



**July 10 2022**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

*A family of faith ministering together in the  
Name of Jesus Christ*

**Ministers: Each of Us**

**Organist: Kathy Limon**

### ***Acknowledging the Territory***

Long before those of us who are settlers and those who are descendants of settlers came to this land, there were people here. Many Nations of people live—and still live—on the land we call Canada, given responsibility by the Creator to be stewards of this land and all that lives on it. We know these people as Indigenous.

Today, as we remember what it means to **love our neighbours**, let us give thanks for the Indigenous peoples of this land—and let us remember that we worship God on the historic territory of the The Anishnaabe, the Attawandaron, the Haudenasounee, the Mississauga, and others.

As Christ's people, let us be people of Love, of Truth, and of Reconciliation.

### **Birthdays, Celebrations and Life and work of the Congregation**

#### **We Focus Our Hearts and Minds**

Jesus says to his friends, to us here today, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

#### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

We come to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ—for us, for this community, for all creation. This love reaches into our lives, inspiring us to reach out to those in need—around the corner and around the world. Will we answer the invitation to share this love to make a difference?

**We light this candle to celebrate the light of Christ, the one who offers love and acceptance, not judgment and rejection.**

#### **Gathering in Song MV 2 “Come All You People” (2 times)**

Words and music: Alexander Gondo, Zimbabwe. © 1986 World Council of Churches

Arr. John Bell 1995, © 1995 by WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland used with permission OneLicense.net & CCLI 2593760

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.

## Call to Worship

God loved the world, God loves the world, all are beloved!

**May this love story shine in our worship, inviting us to share this love near and far.**

We come with our doubts, our hopes, and our fears. We come to discover how Jesus reveals God's love.

**We are here to listen for God's love story and to respond to the great invitation to love as God loves.**

Friends of God, here and everywhere, let us worship!

Amen!

## Hymn: VU 579 "The Church Is Wherever God's People"

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Music: English carol. Arrangement: © 1971 F.R.C. Clarke. Words: Westminster John Knox Press. Music: Public Domain.  
Arrangement: F.R.C. Clarke. OneLicense.net

The church is wherever God's people are praising,  
singing God's goodness for joy on this day.

The church is wherever disciples of Jesus  
remember his story and walk in his way.

The church is wherever God's people are helping,  
caring for neighbours in sickness and need.

The church is wherever God's people are sharing  
the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.

## Our New Beginnings

[\*Living Our Mission Locally with \[former Moderator\] Jordan Cantwell\*](#)

Consider Jordan's invitation to answer the questions "What is God up to in your congregation?" and "What excites you about what God is doing through you today?"

"Why I Give"? Why are you here—in the United Church and/or in this congregation? Why do you stay? What difference do you, through the church, make in lives of others? Why—not how or what—do you give?

## Invitation to Prayer

In Jesus, God became one of us: becoming poor that we could receive the gift of mercy, taking on death that we could be made alive. God is up to something wonderful in our lives, inspiring, challenging, and longing to embrace the world in love. Let us offer our prayers for new beginnings—for this day and for our lives—knowing that in God's love we are made whole.

**God, you love this world so much**

**that you became one of us in your own child, Jesus Christ.**

**You offer this gift of wholeness that we might have abundant life. Forgive us for keeping that life to ourselves,**

**for holding too tight to your generous gifts,**

**for choosing self-interest instead of your compassion and justice. Teach us what it means to live as neighbours,**

**generously sharing your abundance**

**with our brothers and sisters around the corner and around the world.**

We pray this as Jesus taught us:

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Words of Promise**

God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn, but in order that the world may know love. In great mercy, God speaks a word of healing and gives us life with Christ. We are forgiven, loved, and made free to make a difference.

Blessed because we are made in God's image,  
may we respond to God's blessing by the way we love others.

### **Hymn: "Draw the Circle Wide" MV 145**

Words and music: Gordon Light, 1994; arrangement: Michael Bloss, 1998; Words and music copyright © 1994 Common Cup Company, Arrangement copyright © 1998 Wood Lake Books, OneLicense.net

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side draw the circle wide.

Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side draw the circle wide.

Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side draw the circle wide.

**Scripture:** *John 3: 14 - 21*

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”<sup>[b]</sup>

**Reflection:** “Called to be the Church”

**Hymn:** “Come Touch Our Hearts” MV 12

Words and music: Gordon Light, 2002; arr. Andrew Donaldson, 2002 Words and music copyright © 2002 Common Cup Company, [www.commoncup.com](http://www.commoncup.com). Arrangement copyright © 2002 by Andrew Donaldson.

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
From failing embers build a blazing fire;  
Love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
To seek a world more gracious,  
Come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love your,  
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
Create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
Let life and beauty fill us,  
Com touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
Set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
Help us to open doors of understanding,  
to welcome truth and wisdom,  
Come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
And in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
That we may rise to follow and to serve,  
Steady now our nerve,  
Come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,  
To break the bread and share the cup of peace,  
That we may love you with our heart, our soul,  
Our mind, our strength, our all,  
Come touch us with your grace.

## Minute for Mission



### Every Gift is a story of Generosity

Behind every act of generosity there's a story. Those who work in the United Church's Philanthropy Unit have the privilege of hearing these stories from generous supporters. Sometimes the story involves honouring someone significant through a gift; other times it's responding

to a deep internal impulse to create positive change in the world.

Each story shared is inspiring, but this note included in a cheque sent by Rock Lake Pastoral Charge in Manitoba is especially delightful:

"Please find enclosed our cheque for \$125.00. One of our member's great-grandchildren rolled loose coins they found around the house. There was 1 roll of loonies, 6 rolls of quarters, 6 rolls of dimes, and 5 rolls of nickels. The three children ages 12, 9, and 7 were told if they rolled the coins, they could use the money however they wanted. They decided very quickly that they wanted to give it to children/people of Ukraine. They brought the money to Rock Lake Pastoral Charge and asked to have the money sent through The United Church of Canada for Emergency Response—Ukraine. They wanted it to go through the church because their great-grandmother loved the church."

This story represents thoughtful, intentional giving at its finest. "The children could have gone and bought a toy or chocolate bar but they thought about it and decided to give it to help the people of Ukraine. They were so proud when they came into the office. It was a big heavy bag of coins they carried for seven or eight blocks to get here. They were really pleased to present it," says office administrator Linda Sharpe.

Every gift given is a treasure. Every gift given tells a story about generosity.

Thank you for [supporting the work we do together](#) as a United Church. May the story we tell in our giving and receiving bring us ever more near the heart of God.

## Our Intentional Response

Being a Christian is not just about what we believe—it is a way of life!

God has blessed us abundantly. Our response to this generosity is to care for God's beloved world and all our neighbours near and far. This includes caring for ourselves, other people, and the world. Every action and decision, no matter how mundane, comes from the starting place of recognizing this sacred responsibility. We are God's beloved children, and this leads to living

with loving and generous intention. In our community, we do this by patterning our life after Jesus Christ.

It is helpful to periodically take time to reflect on our abundant blessings and intentionally share a portion of what we have been given. The act of setting aside a portion of our time, talent, and treasure in response to God's generosity and for the good of others and creation cultivates a deeper, stronger faith.

### **Invitation to an Offering of Gifts**

We are invited to love our neighbours, both near and far. What we bring to Christ's table makes a difference: right in our own community, throughout Canada, and around the world. Did you know that in the 97 years of our life as The United Church of Canada, our generosity has meant that gifts of over \$1.2 billion have been given to Mission and Service for the work of the church? That doesn't even begin to count the years of time, piles of talents, and dollars and cents that have been given to this congregation of Union United Church.

In our giving, in our sharing, in our living, we are part of all God's love. May God's love inspire us so that we may love this world that God loves so much through our gifts today.

### **Offering: "What Can I Do?" MV 191**

words and music: Paul Rumboldt and Michele McCarthy © by Paul Rumboldt and Michele McCarthy  
arr: Alan C. Whitmore, 2005, © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore  
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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.

### **Prayers of Dedication, Thanksgiving, and Concern**

Jesus, you remind us that God loves this world—  
not just our corner, but all the world.

With the gifts we offer today,  
gifts to this congregation and to the Mission and Service of the United Church,  
may we love the world with you.

It is in this world, messy and chaotic, joyful and delightful,  
that we discover your spirit and purpose for our lives.

We give thanks for your abundant life,  
for your presence inspiring us to live in love and generosity,  
for times when you strengthen us to overcome challenges,  
for times when your love brings comfort and healing.

We want to share your love with the world.

Help us to care for this world that you love so dearly with open hearts:  
to respond to conflict with peacemaking,  
to respond to dis-ease with healing,  
to respond to cruelty with compassion.

We pray for all who mourn a loss in their lives. We ask that you would grant them peace and comfort. We think especially of the friends and family of .....

We pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment. We ask that you would renew their strength and their health. We pray especially for Paul McMillan, ..... and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Holy God, Sustainer, and Renewer of life,  
you call us into partnership with you and with all who embrace your way.  
We pray for our Mission & Service partners today,  
for a world where abundance of creation is respected, preserved, and enjoyed,  
a world of right relationships, of safety, of care for the vulnerable.  
In your loving purpose, answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes.  
Grant us grace and wisdom to respond to your invitation  
as we live our lives in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" VU 333**

Words: Charles Wesley 1747 Music: Rowland Huw Prichard ca. 1831      Public Domain

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Blessing and Sending Out**

Just as God came into the world through Jesus  
to heal and redeem,

so God sends us into the world today  
to be healing, hopeful, and loving.  
Let us go into God's world  
**to be the neighbours God calls us to be.**  
Let us go into God's world  
**loving God,  
loving our neighbour,  
loving ourselves,**  
and in that love, may we be filled with thanksgiving.  
**For this is God's world.  
We are not alone!  
Thanks be to God!**

**Sung Response "Walk with Me" 649 VU chorus only**

Words, Music: John S. Rice. Arrangement: John Fluker. © 2007, Words, Music, Arrangement: Cathlin D. Ric  
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Walk with me,  
I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.

Postlude

**Announcements**

**ALL:**

**10,000 Signatures for Peace**

To sign the petition calling for an end to the Korean war, go to [en.endthekoreanwar.net](http://en.endthekoreanwar.net)  
Don't forget to enter the United Church of Canada in the denomination field.



Rev. Mark is on vacation, returning Monday, July 25.

For the next two weeks (17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>) 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. Matthew Penny will be covering pastoral emergencies from July 11 to July 24. To contact Rev. Penny, please call either Sally Martyn or Roberta Gillard.

**Lectionary Readings:**

(July 17, Sixth after Pentecost/Proper 11)

Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52, Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

(July 24, Seventh after Pentecost/Proper 12)

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

(July 31, Eighth after Pentecost/Proper 13)

Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21