

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song VU 402 "We Are One" vs. 1

We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.

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

Call to Worship

We gather this morning to worship God.

We hunger for comfort, inspiration, community, and insight.

We gather this morning seeking the power of God's presence.

We hunger for strength, courage, wisdom, and grace.

We gather this morning, hungry for God's kingdom to come.

We hunger for the Bread that gives life eternal.

Hymn VU 409 "Morning Has Broken"

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Opening Prayer (unison)

Eternal God, we come to you with hungry hearts, waiting to be filled. Filled with a sense of your presence; with the touch of your Spirit; with new energy for service. Come to us, we pray. Feed us with that Bread that gives eternal life that we may be empowered to worship you in spirit and in truth, and that we may act in the world for Jesus' sake. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: [In Christ Alone](#)

Time for the Young and the Young @



Hymn VU 651 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, source of our being, source of our sustenance, we thank you:

For the blessings of life,

For love and acceptance,

For a sense of belonging and a sense that we matter.

Keep us, we pray, thankful, faithful, and hopeful until our lives shall end.

We pray for Your church, especially Kerwood-Bethesda Pastoral Charge. May we be your hands, your feet, and your voice in this world.

We pray for the people of the world, our brothers and sisters in your creation, especially we think of the people of Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea. May we learn to live together in equity and peace.

We pray for all who mourn the death of loved ones, especially the family and friends of Fern Smith. Grant them comfort in their mourning, and strength to discover the life that continues without them.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially Barbara Clark, Mary Kaiser, Barbara Thompson, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known in the silence of our own hearts...

We lift all of these prayers to you, in the name of the one who taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but 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

Too often we think it is enough to offer God the spare change we have sitting on our dresser or the few dollars returned after paying for dinner out, and all too often there is no change on the dresser or change from the restaurant because we pay for everything with plastic cards. God is the One who gives: extravagantly, undeservedly, unconditionally. God blesses us with life and hope and grace in abundance beyond imagination, and so in imitating God we give that the lives of others may also be blessed, hopeful, and grace-filled.

Receive all that we offer, Holy One, and make us more giving we pray. May it be so. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I called to you.

O God, hear my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss,

O God, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you,
therefore we will honour you.**

I wait for you, God;

my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for God
more than the watchers long for morning,
more than the watchers long for morning.**

O Israel, wait in hope,

for with God there is love unending.

**With God is great power to redeem,
to redeem you, Israel, from all your sins.**

Scripture: John 6:35, 41-51

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Ephesians 4:25-5:2 . 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 625 "I Feel the Winds of God"

I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest, and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest, and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze, and I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above; it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way, you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift.

Meditation: "Passionate?"

We Go Forth, Serving God

Hymn VU 639 "One More Step Along the World I Go"

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

Commissioning and Benediction

May the God who dances in creation,
who embraces us with human love,
who shakes our lives like thunder,
bless us and drive us out with power,
to fill the world with God's love.

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.....

Dorchester:

Worship Committee meets Monday, August 9 at 7 pm.
Re-opening Committee meets Wednesday, August 11 at 8 pm.
Central Board meets Wednesday, August 18 at 7 pm.

Scripture Readings for next week: August 15, Twelfth after Pentecost, Proper 15
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58