you are concerned only with how they reach out to those who are different. We take notice of their car, their house, their stock portfolio to assess their success, while you notice only if they have faith the size of a mustard seed. Forgive us, Anointing God, for looking at those around us with human eyes, and not seeing others as created in your image. As you shape us into new people, give us new eyes, new hearts, and new lives to follow Jesus. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: Be Thou My Vision Nathan Pacheco

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihJAJA4ibEs>

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy Love, Beginning and End, beyond all Names:

giver of food and drink, clothing and warmth, love and hope, life in all its goodness—

We praise and adore you.

Jesus Christ, Wisdom and Word:

lover of outcasts, friend of the poor, one of us, yet one with God, crucified and risen,

life in the midst of death— We praise and adore you.

Holy Spirit, Storm and Breath:

building bridges, breaking chains, waking the oppressed, making us one, unseen and unexpected, untameable energy of life— We praise and adore you.

Holy Trinity, forever One, whose nature is community; sunbounded dance of love:

in whom we love, and grow, and know our neighbour, life in all its fullness, making all things new—

We praise and adore you.

We praise you because you hear our thankgivings. We praise you because you listen to our woes.

We praise you because you hear our concerns for others.

We pray for Your church, Holy One, and ask that you free it from our desire for status quo which leads to stagnation and death. Reignite in your church the passion for justice and righteousness that once it held when it was first born on that day of Pentecost so long ago. This week we pray in particular for St. Andrew's United Church in St. Thomas, and their recently called minister, the Rev. Cheryl Bolton.

We pray for our leaders: political, scientific, medical, business, and ecclesial, as they make the difficult decisions required of them to guide us through this pandemic.

We pray for the peoples of this world, wherever they are, whatever challenges they face in their daily lives. Especially we pray this week for the people of Angola and Mozambique.

We pray for all who mourn a loss in their lives: the loss of a job, the loss of a home, the loss of a dream, the loss of hope, the loss of a loved one.

We pray for those in our communities who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially: the Rev. Lynne Allin, Pastor Mark Beach and his wife, Bill Parcels, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

We pray for an end to this global pandemic with hope for the new life and new world that lies beyond.

All this we pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray, singing:

(VU 959)

**Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. We give, not to maintain our building, but in order that those in need may have their lives shaped and transformed by the grace of God.

Gracious and life-giving God, accept our offerings, and use them to birth new life and new hope in the lives of the desperate in our world. Amen.

Hymn VU 312 "Praise with Joy the World's Creator"

Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
friend and stranger, guest and host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:
foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 29

Ascribe to God, you powers of the heaven,
ascribe to God all glory and strength!

**Ascribe due honour to God's holy name,
and worship in the beauty of holiness.**

God's voice is over the waters -

God's glory thundering across the great waters.

God's voice is power, God's voice is full of majesty.

God's voice shatters the cedars,
splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

**God's voice makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
Mount Hermon stampede like a wild young bull.**

God's voice forks into tongues of fire,
God's voice shakes the wilderness,
sets trembling the wilderness of Kadesh.

**God's voice causes the oaks to whirl,
stripping the forest bare;
and in the temple all cry: Glory!**

God sits enthroned above the waters,

God is enthroned as sovereign forever.

You give strength to your people, O God.

Now give to your people the blessing of peace

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17.***

You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage.....

in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)

Hymn VU 264 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Immortal, invisible, God only wise;
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee!

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Meditation: “In the dark”

We Go Forth, Serving God

Hymn VU 415 “God, We Praise You for the Morning”

God, we praise you for the morning;
hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise,
joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,
mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,
all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter,
help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher,
strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour,
come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.

Commissioning and Benediction

May the blessing of the most Holy Trinity

God unbegotten,

God incarnate,

God among us

Keep us now and evermore.

Amen.

Sung Response: "Go Now In Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there supporting us with love.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen, amen, amen.

Announcements.....

Scripture Readings for next week: First after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15); Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
the verses in brackets are optional.