

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song VU 249 "Rejoice in the Lord Always" *2 or 3 times*

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

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

Call to Worship

We have gathered to worship God.

**We have come seeking comfort,
inspiration, community and insight.**

We have come to open ourselves
to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**We have come to offer up the seasons
and the turnings in our lives,
and to ask God's help in our learning and in our growing.**

Hymn VU 245 "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet"

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.

Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.

Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or
snow or in the morning light.

Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment,
nothing let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!


Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, You touch our lives with mystery and hope. You welcome us into your presence, yet we are not always ready to welcome others into our presence. Sometimes we feel that this place is ours, and we are slow to create space for outsiders in our space. Remind us that true hospitality is not about creating room for others within our space, but is about creating a space for all. Help us welcome not only those like ourselves, but those who are different, those we don't like, and those who we classify as our enemies. In Jesus' name. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "10,000 Reasons" by Kim Walker Smith

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

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 357 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

- 1 Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.
- 2 First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.
- 3 Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee!
And how the Master, ready and kind,
chided the billows and hushed the wind.
- 4 Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas! Jesus is king!

5 Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;
and of the cross where my Saviour for me was slain.
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy and Gracious God, from whom comes every blessing, we thank you for the new season that arrives this week, autumn, and the harvest that accompanies it.

We pray for your church. Save it from apathy and stagnation. May it become again the channel through which your mission of equity and justice for all is carried out in the world. We pray this week especially for St. Andrew's United Church in Cairo, Ontario.

We pray for all who are living with disaster, whether manmade or natural. We pray especially for the people of

We pray for all with whom we share this earth, especially this week we think of the people of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

We pray for all who mourn, especially we think of the friends and family of Henk Van Harten, Marilyn Topham, and Bill Meeuse.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical treatment or are recovering from medical intervention, especially we think of Donna Aukland, Juri Lees, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our hearts...

All this we pray in the name of the One 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

It's not a secret. Our neighbours all know that we go to church and worship God on Sunday mornings. At church we learn that we are God's children, that we are blessed by God – even when we don't feel particularly blessed. In gratitude for the blessings we have received, we respond. We respond by giving back to God through the church. We respond so that all people, especially those who do not know God, will know God's blessing. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Loving God, may these gifts, freely given, be brought to life through the power of your creative Spirit. Multiply and use them to bring the word and the touch of Jesus to your people in this place and throughout the world. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 1

Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel
of the wicked, or linger in the way of sinners,
or sit down among those who mock.

**But their delight is in the law of God,
and on that law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted beside streams of water,
yielding their fruit in due season.

**Their leaves do not wither,
and whatever they produce shall prosper.**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them,

**but they are like the chaff,
driven away by the wind.**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand
when judgement comes,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**For God watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Who Is the Greatest?

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Proverbs 31:10-31; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a.** 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 601 "The Church of Christ in Every Age"

1 The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.

- 3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

- 4 For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

- 5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all without reserve
and spread Christ's liberating word.

Meditation: "New Beginnings"

We Go Forth, Serving God

Hymn VU 586 "We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection"

- 1 We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.

- 2 We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of our love.

Commissioning and Benediction

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
The One who came to challenge and to heal,
The One whom death could not contain,

**Grant us the courage to proclaim the gospel in all that we say and do,
And to live into the possibilities of new life.**

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:

At the Unified Board meeting this week a return to in-person worship, with appropriate COVID safety procedures, was approved, commencing Sunday, October 3. Worship will continue to be broadcast on Zoom, for those unable to attend in person. More information will follow.

Sunday School at Union United Church will be starting again, commencing Sunday, October 3 at 9 a.m. on zoom. Please contact Valerie or Becki for more information.

The Unified Board voted to contribute \$200 to Indwell to help provide 'welcome baskets' to the new residents of the Rail City Lofts at 614 Talbot Street in St. Thomas. People will start moving in to their new homes starting next month. Most of them are transitioning from homelessness, so they lack some basic essentials like towels, sheets, toilet paper, toilet brushes, soap, shampoo, etc. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please go to www.indwell.ca/donate. In the notes section, add that your gift is for St. Thomas Welcome Baskets.

Dorchester:

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

ALL:

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 for the season.

The fall study continues on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., until October 19. 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.

Yesterday, I (Rev. Mark) participated in **That Dam Hill** run/walk for Indwell. **Thank you** to all those who helped me get to 75% of my target of \$1500. If you wanted to contribute, and just didn't get around to it, GOOD NEWS! CanadaHelps will continue accepting donations for Indwell until October 15, 2021. **ALL** donations are through CanadaHelps and they will issue tax receipts for donations over \$20. To sponsor Rev. Mark, please go to.... <https://www.canadahelps.org/me/n4CY7bjw>

Scripture Readings for next week: (September 26, 2021, Eighteenth after Pentecost, Proper 21)
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50