

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song VU 951

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God!

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

Call to Worship

Bread and wine join us together,

**for praise and prayer, for friendship and service in this
congregation of Christ's people.**

Bread and wine join us together,

**with pastoral charges working carefully and justly
throughout Antler River Watershed Region and across the country.**

Bread and wine join us together,

with faith communities worldwide.

Bread and wine join us together, to Christ the True Vine,

**we are called to the way of discipleship, to support each other,
and to serve the vulnerable and downtrodden.**

Amen.

Hymn VU 415 "God, We Praise You for the Morning"

God, we praise you for the morning;
hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise,
joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,
mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,
all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter,
help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher,
strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour,
come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Christ is Lord of our days!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Vineyard of our Delight, you yield abundant fruit for all to share, and invite us into your chamber to feast and celebrate. We accept your invitation and enter your presence knowing that: there are times when we forget that all we have comes from you; there are times when we forget to give you thanks; there are times when we have taken more than we need; there are times when we have forgotten the needs of others. Forgive us, gracious God. May we be ever mindful of your blessings. May we treat your creation and all those with whom we share it with reverence. May our prayers of thanksgiving and our lives overflow with gratitude. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Try a Little Kindness" by Glen Campbell performed by Jann Arden and children

Responsive Reading: Psalm 26

Plea for Justice and Declaration of Righteousness

¹ Vindicate me, O LORD,

**for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.**

² Prove me, O LORD, and try me;

test my heart and mind.

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,

and I walk in your faithfulness.

⁴ I do not sit with the worthless,

nor do I consort with hypocrites;

⁵ I hate the company of evildoers,

and will not sit with the wicked.

⁶ I wash my hands in innocence,

and go around your altar, O LORD,

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,

and telling all your wondrous deeds.

⁸ O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,

and the place where your glory abides.

⁹ Do not sweep me away with sinners,

nor my life with the bloodthirsty,

¹⁰ those in whose hands are evil devices,

and whose right hands are full of bribes.

¹¹ But as for me, I walk in my integrity;

redeem me, and be gracious to me.

¹² My foot stands on level ground;

in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.

Scripture: Mark 10:2-16

² Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³ He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴ They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵ But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶ But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰ Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹ He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

*The other readings for this week are: **Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12.** 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: “Created for Community”

Hymn VU 456 "Now to Your Table Spread"

Now to your table spread
we come, each one in faith
that you alone provide the words of life and death:
in wine and bread, in promised food
we find your loving heart, O God.

Hands of the world stretch out
your mystery to touch
in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,
to sing in joy, to cry in grief,
to know your meaning for our life.

Here is our common wealth
in sharing what is good,
as though all humankind around one table stood,
this bread to break, this wine to taste:
one people in the name of Christ.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Truly it is right to give you, loving God, both our thanks and praise, for you alone are God, active and ever present in our lives, yet beyond both time and space. Out of nothing your Word called forth the heavens and the earth. At the sound of your voice light was established. You created all life, including woman and man. You called us to be your people, and promised to be our God. Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen, and with all the faithful of every time and place, we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving.

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;

heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest.

Gracious God, from the beginning we have denied you. Adam and Eve turned from your fellowship, and were cast from the garden. Cain killed his brother Abel, and became an outcast. Jacob wrestled with you, and you put his hip out of joint. David did what was evil in your sight. Countless others rejected the words of your prophets, and became lost in this world. And so, in the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus, to walk a little while with us. To the outcast he brought fellowship. To the lame and the ill he brought healing. To the sinner he brought forgiveness. To all he brought salvation. Yet we even managed to deny and betray Jesus, who, on the night of his betrayal took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, he took the cup, saying: "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do it in remembrance of me." And so, in memory of your Son's great sacrifice, we humbly offer what little we have, the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving.

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

We ask you, great and glorious God, to pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on your gifts, that, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we may be united with Christ, and as the body of Christ. Empower us to give you praise, and to continue the work of your mission. For this reason we ask that you pour out your Spirit upon your creation, and make it anew. Breathe anew your Spirit in your Church that it would once again strive daily for your kingdom come. Especially we pray for Epworth United Church in Kingsville. Bless all the peoples of this world that they may learn to live in peace with one another. Especially we pray for the people of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. Comfort all who mourn, especially the friends and family of Bill Meeuse. Bless with healing those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially we think of Donna Aukland, Cecil Jenkins, Juri Lees and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Gather together your peoples, from the ends of the earth, into your realm, where justice and mercy truly exist. We ask this, that we, with all your people, of every language, race and nation, may share the banquet you have promised.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, now and forever, and in whose name we pray:

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.

THE CELEBRATION

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Here we ate, we drank, and we tasted your goodness, O God.

May this meal we have shared here today fill our souls with love. May the meal we share with all the world fill the world with hope. May we leave this table refreshed and replenished, ready to be both recipients and agents of grace. Amen.

We Respond to God's Blessing

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

We are blessed by God that through us God may bring about healing, reconciliation, justice and wholeness in our community and around the world. Our tithes and our offerings will be received.

Holy One, we present our offering to join the gifts of all others who do your work in the world. Bless and use these gifts and our lives to preserve and spread the good news of your love for us all and the hope you offer in your eternal kingdom, here on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Hymn VU 556 "Would You Bless Our Homes and Families"

Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding,
let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures,
sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking
and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another
and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured,
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.
And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen
spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.

Commissioning and Benediction

You are community;

**We support and encourage one another,
Praying and working in the way of Christ together.**

You are called to build community;

**We support the powerless with loving kindness,
Giving generously to those in need.**

You are blessed by God;

Creator, redeemer, sustainer.

Go in peace.

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:

Dorchester:

ALL:

ICE CREAM!

Let's all meet for ice cream and a pre-Thanksgiving celebration at The Frozen Cow (32 Mill Rd. at Hamilton Rd., Dorchester, ON) at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6.

ALL welcome!

We are currently in 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 never too late to join.

Scripture Readings for next week: (Oct. 10, Twentieth after Pentecost, Proper 23, Thanksgiving)
Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33