

October 17, 2021
Twenty-first after Pentecost / Proper 24

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song MV 156 "Dance with the Spirit" 3 times

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Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk (move, sing) with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

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

Call to Worship *(based on Job 38)*

Who marked off the dimensions of the earth's foundations?

**Only the Creator of heaven and earth could have stretched a
measuring line across it.**

Who shut up the seas behind doors when it burst forth at creation?

Only God Almighty could hold back the waters of creation.

Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?

Only Holy Wisdom could number them.

Then let us worship and praise our God and Maker.

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*)

We feel your welcome, gracious God, in this time of worship. You welcome young and old, all seeking peace, and all brimming over with energy. You welcome newcomers and long-time members; all seeking a familiar expression of praise and prayer, and all seeking a startlingly new celebration of faith. You welcome us all, welcoming God, and yet we fail to fully understand you. We seek to earn brownie points with you. In our self-absorbed attempts to seek a place of honour in your everlasting realm, we ignore the suffering of those around us; we push aside those very ones you would honour. Forgive us God. Help us to die to our desires and be born again to service to others. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Just a Little Talk With Jesus" Redeemed Quartet

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 229 "God of the Sparrow"

God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbour God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God our creator, our centre, our friend, we thank you for the blessings of life, for those who are dear to us, for those who have gone before us, and for all who have helped and influenced us. Most of all, we thank you for the faith that is in us, for our awareness of you, and our hope in you. Keep us, we pray, thankful, faithful, hopeful, and ever in your service until our lives shall end.

Gracious God, we pray for the faithful all over the world, that all who love you may be united in your service. Especially this day we pray for Wesley-Knox United Church in London and their pastoral charge supervisor as they search for a new spiritual leader.

We pray for the peoples and leaders of the nations, that they may be reconciled one to another in pursuit of your justice and peace. Especially we pray for the people of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

We pray for all who suffer from prejudice, greed, or violence, that the heart of humanity may warm with your tenderness.

We pray for all who mourn a loss. Grant them the strength of community and the comfort of your Holy Spirit.

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

Compassionate God, into your hands we commend all for whom 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

Jesus told James and John that there are no places of honour in God's way of doing things. Instead, Jesus invited them and us to serve. Let us give generously that our gifts may serve God's purposes.

It is only a small fraction of the assets at our disposal, Challenging God, but may it be used to bring food to the hungry, companionship to the lonely, healing to the broken, and hope to all. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 104:1-9, 24-35

Praise God, O my soul.

Eternal God, you are great indeed.

You clothe yourself with light like a garment.

**You spread the heavens like a tent;
you lay out the beams of your dwelling
on the waters above.**

You make the clouds your chariot,
and ride on the wings of the wind.

**You make the winds your messengers,
and flames of fire your servants.**

You fix the earth on its foundations,
so that it can never tremble.

You cover the earth with the ocean as with a cloak.

When the waters covered the mountains,
they fled at your rebuke;

at the sound of your thunder, they took flight.

They flowed over the mountains, ran down the valleys
to the place you had appointed for them.

**There you set limits not to be passed,
that they might not again cover the earth.**

O God, how manifold are your works!

**With Wisdom at your side you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

There lies the great and mighty Sea,
teeming with living things both great and small.

**Upon it sail the ships, and there is Leviathan,
the monster you made to play in it.**

All these look to you,
to give them their food in due season.

**What you give them they gather up.
When you open your hand,
you fill them with good things.**

But when you hide your face they despair.
When you take away their breath, they die,
and return to dust.

**But when you send out your spirit, they live again,
and you renew the face of the earth.**

May your glory, O God, endure forever.

May you rejoice, O God, in your works.

When you look at the earth it trembles,

when you touch the mountains they smoke.

I will sing to God as long as I live.

I will praise my God while I have being.

Scripture: Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

² “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

⁷ when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

³⁴ “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,

so that a flood of waters may cover you?

³⁵ Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go

and say to you, ‘Here we are’?

³⁶ Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,

or given understanding to the mind?

³⁷ Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?

Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,

³⁸ when the dust runs into a mass

and the clods cling together?

³⁹ “Can you hunt the prey for the lion,

or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

⁴⁰ when they crouch in their dens,

or lie in wait in their covert?

⁴¹ Who provides for the raven its prey,

when its young ones cry to God,

and wander about for lack of food?

*The other readings for this week are: **Job 38:1-7, (34-41); Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45.** 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 341 “Fairest Lord Jesus”

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,

O thou of God to earth come down:

thee will I cherish, thee will I honour,

thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,

robed in the blooming garb of spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,

who makes the troubled heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and fair the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.

All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly,
wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;
none can be nearer, fairer or dearer
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.

Meditation: “Just who do you think you are?”

We Respond to God's Blessing

Hymn VU 642 “Be Thou My Vision”

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go now into the world,
Inspired by the extravagant love of God.
Live generously, with open hands,
Loving all whom you meet as if your lives depended on it.
Be good stewards of the gifts you have received,
So that God may be glorified in all you say and do.

**And may the abundant love of God surround us,
The extravagant grace of Christ sustain us,
And the constant presence of the Holy Spirit
Inspire and encourage us in every good deed and word.
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:

The Christmas Shoppe will be happening again this year. They are looking for donations of items or money as well as volunteers to help when the Shoppe is open. If you are able to volunteer, please let Pat Palmer know. 519-764-2368 (leave a message)

The Shoppe will be open: Tuesday Nov. 30, Wednesday Dec. 1, Thursday Dec. 2, and Friday Dec. 3.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day and also 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the Tuesday.

Donations may be delivered to the gym of First United Church on Sunday, Nov. 28 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

OR bring to Union Church before Nov 28 and Roberta will deliver them.

Send monetary donations to: Sandra Taylor, Treasurer,
24 Caldwell St. St. Thomas, ON N5R 5J2

Dorchester:

Wednesday, October 20 the Finance and Stewardship committee meets at 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 24 is our 165th Anniversary. Our guest preacher is Gabrielle Heidinger

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: (Oct. 24, Twenty-second after Pentecost, Proper 25)
Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22); Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52