

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song MV 8 “And on This Path” vs. 1

And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!

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

Call to Worship

We come, like Abraham, Sarah, and John the Baptist,

people with vision.

We come, like Job, Thomas, and the Samaritan woman,

people with questions.

We come, like Moses, Jeremiah, and Mary,

people with self-doubts.

We come, like Joshua, Deborah, and Stephen,

people with courage.

We come, like David, Mary Magdalene, and Paul,

people with regrets.

We come, like Hagar, Uriah, and the Syrophoenician woman,

people with wisdom from the margins.

We come, like Rebekah and Samuel, like Hosea and Esther,

like Nathaniel and Martha, like John, Mark and Priscilla,

people with a part to play in the story of faith.

We come to worship you, O God.

Hymn MV 1 “Let Us Build a House”

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

God, our sun and shield; we long to dwell in your house, yet our actions show how difficult it is for us to live there: You offer words of eternal life, and we weakly proclaim the gospel to others; You offer a path of salvation to walk, and we stumble along the rocky roads of this world; You call us to follow, and we look for paths that will take us back to our old ways. Forgive us God. Strengthen us with your Spirit, that we may follow Jesus, the one we have come to believe and know is our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Lord of My Life" By Matt Maher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7x1CXQbaWQ>

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 333 "Love Divine, All Loves 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.

Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore 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, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the blessings of life. We bless you for the wonders of the world: for heights of mountains and breadth of prairie, for diversity of people and intimacy of families, for the goodness of all you have made, and for the work you have given to us. We bless you for the gift of Jesus, your Anointed One, who lived, and died, and lives again wherever justice is known, wherever love is found. We bless you for your life among us forgiving sins, renewing spirits, healing brokenness, and refreshing us in the fellowship of your table. Grant, O God, that in the course of this day, and throughout the coming week, our hearts may be filled with thankfulness for these and all your blessings.

We pray for your church as it works, imperfectly, to fulfill your vision for this world. Especially we pray for Richards Memorial United Church as they search for a new spiritual leader.

We pray for the people of the world, our brothers and sisters in creation. May all peoples be reconciled one to another and thus live in peace. Especially this week we pray for the people of Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and Afghanistan.

We pray for all who mourn the death of loved ones. May they find comfort in your embrace. Especially we pray for the friends and family of Catherine Bogart.

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

All of these prayers we gather together and offer them along with the words that Jesus taught, 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

We are blessed, most of us by an accident of birth, to be living in the richest few percentage points of the entire population of the world. We gripe about our human rights being trampled on by being made to wear a mask in public, or complain that our privacy would be compromised if we had to reveal our vaccination status. In the meantime, most of the world's population has no vaccine, and worse, many lack access to safe drinking water, adequate food, medical treatment, or may not even be safe from violence in public places in broad daylight. Instead of counting what we lack, what if we were to count what we have, and then to share from our vast wealth with those who have nothing.

Holy One, accept and bless all that we offer, our time, our skills, our resources. May it be a small part of the answer to the cries of the many in our world who lack the things they need to truly live and thrive. In the anointed one's name we pray. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, God of hosts!

My soul longs, even faints for the courts of God;

my heart and my flesh cry for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a house,

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,

at your altars, God of hosts, my sovereign, my God.

Happy are those who dwell in your house,

ever singing your praise.

Happy are those whose strength is in you,

who have set their heart on pilgrimage.

Going through the valley of Baca

they find a spring from which also to drink;

the early rain also covers it with pools of water.

They go from strength to strength,

to appear before God in Zion.

O God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.

Behold, O God, our shield,

look on the face of your anointed.

Truly a day in your courts

is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper

in the house of my God

than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For you, God, are a sun and shield,

you will give grace and honour.

No good thing will you withhold

from those who live the upright life.

O God of hosts,

happy are those who put their trust in you.

Scripture: 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43

8 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.

10 And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, **11** so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. **23** He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, **24** the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. **25** Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' **26** Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! **28** Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; **29** that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. **30** Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

⁴¹ “Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³ then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69.** 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 332 “The Church’s One Foundation”

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore,
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in one,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Meditation: “The House That Hubris Built”

We Go Forth, Serving God

Hymn VU 427 “To Show By Touch and Word”

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.

Commissioning and Benediction

May the grace of God,
deeper than our imagination;
the strength of Christ,
stronger than our need;
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
richer than our togetherness,
guide and sustain us today,
and in all our tomorrows.

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.....

Can you name six markers of the Christian life? If not, or if you want to learn more about them, join this fall's study group: ***bullseye: Aiming to Follow Jesus***. If you, or someone you know, is interested in this of day for the study, and whether you prefer a paper copy of the study guide or an e-book (the e-book is cheaper).

Rev. Mark will be participating in **That Dam Hill** run/walk for Indwell on Saturday, September 18. All donations are through Canada Helps and they will issue tax receipts for donations over \$20.

For more information about Indwell, go to.... <https://indwell.ca>

For more information about the event, go to... <https://indwell.ca/events/that-dam-hill-charity-run-walk/?fbclid=IwAR2nAvHkUj-Q1Bxj7N9SwEHKfzH3t3ONNHFG-y6Vt1cVtYeNBKaQLf8OywE>

To sponsor Rev. Mark, please go to.... <https://www.canadahelps.org/me/n4CY7bjw>

Scripture Readings for next week:

Song of Songs (Song of Solomon) 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23