

October 10, 2021
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost / Thanksgiving

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come". By George J. Elvey
Arr. Victor Labenske

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made the heavens and the earth.

We glorify our God with songs of thanksgiving and joy.

We will not forget all that God has done,

**Feeding our ancestors in the faith with manna,
quenching our thirst with streams of living water.**

We will not forget to speak the simple words,
"Thank you!" to our God.

As we sing and shout together of God's amazing love.

Hymn VU 559 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!

Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.

Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

Creator God, you crown the year with your goodness. You bless us with all that we have, yet we take it for granted or presume it is owed to us. May we who have been blessed recognize our blessings and always give thanks to you. You bless us abundantly, yet we hoard our wealth. May we who have been blessed share your abundance with others. You bless us with all of creation, yet we abuse sky, field and stream, and seek to deny other creatures access to food and habitat. May we who have been blessed recognize your gifts and treat them with reverence. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" by Mark Hayes

Nancy Quinn

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 227 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 126

When God brought Zion's captives home,
it seemed to us like a dream.

**But then our mouths were full of laughter,
and our tongues uttered shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations:
'God has done great things for them.'

**Truly God has done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoice.**

Restore our fortunes, O God, as streams refresh the Negev.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying seed for sowing,
**shall come home with songs of joy,
bringing in their sheaves.**

Scripture: Joel 2:21-27

- ²¹ Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!
- ²² Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
- ²³ O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the LORD your God;
for he has given the early rain^[a] for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
- ²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
- ²⁵ I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.
- ²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
- ²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Matthew 6:25-33;**
1 Timothy 2:1-7. 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: “Grateful”

Hymn VU 519 “Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

Sing to the Lord of harvest,
sing songs of love and praise,
with joyful hearts and voices
your hallelujahs raise;
by whom the rolling seasons
in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest
a joyful song of love.

God makes the clouds drop fatness,
the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness,
the valleys laugh and sing.

God fills them all with fullness,
all things with large increase,
and crowns the year with goodness,
with plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar
all things God's goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
the souls Christ died to save:
your hearts lay down before him
when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
who gave his life for all.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Holy One, you created a richly abundant world, with plenty for all. We offer our gifts not only as a way of saying "Thanks", but also to ensure the fair and just distribution of your blessings with all. Our tithes and our offerings will be received.

Extravagant God, you yield abundant fruit for all to share, and invite us into your chamber to feast and celebrate. As we present our gifts, fill us with your passion to feed the world, that, leaving no one poor or hungry, all may dwell with you in peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, presider over the affairs of people and nations,

move us to thanksgiving:

not because of what we have,
not because of present blessing,
not because of your continuing providence,
not because of the moment,
not because of the eternity of salvation; but because of whose we are.

Let our thanksgiving be expressed:

not only in feasting, but in sharing;
not only in passive enjoyment, but in active service;
not only in annual observance, but in daily attitude.

And because your concern for wholesome living embraces every person upon the earth, we pray for ourselves and others:

For your church, in all of its diversity and variety, especially Ailsa Craig United Church
as they work through the process of searching for a new minister.

For our leaders, political, ecclesiastical, and others....

grant them your wisdom and compassion.

For those who are caught as bystanders in acts of aggression and violence, military and otherwise, especially the people of Afghanistan,

keep them safe from harm and grant them courage.

For all our brothers and sisters with whom we share this world, especially the people of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama.

For those who mourn the loss of relationships through the death of loved ones, grant them comfort and strength.

For those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially Tucker, Donna Auckland, Cecil Jenkins, Juri Lees, and their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts...

grant them comfort and strength, courage and healing.

We gather all of these prayers together and lift them to you, in the name of the one 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 242 "Let All Things Now Living"

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Commissioning and Benediction

May God,
who clothes the lilies of the fields, & feeds the birds of the sky,
who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,
who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine,
**lead us, feed us, and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator,
to whom we offer praise and thanksgiving, now and forever.**
Amen.

Sung Response: VU 431 "Sing Amen" (*No License*)

Postlude: "Now Thank We All Our God". By Johann Crueger
Arr. Victor Labenske

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dorchester:

Union:

ALL:

The annual fall meeting of ARWR is Friday, October 29 to Saturday, October 30. This will include a Celebration of Ministries service (Ordination/Commissioning) live at Byron United Church, and online. The new General Secretary of the UCC, Michael Blair, is the guest preacher. Stay tuned for more details about this service.

Scripture Readings for next week:

(October 17, 2021, Twenty-first after Pentecost, Proper 24)

Job 38:1-7, (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

