

June 20, 2021
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Faith of our Fathers" By Henry F. Hemy Arr. by Cindy Berry

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

Summertime, and the livin' is easy.

We are here, and your blessin's abound.

Oh, there are times when the summer storms rage on,

And they threaten to capsize us.

And on those days it feels to us like you, O God,

Nodded off to sleep while a keepin' your watch.

Yet even then, in the raging storms of life,

You're close as the humid summer air.

Hymn VU 374 "Come and Find the Quiet Centre"

Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

It helps now and then, O God, to step back and take a long view. Summertime is the perfect time to do just that. When we step back and take a long view we realize that Your Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We realize that all we accomplish in our lifetime is only a fraction of the enterprise which is Your work. Nothing we ever do can be complete. Your Kingdom always lies beyond us. No prayer can fully express our faith. No confession can make us perfect. No program can accomplish Your church's mission. No set of human goals and objectives can include everything. All we can do is plant seeds that will one day grow. We can water seeds that others have planted, trusting in their future promise. We can lay foundations that will need further development. We can provide yeast that will produce effects beyond our capabilities. We find a sense of liberation when we realize that we cannot do everything. That realization enables us to do something, and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, and an opportunity for Your grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results of what we begin, but that is the difference between You and us. We are workers, not architects; ministers, not messiahs. Be with us. Grant us a vision of the future You dream of. Bless our efforts to move towards that grand vision of Yours. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer written by Bishop Ken Untener, titled "A Future Not Our Own", and commonly attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero.

We Are Blessed By God

Time for the Young and the Young @



Anthem: [One World \(We are One\)](#)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 9

I will give thanks to you, God, with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your marvellous deeds.

**I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

For my enemies are driven back,
they stumble and perish before you.

**You have upheld the justice of my cause;
seated on your throne, you have given righteous judgement.**

You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked;
you have blotted out their name for ever.

**Enemies have perished;
you have made their cities a desolation;
the very memory of them has vanished.**

You have ruled from eternity;
you have established your throne for judgement.

**You will judge the world with righteousness,
and deliver true justice to the peoples.**

You are a stronghold for the oppressed,
a tower of strength in a time of trouble.

**Those who cherish your name will put their trust in you,
for you, O God, have never failed those who seek you.**

Sing praises to the One who dwells in Zion;
proclaim to the peoples the deeds God has done.

**For the One who avenges blood has remembered,
and has not forgotten the cry of the poor.**

Have pity on me, God;

consider the trouble I suffer from those who hate me.

You are the One who lifts me up from the gates of death,

**so that I may recount all your praises within the gates of the city,
and rejoice in your saving help.**

The nations have fallen into a pit of their own making;

in the net they laid in secret, their own feet are entangled.

**You have made yourself known, O God, and given judgement;
the wicked are trapped in the work of their own hands.**

The wicked go down to the Dead,

all the nations that are heedless of God.

**The needy shall not always be forgotten;
the hope of the poor shall not forever be vain.**

Rise up, O God; do not let mere mortals prevail.

Call the nations to account before you.

**Put them in fear, O God;
let the nations know that they are but human.**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:32-49

³² David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ David said, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you!"

³⁸ Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹ David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

⁴¹ The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. ⁴² When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³ The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." ⁴⁵ But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This very day

the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hand."

⁴⁸ When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49, OR 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16; Psalm 9:9-20 OR Psalm 133; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41. 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.)

Meditation: "Supersize"

Hymn VU 682 "O Day of Peace"

O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

There are many spiritual disciplines we engage in: reading scripture, prayer, Bible Study, and participating in corporate services of worship to name a few. There is one other spiritual discipline that we practice, although many of us don't identify it as a spiritual practice, and that is the sharing of the resources at our disposal for the benefit of others – you know, our tithes and offerings. Let's practice now.

Gracious God, these offerings are a reflection of our love for you and our commitment to your commonwealth of justice and peace. Use them to extend justice in this world of injustice and to bring peace to this world filled with violence. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God of love and generosity, we bring to you our praise and thanks for the good things in our lives. On this day we offer special thanks for those gentle men we call our fathers: our adoptive, biological and step fathers, our grandfathers and our great grandfathers, and for the fathers of our faith. Especially we thank you, as father of Jesus, that you sent him to be our guide and helper through life. We are indeed blessed.

On this day we pray for all fathers who carry the responsibility of being providers, protectors and teachers of their children. Guide them to do so with wisdom and with love. We know that many human fathers are stressed out with the problems of unemployment, of physical and mental illness, with addiction issues, with separation from their children. We ask your guidance and care for them. Some human fathers have sole custody of their children; lead them, Holy One, in this awesome task of raising their children.

Hear our prayers too for those who find it so difficult to see you, O God, as a loving father because of the abuse they have known from their human fathers. Send them healing, loving light that both abused and abuser may grow into the wholeness of your love.

On this First Nations Sunday, we seek guidance for continued healing between First Nations people and those who have come here from other parts of your world. We pray especially for an end to the evil of racism that still plagues us.

We pray for your church, especially London Road West Pastoral Charge in Sarnia as they search for a new spiritual leader.

We pray for the nations of this world, and their leaders. Grant them the courage and the compassion needed to fight for your justice. We pray for the peoples of this world, especially the people of Malawi and Zambia.

We pray for all who mourn a loss, especially we pray for Fayez Afzaal and the Muslim community as they mourn the deaths of three generations of the Afzaal family, and for the friends and family of Bill Parcels.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially the Rev. Lynne Allin, Tabitha Carey, Ron Dickie, Jim Duffin, Bill Latham, Jim Parish, Doreen Snow, Barbara Thompson, Jim Thuss, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, the Messiah, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, singing:

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.

Hymn VU 659 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
 who bade the mighty ocean deep
 its own appointed limits keep:

O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard,
and hushed their raging at thy word,
 who walked upon the foaming deep,
 and calm amid the storm did sleep:

O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
 and bade its angry tumult cease,
 and gave for wild confusion, peace:

O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
all travellers guard in danger's hour.
 From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
 protect them wheresoe'er they go:
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Commissioning and Benediction

In gathering for worship today we

brought all those problems and worries that seem insurmountable to us.

As we leave this time

**we are assured that no problem is so big that it cannot be overcome
with a little help from God.**

Go in peace, for there is nowhere you can go where God is not.

Sung Response: VU 974 "Amen"

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, Amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, Amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, Amen!

Postlude: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" By Carl G. Glazer Setting by John Carter

Scripture Lessons for next week:

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43