



February 20, 2022
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
*A family of faith ministering together in the
Name of Jesus Christ*
Ministers: Each of Us
Assisted by Rev. Mark Perry
Organist: Kathy Limon

We Gather In God's Presence

Land acknowledgement

Portions of this service have been prepared by the United Church of Canada for Black History Month 2022

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song MV 88 "Over My Head" (sung 2X)

Words and music: African-American spiritual; French trans. Denise Soulodre, 2006 Arrangement: Stephen Lee,
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Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.

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

Call to Worship

We come to worship today determined to follow the Christ
who calls us to a new understanding of fishing.

We come to worship with open hearts and minds
and a soul ablaze for justice and equality.

We come to meet God and each other.

Let us worship in love and understanding.

Hymn MV 79 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

Words: Ruth Duck, 1994. Music: traditional melody, Ireland; arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997 Words copyright © 1996 and arrangement copyright © 1997 The Pilgrim Press.
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Spirit, open my heart
to the joy of pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.

All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.

Spirit, open my heart
to the joy of pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed,
may my living bring you glory.

Spirit, open my heart
to the joy of pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.

Spirit, open my heart
to the joy of pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

God of love, we come today celebrating Black History Month. As we gather, we ask you to come to us now as your Son came to those first disciples on the lakeshore, calling them into a Beloved Community of love and justice. We pray for your Spirit's presence calling us to the same. Speak your peace and understanding to our hearts. Reveal yourself to us as we seek ways to sincerely worship together. May our celebration bring a new sense of unity, binding us together in your love, amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Songwriters: Ali Campbell / Brian Travers / Charles Skarbek / Earl Falconer / Jim Brown / Michael Virtue / Norman Hassan / Robin Campbell / Terrence Oswald
Wilson Swing Low Lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group, Warner Chappell Music, Inc

Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin for to carry me home

I looked over Jordan and what did I see
Comin for to carry me home
A band of angels comin after me
Comin for to carry me home

Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin for to carry me home

If you get there before I do
Comin for to carry me home
Tell all my friends I'm comin too
Comin for to carry me home

Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin for to carry me home

Sometimes I'm up sometimes I'm down
Comin for to carry me home
But still my soul feels heavenly bound
Comin for to carry me home

Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin for to carry me home

Prayer of the people

God of all, we come in prayer today in this time of celebration to give you thanks. We thank you for the spirit of a people who bring the world to life in many ways, and whose spirit pushes through crippling oppression and adversities. We give thanks that we get to be in community with each other, where we celebrate together in your glory.

We pray for African refugees everywhere struggling to get to a place of safety and security. We pray for wrongly and unfairly sentenced imprisoned Black people who have fallen prey to an unjust system. We pray along with their families, seeking justice and resolution. We pray for your people, who are still struggling to breathe, and we ask you for courage and compassion to be allies, not just for one day or one month but ongoing, honouring our call to follow Jesus in a commitment to love.

We thank you for all people everywhere who carry an eternal flame of hope and who urge us to believe and participate in a vision of a united Beloved Community. It's a beautiful community, O God, and it is possible through the workings of your Spirit.

Compassionate God, we pray 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.....

Comfort them and grant them peace.

This we pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ, 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

Minute for Mission



Record numbers of families are turning to our Mission & Service partners for support.

In the last two years, visits to Canadian food banks have climbed 20 percent. Today, over 33 percent of foodbank users are children. For families already struggling, there's no relief in sight. Food prices are set to rise another 5 to 7 percent this year. Record numbers of families are turning to our Mission & Service partners for support. That's why on February 21—as many provinces celebrate Family Day—Mission & Service is launching a special appeal to support Canadian families. Your gift of just \$25 will provide a family of four with a warm, nutritious meal. \$50 will support a family with two meals. \$175 will ensure a family can eat a good, healthy meal every day of the week.

Whether you are celebrating Family Day, Heritage Day, or if it's just another day, let's make February 21 a day of generosity. If you are able, please make [a special gift\(opens in a new tab\)](#) to help families, and make sure your friends know there is an opportunity to give. With new variants, rolling school closures, lockdowns, fear, and uncertainty, families are more stressed than ever. It doesn't cost a lot to show we care.

Above all, let us pray for families:

O God, bless our families.

Bless parents who are on edge balancing parenting and work responsibilities.

Bless those who feel isolated and alone without childcare supports.

Bless parents who are physically and mentally drained.

Bless those who are unable to find or afford safe housing and stable jobs.

Bless those giving it their all to approach this time with creativity and compassion.

Bless children who feel the uncertainty of these days most acutely.

Bless those living in unsafe home environments.

Bless young people who are missing friends and gatherings.

Bless teens who grieve the loss of graduation celebrations, who have delayed further education and work opportunities, and who are waiting for driver's tests.

Bless families facing financial insecurity, struggling to put food on the table.

Bless all experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges.

Bless those waiting for vaccinations and tests, worried about staying or recovering well.

Bless families to express warmth, caring, patience, forgiveness, and love toward one another.

Bless them to know it's okay to not be okay, and to reach out for support.

Bless them with the peace and grace of your holy spirit.

Bless them to know they aren't alone. Amen.

Offering (by Jim McKean, Gathering ACE 2019/20, pg 52, used by permission)

When you reach out, it means the world to us, O Christ. When we reach out to the world, that outreach gives meaning to your name.

Offertory Hymn: # 575 “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

Words: Frank von Christierson © 1974 The Hymn Society. Words: The Hymn Society. Music: Estate of Doris Wright Smith, c/o Gerald Spall CCLI 2593760, OneLicense.net

I’m gonna live so God can use
Anywhere, Lord anytime.
I’m gonna live to God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime.

Let us pray:

Great God, these gifts are our witness to kindness and generosity.

May they be found useful in bettering this community and the kin-dom of God on earth.

May they support the ways of being that Jesus taught each of us. May they be the fulfillment of all that this community of Christ holds dear. Amen.

Responsive Reading Psalm 138

Paraphrased by James Taylor

This is your home your turf, your territory.

**I am so glad to be here
that I kiss the earth you walk on.**

I fling myself into the dust,
the floor of your dwelling.

I extend my arms to embrace your earth.

But you lift me up from my lowly position.

You take me up as your guest.

You make me one of your family;

You even give me your name!

You take me under your wing.

When I cry out, you cover me;

I benefit from your strength.

Foxes may lord it over the chicken coop,
and squirrels over the sparrow’s nest,
but no creatures challenge the eagle’s rule.

**As the eagle soars above the field mice,
so do you, Lord, rise above us mortals.**

Daily duties keep up scurrying close to the earth.

But you watch over us from on high;

you can see danger long before it draws near.

Troubles grow around us like tall grass

but in the shadow of your outspread pinions,
predators scatter like minnows.

You watch over me,

because you have a place for me in your plans.

Scripture: 1 Peter 1: 3 – 9 (*Contemporary English Version*)

A Real Reason for Hope

³ Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on. ⁴ God has something stored up for you in heaven, where it will never decay or be ruined or disappear.

⁵ You have faith in God, whose power will protect you until the last day.^[a] Then he will save you, just as he has always planned to do. ⁶ On that day you will be glad, even if you have to go through many hard trials for a while. ⁷ Your faith will be like gold that has been tested in a fire. And these trials will prove that your faith is worth much more than gold that can be destroyed. They will show that you will be given praise and honor and glory when Jesus Christ returns.

⁸ You have never seen Jesus, and you don't see him now. But still you love him and have faith in him, and no words can tell how glad and happy ⁹ you are to be saved. That's why you have faith.

Hymn: # 646 VU "We Are Marching (2 times)

Words, Music: South African traditional song, 20th century. Translation, Arrangement: © 1984 Walton Music Corporation. CCLI 2593760, OneLicense.net

We are marching in the Light of God,
We are marching in the Light of God,
We are marching in the Light of God,
We are marching in the Light of God,

We are marching, marching, we are marching oo-oo...
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching oo-oo...
We are marching in the light of God.

Reflection: "Fishing So Others Can Have a Meal"

By Charmain Bailey a diaconal student minister serving at Bedford and Central United Churches in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

We Respond to God's Blessing

Hymn: # 586 VU "We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection"

Words: June Boyce-Tillman 1993 © 1993 Stainer & Bell Ltd. Used by permission of Hope Publishing Company.

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We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.

We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping;
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,

we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of our love.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go now, to seek a place in a Beloved Community,
where all people are known and acknowledged,
where partners and allies can be found,
where all people work toward love, fairness, and understanding.
Go with the hope of Jesus, and Martin Luther King,
that this community is possible and all it needs is you.

Go with celebration in your hearts for Black peoples.
Go now in peace. Amen.

Sung Response: VU 963 May the Grace of Christ Attend Us

Music: © 1987 Jeeva Sam. Harmony © 1995 Fred Kimball Graham, Words: Public Domain.

Music: Jeeva Sam, Harmony: Fred Kimball Graham, OneLicense.net

May the grace of Christ attend us,
and the love of God surround us,
and the Holy Spirit keep us,
now and ever. Amen.

Announcements.....

Union:

The Broadview subscription renewal for Union is due mid-March. If you wish to be included or deleted from the subscription list, please let Roberta know.

Dorchester:

The Rev. Lewis Snow will be celebrating his 100th birthday on Feb. 22. He is a former minister at Dorchester, a member of Dorchester as well as a former president of London Conference.

All:

February 27, Transfiguration Sunday, Communion service.

Please have wine or juice and a bread product ready before the service.

World Day of Prayer March 6

Again this year, the World Day of Prayer will not be held in our Churches, but the Women's Inter-Church Council, World Day of Prayer Committee has prepared a video which you can watch. Go to:

<http://www.wicc.org> and click on "World Day of Prayer 2022 Service Video"

If you wish to donate, please send it to:

**WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (WICC) at 47 Queen's Park Crescent East,
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3**

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.

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/>

Lectionary Readings for next week: (February 27, Transfiguration Sunday)

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