

November 14, 2021
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 28

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Spirit of God Descend upon my Heart" Morecambe, FD Atkinson. Setting: 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

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Come, let us give thanks to God!

**We gather together to praise the One who strengthens the weak,
and hears the prayers of the forgotten.**

Come, let us give thanks to Christ!

**We gather together to sing of the One who calls us to serve those
who are hungry and alone at this time of year.**

Come, let us give thanks to the Spirit!

**We gather together to exalt the One who provokes us to love
not only our family and friends, but the guest among us.**

Hymn VU 385 "Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers" *to tune 29 (Richmond)*

Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
and make this house your home;
descend with all your gracious powers:
O come, great Spirit, come!

Come as the light: to us reveal
our emptiness and woe;
and lead us in those paths of life
where all the righteous go.

Come as the wind: sweep clean away
what dead within us lies,
and search and freshen all our souls
with living energies.

Come as the fire and purge our hearts
like sacrificial flame;
let our whole life an offering be
to our Redeemer's name.

Spirit divine, attend our prayers:
make a lost world your home;
descend with all your gracious powers:
O come, great Spirit, come!

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

Wondrous God, your ways baffle us. You pay attention to the down-and-out, lifting them up from the gutters of despair. You guide our feet on the paths of righteousness when we are tempted to run down the highways of sin. You listen to our complaints, our sorrows, our anger, our pain when no one else seems to even notice us. You call each and every one of us by name and fill us with joy. Yet all too often we allow ourselves to be annoyed by others and speak words that discourage and hurt them, rather than loving them and lifting them up. Grant us the compassion to love and serve our sisters and brothers on this earth in their need. Place your words of Good News on our lips that we may speak words of hope to the lost and broken we find along the pathways you lead us down. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "I Need Thee Every Hour" Sung by Jim Traquair Accompanied by Norman Abbott

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 232 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"

Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:4-20 The birth of Samuel

⁴ On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; ⁵ but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶ Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷ So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸ Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

⁹ After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. ¹⁰ She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. ¹¹ She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

¹² As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴ So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." ¹⁵ But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." ¹⁷ Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." ¹⁸ And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. ¹⁹ They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

Responsive Reading: 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hannah's Prayer (Song)

"My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in my God.

**My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory.**

² "There is no Holy One like the LORD,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.

³ Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
**for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.**

⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.

⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.

⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts.

⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust;
**he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.**

For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
and on them he has set the world.

⁹ "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
**but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
for not by might does one prevail.**

¹⁰ The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered;
the Most High will thunder in heaven.

**The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king,
and exalt the power of his anointed."**

*The other lectionary readings for this week are: **Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8.** 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: "God of the Improbable"

Hymn VU 286 "If You Will Trust in God to Guide You"

If you will trust in God to guide you,
and hope in God through all your ways,
God will give strength, whatever betide you,
and bear you through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that will not move.

God will embrace your pain and weeping,
your helpless anger and distress.
If you are in God's care and keeping,
in sorrow will God love you less?
For Christ, who took for you a cross,
will bring you safe through every loss.

Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;
so do your own part faithfully,
and trust God's word; though undeserving,
you'll find God's promise true to be.
God never will forsake in need
the soul that trusts in God indeed.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God calls us to do the unconsidered, the unlikely, and the impossible; to make real the Kingdom of God, here on earth as in heaven. We do this through acts of caring and through the sharing of the resources God has blessed us with. We offer to God a fraction of our blessings.

Loving God, may these gifts, given gratefully, be brought to life through the power of your creative Spirit. Multiply and use them to extend your liberating realm throughout the earth. In Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the blessings of life. We bless you for the wonders of the world: for heights of mountains and breadth of prairie, for diversity of people and intimacy of families, for the goodness of all you have made, and for the work you have given to us. We bless you for the gift of Jesus Christ, who lived, and died, and lives again wherever justice is known, wherever love is found. We bless you for your life among us liberating us from all that holds us in bondage, healing brokenness, renewing spirits, and supporting us in the fellowship of this congregation. Grant, O God, that in the course of this day, and throughout the coming week, our hearts may be filled with thankfulness for these and all your blessings.

Holy One, we pray for your church that it may be a beacon of hope for all who find themselves drowning in the storms of life. Especially we pray for Rowntree Memorial United Church, and their minister the Reverend Wendy Noble.

We pray for the people of the world, our brothers and sisters in creation, especially this week we think of the people of New Zealand and Australia.

We pray for all who mourn the death of loved ones, especially the friends and family of David Gill, Shirley Morris, Elizabeth Rantala, Lorne Scott, and Anne Smith.

We pray for all who are ill, especially we remember Donna Auckland, Cecil Jenkins, Marlene Smith, and their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts...

All of these prayers we gather together and offer them, in the name of our Lord, Jesus, 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 636 "Give to the Winds Your Fears" *to tune 715 (St Thomas)*

Give to the winds your fears.

Hope and be undismayed.

God hears your sighs and counts your tears.

God shall lift up your head.

Through waves and clouds and storms,
God gently clears your way.
Wait for the time, so shall this night
soon end in joyous day.

Even though you do not rule,
yet heaven and earth and hell
proclaim God sits upon the throne,
and rules o'er all things well.

Your everlasting truth,
O God, your ceaseless love,
sees all your children's wants, and knows
what best for each will prove.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go to the world to:

Console the inconsolable,

Love the unloved and the unlovable, and

Redraw the margins to include the marginalized.

**And may the God of the improbable
go with us to make the impossible possible.**

Amen.

Postlude: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee / I Worship You, Almighty God" arr. Carol Tornquist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dorchester:

REMINDER: This afternoon at 2 p.m. is the Covenanting Service between Dorchester United Church and Rev. Mark Perry. You are invited to attend in person, or via zoom at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84975167662?pwd=a1lySU5GanU0TWdDU1dnd1dFSnFLZz09>

REMINDER: This afternoon Bob and Marj MacMillan are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary with a drive-by Open House from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at their home at 2802 Crampton Dr., Mossley.

The Central Board will meet on Tuesday, November 16 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Union:

The Unified Board will meet on Wednesday, November 17 at 7 p.m. Rev. Mark has sent the zoom link. If you don't see it in your inbasket, check your junk mail, or request for it to be resent to you.

The Reopening Task Group is asking for volunteers to help take attendance each week. A list of attendees names and contact info would be already in a binder, the volunteer would need to check the list and record the attendance date. Please let Lynne Winter or Heather Schneider know if you are willing to help.

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

ALL:

Scripture Readings for next week:

(November 21, 2021, Reign of Christ/Christ the King - Communion)

2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37