

September 5, 2021
Fifteenth after Pentecost / Proper 18

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song MV 8 "And on This Path"

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!

So enter in the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in 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

Though dispersed in many places, we gather to worship our God.

In gathering, we re - member the Body of Christ.

We gather to learn, to be challenged, and to be inspired.

We gather to sing, to pray, and to share as a community of faith.

We gather in hope, and in faith.

Our trust rests in God.

Let us worship the God who ever comes to us.

Hymn MV 30 "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"

It's a song of praise to the Maker, the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker, the gray whale sings in the sea.
And by the Spirit, you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver when high tides break on the shore,
And by the Spirit, you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the summer breeze joins the song,
And by the Spirit, you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's the chorus of all creation; it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation; a song the universe sings,
And by the Spirit, you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy and Gracious God, we come seeking You; young and old, rich and poor, outcast and esteemed, broken and whole. Come and meet us on our journey to you; come amongst us and breathe new life into us. Unstop our deaf ears that we may hear Your message of hope. Loose our stuck tongues that we may speak Your words of grace and peace to our broken world. Expand our vision that we may see all as You do, and include all in our community. Help us to move beyond our comfort zones to seek life and vitality. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "King of Kings" <https://youtu.be/7OnfQpZr030>

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 358 "When Jesus the Healer"

When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee,
Heal us, heal us today!
the deaf came to hear and the blind came to see.
Heal us, *Lord Jesus!

A paralyzed man was let down through a roof.
Heal us, heal us today!
His sins were forgiven, his walking the proof.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

The death of his daughter caused Jairus to weep.
Heal us, heal us today!
**The Lord took her hand, and he raised her from sleep.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

When blind Bartimaeus cried out to the Lord,
Heal us, heal us today!
his faith made him whole and his sight was restored.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

The lepers were healed and the demons cast out.
Heal us, heal us today!
A bent woman straightened to laugh and to shout.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

The twelve were commissioned and sent out in twos,
Heal us, heal us today!
to make the sick whole and to spread the good news.
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

There's still so much sickness and suffering today.
Heal us, heal us today!
We gather together for healing and pray:
Heal us, Lord Jesus!

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

It was you, Imaginative God, who whispered and the rumble of creation shook the rafters of chaos. Mighty trees graced valleys with shade, stars glittered in moonless nights, children splashed in the pools of hope. Every delight was crafted so we might know of that love which would last forever. A love that breathed the breath of life into every creature that lives. A love that blessed all life with all that it needs to live and grow and thrive. A love that bears with us in our folly. A love that never ends.

Remind your church, once again, how to love the world as you love the world. Especially we pray this week for Chalmers Pastoral Charge in Kintore, and their minister, the Reverend Doug Peck. Remind us again, O Lover of life, that all peoples are your beloved and we ought to treat them as such. Especially we pray this week for the people of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Togo. Remember, Great Creator, that we are not immortals, but are fragile, mortal beings who sometimes suffer. We remind you of all who mourn and are in need of comfort, especially the friends and families of Henk Van Harten, Marilyn Topham, and Catherine Bogart.

We bring to your attention those who are ill or dying, those awaiting medical intervention or recovering from medical treatment, especially Mary Kaiser and Shirley Morris and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our hearts...

All this we pray in the name of your beloved son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, the Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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

The Syrophenician woman challenged Jesus to share God's blessing with all, even those outside of the children of Jacob, also called Israel. Likewise, Jesus calls us to share our blessings with all, most especially with the marginalized and the outsiders of our time and place.

Holy One, bless all that we offer that your blessings would be made known to all peoples. Through our offerings may the marginalized be treasured and the outsiders become friends. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 125

Those who trust in God are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved but abides forever.

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so, God, you surround your people now and forever.**

The sceptre of the wicked shall not rest on the land assigned to the just,
lest the just should put out their hand to do evil.

**Do good, O God, to those who are good,
to those who are upright in heart.**

As for those who turn aside into crooked ways,

our God shall lead them away with evil-doers;

but peace shall be upon Israel.

Scripture: Mark 7:24-37

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17** 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 606 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Meditation: "Jesus Repents"

We Go Forth, Serving God

Hymn VU 681 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your words of life again.

In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the strong compassion of your face.

O Jesus, from the mountain side,
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide,
and tread the city's streets again,

till all the world shall learn your love
and follow where your feet have trod,
till glorious from your heaven above
shall come the city of our God.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go to the world.

We go, having heard of God's great love for us all.

Go to the world.

We go, with a vision of the world as God yearns for it to be.

Go to the world.

We go, tongues freed to share news of God's love in word, and in deed.

Go, and may the grace of our Lord, Christ Jesus,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
go with us all, this day and always.

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.....

Union:

Unified Board will meet Wednesday, September 15 at 7 p.m. by Zoom (Rev. Mark has sent the link, so if you don't see it in your email or junk mail folder, please ask for it to be resent)

Dorchester:**Returns to in-person worship next Sunday, September 12 at 9:45 a.m.**

Central Board will meet on Wednesday, September 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 12 is the start of the Season of Creation, which continues until Thanksgiving Sunday. You are invited to introduce the colour orange to your wardrobe starting next Sunday.

The fall study starts Tuesday, September 14 at 7 p.m. Rev. Mark has sent the zoom link, so if you can't find it in your email or junk mail folders, please ask for it to be resent. It's not too late to join.

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:

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38