

January 13, 2022
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Ain-a That Good News"
Traditional Spiritual, 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

© 2022 Thom M. Shuman. Used with permission.

Blessed are those who trust - in God!

We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.

Blessed are those who hope - in God!

We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.

Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!

We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.

Hymn VU 266 "Amazing Grace"

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
 that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 and grace my fears relieved;
 how precious did that grace appear
 the hour I first believed.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
 I have already come;
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
 and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,
 this word my hope secures;
 God will my shield and portion be
 as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise
 than when we'd first begun.

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

Creator God, from the dust of the earth you fashioned hearts that beat within our chests and breathed into us the breath of life. We thank you and bless you for the gift of life. You gave us life that we might love you, one another, and ourselves, yet all too often our hearts are obsessed with obtaining more and more; our hearts rejoice that we are not the ones who weep; our hearts are closed against those who do not act or live as we think they ought; our hearts are hardened by sights that make us uncomfortable and sounds that confuse us. Forgive us God. Remove our hardened hearts and create in us new hearts; hearts that beat for the poor; hearts that ache for those who weep; hearts that welcome those shunned by the rest of the world; hearts that break at the sights and sounds of the pain, suffering and anguish in our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Responsive Reading: Psalm 1

Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel
of the wicked, or linger in the way of sinners,
or sit down among those who mock.

**But their delight is in the law of God,
and on that law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted beside streams of water,
yielding their fruit in due season.

**Their leaves do not wither,
and whatever they produce shall prosper.**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them,

**but they are like the chaff,
driven away by the wind.**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand
when judgement comes,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**For God watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Scripture: Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Jeremiah 17:5-10;** **1 Corinthians 15:12-20.** 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 896 “Blest Are They”

- 1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit,
 theirs is the kingdom of God.
 Blest are they, full of sorrow,
 they shall be consoled.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessed are you, holy are you!
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.
- 2 Blest are they, the lowly ones,
 they shall inherit the earth.
 Blest are they who hunger and thirst,
 they shall have their fill.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessed are you, holy are you!
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.

- 3 Blest are they who show mercy,
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart,
they shall see God.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessed are you, holy are you!
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.
- 4 Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith,
the glory of God is theirs.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessed are you, holy are you!
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.
- 5 Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessed are you, holy are you!
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.

Meditation: “Woah! You mean....”

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God does not bless us for our own benefit alone. Rather it is through us that God blesses all of creation. The blessings we receive are to be shared to be blessings for others as well. It is at our own peril that we hoard God's blessings. Our tithes and our other offerings will be received.

You pour out your abundance on us, Loving God, so we can alleviate the sufferings of others, turn their woes into blessings, and their emptiness into overflowing grace and life. Take the gifts we offer and use them in the work of your new life which is in our midst. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Loving God, you cause the rain to fall on the just and the unjust alike. Hear our prayers:

For the hungry and the overfed: may we all have enough.

For the mourners and the mockers: may we laugh together.

For the victims and the oppressors: may we share power wisely.

For the peacemakers and the warmongers:

may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony.

For the silenced and the propagandists: may we speak our own words in truth and in love.

For the unemployed, the retired and the overworked:

may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative.

For the troubled and the secure: may we live together as wounded healers.

For the homeless and the pampered: may we all have shelters of warmth and safety.

For the vibrant and the dying: may we all die to sin and live to love.

All knowing God, we lift up our neighbours and ask your blessing upon them:

Corunna Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada, and their minister, the Rev. Blair Corcoran

The people of Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland.

All who mourn a loss in their lives,

especially the families and loved ones of Cecil Jenkins and Dolores Johnson

Those who are ill or dying, waiting for medical treatment or recovering from medical intervention,

especially Sammy Gardner, Mac Toner, and their loved ones and caregivers,

and those known only in the silence of our hearts.....

We pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, the 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,

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, the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn VU 213 "Rejoice, the Lord is King"

1 Rejoice the Lord is King!

Your risen Lord adore!

Rejoice, give thanks and sing

and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:

rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

2 Jesus the Saviour reigns,

the God of truth and love;

when he had purged our sins,

he took his seat above.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:

rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

3 God's kingdom cannot fail;

Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;

the keys of death and hell

are to our Jesus given.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:

rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

4 Rejoice in glorious hope,
for Christ, the judge, shall come
to glorify the saints
for their eternal home.

We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

Commissioning and Benediction

Blessed are we,

**because we are able to gather to worship God,
and listen for the word God speaks to us today.**

Blessed are we,

because we know we sin and fall short of the glory of God.

Blessed are we,

because we know our need for God in our lives.

We leave this time of worship knowing we are blessed

Blessed by God, who created us for blessing.

Sung Response: VU 974 "Amen"

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dorchester:

Annual Congregational Meeting is TODAY, Sunday, February 13, following worship.

Union:

ALL:

Continuing Education: Rev. Mark will be on continuing education leave the week of February 14 to February 20, inclusive. He will be available for pastoral emergencies. 519-719-8079.

Lenten Reflections: Rev. Mark is trying determine interest in a weekly reflection on scripture, based on Betty Lynn Schwab's book *Diving Deeply*, for the season of Lent. Sessions could be held Wednesday or Thursday afternoons, depending on what works best for those who are interested, commencing Wednesday, March 2 (or Thursday, March 3) until Wednesday, April 13 (or Thursday, April 14). If you are interested, please let Rev. Mark know, and indicate your preference of day and time.

Siloam United Church is offering a **free**, three-part event – **Emotional Wellness: A Spiritual Journey** for all ages, on Tuesdays, February 8, 15, and March 1, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The speaker is Grace Tallman, RN BScN, Mental Health Counsellor, and Grief Recovery Specialist. The goals of the series are to provide a fresh understanding of your mental health challenges (the evenings will focus on Depression, Anxiety, and Resilience), offer coping strategies, and offer a renewed sense of hope. For more information, or to request the ZOOM link, contact Rev. Ann Corbet at acorbetrev@gmail.com.

Five Oaks is offering **Books and Coffee** online on February 8, 15, 22, and March 1.

This online book club focuses on learning from different cultures and interacting with diverse people.

Each week you will read specified chapters and answer reflection questions and Nazra Ranmall will

lead the online chat about what was read and your thoughts about Arundhati Roy's book *The God of Small Things*. To register, go to:

<https://fiveoaks.venue360.me/public/events/homepage?&org=ALL&eventPlan=ALL&season=ALL&groupBySeason=false&event=81>

Five Oaks is offering **Sister Water and the Sultan** online on February 10, 17, 24, and March 3, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Len Desroches will gently guide you through an exploration of the spirituality of Francis of Assisi, including a powerful encounter with the Muslim Sultan of Egypt. To register, go to:

<https://fiveoaks.venue360.me/public/events/homepage?&org=ALL&eventPlan=ALL&season=ALL&groupBySeason=false&event=72>

Five Oaks is offering **Family Fun Day** live in-person on February 19. Join in an afternoon of winter fun: family activities, crafts, storywalk, campfire and more. All activities will be facilitated in line with the latest Public Health guidelines. Registration coming soon to

<https://fiveoaks.on.ca/program-schedule/>

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council invites you to join their Sunday Evening Discussion Group on the topic **Racism is a Pandemic**. The group meets twice monthly from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., commencing Sunday, January 16. For more details, and to register, go to:

<https://arwrcucc.ca/racism-is-a-pandemic/>

Scripture Readings for next week:

(February 20, 2022. Seventh after Epiphany)

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50;
Luke 6:27-38

(February 27, 2022. Transfiguration)

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)