

August 29, 2021
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 17

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Praise The Lord Who Reigns Above" Dan Forest
Tune: Amsterdam. From Foundry Collection 1742"

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship *(based on Song of Solomon 2:8-13)*

Hark! The voice of my Lord!

He speaks and says to me,

"Arise, my child, and follow me."

Our sorrows are past;

today is a new beginning.

A new season is upon us;

the time for rejoicing and singing has come.

Abundant life is poured out for us.

We rise, and worship the Lord.

Hymn VU 314 "Come Now, Almighty King"

Come now, almighty King,

help us your name to sing, help us to praise;

one God all glorious, ever victorious,

come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come now, incarnate Son,

your life in us begun, our prayer attend;

come, and your people bless,

come, give your word success;

stablish your righteousness, Saviour and friend!

Come holy Comforter,

your sacred witness bear in this glad hour;

your grace to us impart, now rule in every heart,

never from us depart, Spirit of power!

To the great One in Three,

eternal praises be for evermore;

your sovereign majesty may we in glory see,

and to eternity love and adore!

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

Life-giving God, our praises are like blossoms in the spring, their fragrance filling the air. Our hymns of joy are like the songs of the birds when they return after the winter, they are a delight to the heart. Our hearts burst with your kindness and generosity, until we allow the floodwaters of fear, hurt, frustration and anger to drown them out. Jesus, lover of our souls, you peer into our lives, our hearts, our souls, through the lattice of the world. You speak to us with tenderness and passion, calling us away from rigid legalism, to lives of grace and hope. Spirit of God, stir within us, ignite our passions for God's righteousness, God's justice. Help us to live out your words, and not simply be idle listeners. Help us to open the floodgates of understanding, of healing, of compassion and of forgiveness. Help us to speak words of grace, reconciliation, and hope to all in need of them, that we may live within that circle of blessing Jesus called the 'Kingdom of God.' Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Time for the Young and the Young @



Anthem: "Fairest Lord Jesus" David and Noelle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8ghhAqMiUc>

Responsive Reading: Psalm 45

My heart overflows with a noble theme;
I utter the song I have made for the king,
my tongue like the pen of a ready scribe.

**You are the fairest, the most handsome;
God endows your speech with grace;
God has blessed you forever.**

Gird your sword on your thigh, O hero,
in splendour and majesty.

**In your majesty ride on to conquer
in the cause of truth and justice.**

Let your right hand teach by awesome deeds,
arrows sharp in the heart of royal enemies.

**The nations shall fall at your feet.
Your divine throne endures forever.**

Your royal sceptre is righteousness;
you love right and hate what is wrong.

**Your God has anointed you
with more oil of gladness than all your peers.**

All your garments are fragrant
with myrrh, aloes and cassia.

**Out of the ivory palaces
stringed music makes you glad.**

Scripture: Song of Solomon (*a.k.a. Song of Songs*): 2:8-13

⁸ The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;

¹¹ for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

¹² The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

¹³ The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.** 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 594 “O Christian, Love”

O Christian, love your sister and your brother!
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
to worship rightly is to love each other,
each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

Follow with reverent steps the great example:
Jesus whose holy work was doing good;
so shall the wide earth seem a hallowed temple,
each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangour
of wild war-music o'er the earth shall cease;
love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
and in its ashes plant the tree of peace.

Meditation: “What’s your passion?”

Hymn VU 589 “Lord, Speak to Me”

Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your straying children lost and lone.

O lead me, so that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, so that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, so that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflows
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

James said, “let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger,” but I say, “let us be slow in our yearning to hang on to our blessings, and quick to share them with the hungry, the lonely, the forgotten, and the hurting of our world,” for as James said, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress.”

Holy One, we know, as James said, “that every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above,” from you. Our giving is a response to yours. Bless all that we give that it might become a kind of first fruits for those in our world whose lives are so empty. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for all your mercies: for your goodness that has created us, for your grace that has sustained us, for your wisdom that has challenged us, for your patience that has borne with us, and for your love that has redeemed us. Help us to love you and all your children, and to be thankful for all your gifts, by serving you and delighting to do your will.

Loving and compassionate God, we pray for your church. Do not let it become mired in concern for its own survival or stagnate in its own bureaucracy. May it reclaim its prophetic voice in our world today; speaking out against the ills of our present age. This week we pray especially for Avondale United Church as they search for a new spiritual leader.

Benevolent and extravagant God, we pray for the people of the world, our brothers and sisters in creation. May we learn to love one another, and your creation, as you love us. This week we pray especially for the people of Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal. Merciful and holy God, we pray for all who mourn the death of loved ones, especially the friends and family of Marilyn Topham and Catherine Bogart. May they know peace and comfort in the presence of friends and of your Spirit.

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

All of these prayers we gather together and offer them, 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:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,
thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Hymn VU 262 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
with power and malice great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
 should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
 the truth to triumph through us:
the prince of darkness grim,
 we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
 for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
 no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
 through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
 this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
 God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is for ever.

Commissioning and Benediction

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Arise, and let us go forth as God's people.

Look! God sends us forth with songs of love on our lips.

Arise, and let us go forth to serve beside Jesus.

Look! He stands, waiting for us to help tear down the barriers of injustice.

Arise, and let us go forth to join the generous Spirit.

Look! We will be doers as well as givers with our gifts.

Sung Response: VU 424 "May the God of Hope Go with Us"

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude: "Joyful Hymn of Praise" Faye Lopez

Announcements:

Dorchester: The Technical Advisory Group will meet at the church on Monday at 19:30 hrs (7:30 p.m.) for a rehearsal of integrated worship.

This fall's study group: ***bullseye: Aiming to Follow Jesus*** will meet Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, commencing Tuesday, September 14, and will run until Tuesday, October 19. If you, or someone you know, is interested in this 6 week study please let Rev. Mark know.

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.

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

For more information about the event, go to... <https://indwell.ca/events/that-dam-hill-charity-run-walk/?fbclid=IwAR2nAvHkUj-Q1Bxj7N9SwEHKfzH3t3ONNHfG-y6Vt1cVtYeNBKaQLf8OywE>

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

Scripture Lessons for next week:

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 7:24-