

September 26, 2021
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 21

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song" Peter Cutts, setting by John Carter

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

O God, as a gentle rain soaks the earth,
may your peace and love fall upon us,
bringing growth and life.

Soak into our innermost being.

Quiet all that makes us anxious.

Help us to linger in your presence.

**Send us out refreshed, to carry your hope, your healing,
your peace, and your joy to all whom we meet.**

Hymn VU 401 "We Are One"

Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

1 Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one!

Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

2 Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one!

Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

- 3 Called to be partners with God in creation,
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,
worship and work must be one!
Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!
- 4 Bringing the bread and the wine to the table,
asking that we may be led and enabled,
truly united to build new communities,
worship and work must be one!
Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!
- 5 Now in response to the life you are giving,
help us, Creator, to offer our living,
seeking a just and a healing society,
worship and work must be one!
Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, you have called us to be your own. We long to respond to your call: openly, fully, lovingly; yet we confess: the self that is not aware of sinning, the heart that is too hardened to repent, the pride that dares not admit it is wrong, the righteousness that knows no fault, the callousness that has ceased to care, the blindness that can see nothing but its own will. Hear our deepest desires and yearnings, we pray, and through the power of your love, heal us and forgive us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Jim Tranquair, accompanied by Norman Abbott
Music by W.B. Bradbury and Text by W.W. Walford. Public Domain.

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 158 "Christ Is Alive"

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.
- 3 In every insult, rift, and war,
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 124

'If God had not been at our side,'

now let Israel say:

'If God had not been at our side

when mortals rose up against us,

then they would have swallowed us alive,

when their fury was roused against us.

Then the flood would have swept us away,

and the torrent would have covered us.

Then the raging waters

would have gone right over our heads.'

But praised be God:

who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird

from the hunter's snare;

the snare is broken and we are free.

Scripture: James 5:13-18

The Prayer of Faith

¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Mark 9:38-50.** 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.)*

Meditation: “What ails us”

Hymn VU 611 “Out of the Depths, O God, We Call to You”

- 1 Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.
Wounds of the past remain, affecting all we do.
Facing our lives, we need your love so much.
Here in this community, heal us by your touch.

- 2 Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.
Breaking the silences, the searing truth we seek.
Safe among friends, our grief and rage we share.
Here in this community, hold us in your care.

- 3 God of the loving heart, we praise your name.
Dance through our lives and loves;
anoint with Spirit flame.
Your light illumines each familiar face.
Here in this community, meet us with your grace.

We Respond To God’s Grace

Invitation to Invest in God’s Mission

“Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise,” wrote the author of the book of James. To which I would add, are any among you blessed? They should share their blessings. When we share our blessings, the hungry are fed at soup kitchens, community meals, and the local foodbank. When we share our blessings, the homeless are housed in shelters and supportive housing. When we share our blessings, we are blessed and community is strengthened. Let’s share our blessings through our tithes and offerings.

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 healing touch of Jesus to your people in this place and around the world. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God of life, we give you thanks for this day, for this community of faith, and for pouring out your grace upon us. Bless us and keep us all.

God of grace, we pray for Your church. May it truly be your light to those who walk in darkness. May those who serve the church in its many and varied ministries, truly be fishers of peoples. This week we pray especially for Calvary United Church in Rodney.

God without beginning or end, we pray for the leaders of the nations. May they govern with wisdom and compassion. May they seek peace and justice so all may dwell free of war and injustice. This week we pray for the people of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru.

All-knowing God, we pray for the wisdom to be faithful guardians of your creation. May we be open to ways to protect the air, soil and water. May we seek ways to reorder our lives to preserve and nurture all life on this planet.

Compassionate God, we pray for those who lack food, medical care and other necessities of life. May you brood over them as a hen broods over her chicks. Deliver them from their time of want so they may see a new tomorrow where there is abundance for all.

Merciful God, we pray for those who mourn a loss in their lives, especially we think of the friends and family of Bill Meeuse.

Healing God, we pray for those who are ill or dying, those who are awaiting medical intervention or recovering from medical treatment, especially their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

May you heal them in mind, body and circumstance so they may feel your presence and know your love in their lives.

As we pray, so may we do, and in all that we do grant us the grace, the strength and the wisdom to seek your will, we ask in the name of Jesus 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 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 418 "Go Forth for God"

- 1 Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;
 be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,
 in God's good Spirit daily to increase,
 till in the kingdom we see face to face.
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.
- 2 Go forth for God, go to the world in love;
 strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;
 help the afflicted; richly from above
 God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.
Go forth for God, go to the world in love.
- 3 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;
 hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;
 render to no one evil; Christ at length
 shall overcome all darkness with his light.
Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.
- 4 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,
 to serve God's people every day and hour,
 and serving Christ, our every gift employ,
 rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

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 all God's children
 today and in all of our tomorrows.

Sung Response: VU 967 "Amen" (Danish)

A-men. A-men. A-a-a-a-men.

Postlude: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling/Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Arr. By Melody Bober

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dorchester:

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

Union:

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.

ALL:

Sunday, October 3 is Worldwide Communion. We will be serving communion in the sanctuary. Those of you who will be joining us on Zoom, please plan to have juice and bread for yourself that you may join in and all may be one.

This is the Season of Creation. The liturgical colour for the season is orange. You are invited to introduce the colour orange to your wardrobe for the duration of this season.

Scripture Readings for next week:

(October 3, 2021, Nineteenth after Pentecost, Proper 22, Worldwide Communion)
Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16