

June 19, 2022
Second Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Faith of Our Fathers" Henri F. Hemy. Arr. Cindy Berry

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

When the winds of change and doubt swirl around us,

When the ground of our faith quakes beneath our feet,

When the flames of worry and fear consume our hope,

We wait upon the still small voice of God, whispering in the silence.

Let us worship the Lord our God.

Hymn VU 389 "God Is Here"

God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

God of all time and space, and beyond all time and space, as we enter this sacred time of worship, we turn our thoughts away from our "to do" lists and routines. Here, we focus on greater things. Guide us Lord. Renew our spirits and our commitment to worship regularly in community. Open us to hear your wisdom, to be challenged by it and to be changed by it. Forgive us for the times our actions do not reflect our faith. Forgive us for selfishness, for greed, for impatience. Forgive us for judging others too quickly, or too harshly. Help us to understand your grace, your generosity, your justice, your righteousness. Transform us now as we seek your power to live new lives, resurrected lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" by John Ritter

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-15a

Elijah Flees to Horeb

19 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." ⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

⁷ The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." ⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night.

The LORD Appears to Elijah

And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

¹¹ The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

¹⁵ The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus."

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39.** 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.)*

Psalm 42: VU 766 "As the Deer Pants for the Water"

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy;
you alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.

You alone are my strength, my shield
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a king;
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything!

You alone are my strength, my shield
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

Meditation: "Ever With Us"

Profession Of Faith – Confirmation

At various moments in our faith journey, we have the opportunity to reaffirm and renew our faith in Christ that was proclaimed at our baptism. Today is one of those moments as our confirmand professes his faith and is received into full membership of the United Church of Canada.

Reading Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Pouring And Blessing Of The Water

Holy and Gracious God, in the waters of the Jordan your child Jesus was baptized. May your Spirit be upon this water, and what we do here now, that this water may be a sign of new life in Christ. Amen.

Presentation Of Confirmand

On behalf of the congregation of Dorchester United Church, I present Samuel James Gardner-Bell who seeks to profess his faith.

Profession Of Faith And Promises

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, will you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with others in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment

Let us pledge to Sammy our continued support and care.

We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.

Asperges (*sprinkling of water with evergreen bough*)

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

Laying On Of Hands

May the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

Presentation

Receive this book and, with your sisters and brothers in Christ, continue to grow in faith, trusting in God's promises.

Presentation Of Certificate

Extending The Hand Of Fellowship

Blessing

Go out into the world in the power of the Spirit. Pursue justice, faith, love, patience, humility, for to this you were called. (1 Timothy 6:11-12)

Hymn VU 644 "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your morning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Holy One, we like to make grand gestures. We would like what we offer to be like a mighty wind that would blow away all suffering and poverty; like an earthquake that would shake the foundations of greed and injustice in our world; like a raging fire that would consume every prejudice and act of hatred, but, in reality, all we are able to offer seems so small and insignificant compared to the needs of the world. Yet, what we are able to, we offer for the sake of your kingdom.

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Accept, bless and multiply all that we offer. Take what we offer and join it with all that others offer to turn our pittance into that mighty wind, that quaking earth, that raging fire that would clear the way for your kingdom of hope for the hopeless, justice for those treated unjustly, and peace for all who have received the gift of life from You, O God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, we thank you for fathers and for those who, like Joseph, fill the role of fathers even though they may not have children of their own. We thank you for their wisdom and their guidance, for their grace and their compassion, for their strength and their courage, for all of their hard work and their constant support and for the love they show in their own special way.

We pray for your church and its call to make your grace and courage and love known in all the earth. This week we pray especially for Sammy Gardner, the newest full member of this congregation, and for Reynolds Creek United Church in Putnam, and their minister Mary Dillon.

We pray for the people of this world and for our leaders – political, economic, spiritual. This week we pray specifically for the people of Malawi and Zambia.

We pray for all who mourn, that they may find comfort and a peace that passes understanding. Especially we pray for the friends and family of Fred Smith and Eileen Gill.

We pray for those in our community who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially Paul McMillan, Marleen Parish, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our hearts.....

All this we pray in the name of the One 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 288 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Commissioning and Benediction

Our worship is ended,

and our ministry begins.

We go boldly, following the Way of Jesus,

for there is nowhere we can go where God is not.

May the peace of Christ, the grace of God,

and the companionship of the Holy Spirit

go with us, this day and always.

Amen.

Response: Go Now in Peace

Postlude: "Holiness Medley (Jesus I Come; Whiter Than Snow; Take Time to be Holy)"

Arr. By Melody Bober

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

Union Choir ice cream night is Thursday, June 23rd at 7 p.m. at **Shaw's Ice Cream** Sunset Road (south of Fruitridge Line), Central Elgin. **All are welcome!**

JUNE 26: Union United Church is planning an outdoor service for Sunday, June 26. This means there will be NO online worship service available that day. Dorchester United Church is invited to join the service at Union United Church, 6008 Stone Church Road, Union, Ontario. A limited amount of shade will be available, so remember to bring your sunscreen, and a lawn chair. Plans are still forming for a post worship luncheon. Unionites are asked to bring a salad. Dorchesterites are asked to bring a dessert. **ALL are welcome!**



Rev. Mark will be on vacation from Monday, June 27 until Sunday, July 24, returning Monday, July 25.

Union will be hosting worship for the first two weeks of July (3rd and 10th). All are welcome – live or online. For the next two weeks (17th and 24th) you are invited to join either Reynolds Creek United Church in Putnam at 9:30 a.m., or St. John's United Church in Springfield at 11 a.m., or do your own thing.

Mary Dillon will be covering pastoral emergencies for Dorchester United Church. Mary can be reached at 519-878-7134.

Rev. Tom Beecroft will be covering pastoral emergencies for Union United Church until July 10 (after which he will be out of the country). Tom can be reached at 519-615-0281.

DORCHESTER:

Central Board meets Wednesday, June 22nd at 7 p.m.

UNION:

June Outreach – The Inn St. Thomas – Elgin. Wish list: men's and women's deodorant, shampoo & body wash (ideally all-in-one), razors and shaving crème, facial wipes, combs and brushes.

Lectionary Readings for next week: (June 26, 3rd after Pentecost)
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62