

May 29, 2022
Seventh Sunday of Easter

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song MV 2 "Come All You People"

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come now and worship the Lord.

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

Call to Worship

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We come to this place of prayer,
**for here we can bring our hopes and dreams,
our hidden doubts and fears.**

We come to this place of grace,
**for here we learn compassion and joy,
and discover how deeply we are loved.**

We come with these people called the church,
**to be blessed by the variety of gifts,
to live as one for our God.**

Hymn VU 448 "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The God of splendour clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

God of power, God of people, you are the life of all that lives, energy that fills the earth, vitality that brings to birth, impetus in making whole whatever is bruised or broken. In you we grow to know the truth that sets all creation free. You are the song the whole earth sings, the promise liberation brings. Come to us, God, like fresh water, softening the soil of a parched and weary land. We confess that hurts and disappointments harden our hearts, frustrations and failures dry us out. Come to us, God, with life-giving power. Free us from resentment, reluctance, and reserve. Remind us that in your forgiveness we are free. Forgiven, may we be forgiving. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem:

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 79 "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, as we go to our homes and our work this week, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit into our lives. Open our ears that we may hear what you are saying to us in the things that happen to us and in the people we meet. Open our eyes that we may see the needs of people around us. Open our hands that we may do our work well and help when help is needed. Open our lips that we may tell the Good News of Jesus and bring comfort, happiness, and laughter to others. Open our minds that we may discover new truth about you and the world. Open our hearts that we may love you and others as you have loved us.

Bless your church, that it may serve the people of the world, and of the communities in which it is present. Especially we pray this week for Camlachie United Church and their minister, the Rev. David Van Patter.

Bless all the peoples of this world, whom you have given the gift of life, especially this week we think of the people of Angola and Mozambique, the people of Uvalde, Texas where there was yet another tragic school shooting – the 27th of 2022, the people of southern Ontario and Quebec affected by last weekend's derecho, especially the people of Uxbridge who were hit with a tornado.

Support all who mourn, especially the friends and family of Harv Patterson.

Comfort those who are ill, especially Eileen Gill, Paul McMillan, Marleen Parish, and their friends and loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts....

All this we pray in the name of the risen Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and in whose name we pray.....

**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

God invites us into community, into relationship with God. God also invites us into lives of service, service to God's people around the world. Our tithes and our offerings are just one way that we respond to God's invitation.

Offertory Hymn MV 191 "What Can I Do?"

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Offering Prayer

Holy One, we cling so tightly to our worthless idols and so it is difficult for us to share from the abundance with which you have blessed us. Unclench our hands, our hearts, our spirits, so we may be as generous with those who need healing, feeding, loving, and caring far more than we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 97

You reign, O God! Let the earth be glad!
Let the islands and coastlands rejoice!

**Clouds and thick darkness are round about you;
righteousness and justice the foundation
of your throne.**

Fire goes before you,
consuming your enemies on every side.

**Your lightnings light up the world;
the earth trembles at the sight.**

The mountains melt like wax before you,
before the Sovereign of all the earth.

**The heavens proclaim your righteousness,
and all the peoples see your glory.**

Be ashamed, all you who worship images, who boast of idols;
bow down before God, all you gods!

Zion hears, and is glad;
the cities of Judah rejoice, O God, at your judgements.

**For you are the Most High, above all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.**

You, O God, love those who hate evil.

You preserve the life of your saints.

You deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in God, righteous people.

Give thanks to God's holy name!

Scripture: Acts 16:16-34

Paul and Silas in Prison

¹⁶ One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

*The other readings for this week are: **Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26.** 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 699 "Live into Hope"

Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

Meditation: "The Fund-amentals"

We Respond to God's Blessing

Hymn MV 209 "Go, Make a Difference"

Go make a difference. We can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference. We can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world.

We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people
see the love of God for you and me. We are the
light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference. We can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world.

We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in
need, the face of God for all to see. We are the
spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference. We can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world.

So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world. And the
spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.
Go make a difference in the world.

Commissioning and Benediction

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We leave this place of prayer,

**to join God in listening to the hopes and dreams,
the hidden fears and the doubts of our neighbors.**

We leave this place of grace,

**to share the compassion and joy of Jesus with others,
so they will discover how deeply they are loved.**

We leave to be with the people of our world,

**so the Spirit might bless us with their rich gifts,
so we may discover our oneness in God.**

Sung Response: VU 964 "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

UNION:

May Outreach: Second Stage Housing.....wish list: garbage bags, bleach, lysol spray or wipes, liquid hand soap, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, craft supplies, or monetary donations. Please leave items in the bin at the rear of the sanctuary.

We are collecting pop cans again. Leave the bags of cans at the back door of the church.

DORCHESTER:

The Holy Diner will be starting up again this summer! All those interested in assisting with this community ministry please contact Brenda Olejnik 519-268-3385 or Carol Reid 519-268-3129.

Donations for the Dorchester Food Bank may be left in the box next to the back door.

Lectionary Readings for next week: (June 5, Pentecost)

Acts 2:1-21 **OR** Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34, 35*b*; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, (25-27)