

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR JULY 24, 2022  
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

▲ = Please stand in body or in spirit.

**MUSIC TO GATHER US IN**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**WELCOME AND SHARING IN COMMUNITY LIFE**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**W.W.J.D.? HERE'S ONE OF THE CHURCH'S BEST ANSWERS.**

The question “What would Jesus do?” often shortened to the acronym “W.W.J.D.” has graced wrist bands, T-shirts, and bumper stickers since the 1990s. And while it might sound like an overused cliché, it’s a question that can lead our spirit and, by extension, our lives to profound transformation.

What did Jesus do? He crossed a lot of boundaries. In fact, when we think about the boundaries that separate people—things like money, gender, education, culture, religion, and class—Jesus crossed them all.

He struck up a conversation with a Samaritan woman in a culture where it wasn’t socially acceptable for men and women, much less Jews and Samaritans, to speak to one another. He healed the bodies and souls of people suffering from a variety of diseases when it was sinful to have anything to do with them. He visited the homes of tax collectors and sex trade workers and advocated for the rights of widows, orphans, and those living in poverty. He not only valued children in a time when they were considered such drains on society that they were abandoned on roadsides,

but he also told his followers that unless they were more like children they wouldn't enter the kingdom of heaven.

In the same way, our generosity through Mission & Service breaks down walls that divide and builds bridges that draw us together.

Your generosity supports organizations like hospitals, counselling centres, drop-in circles, and homeless shelters that are there when people need them most. Your gifts sustain education programs that teach farming skills, provide job training, and help remove obstacles so children can remain in school. Your generosity stands up for victims of human trafficking, ensures workers and children know their rights, and advocates for those persecuted because of their sexual orientation, gender, or beliefs. It fosters anti-racism, supports healing and reconciliation, and deepens spiritual practice.

Through Mission & Service, the arms of your generosity stretch wide, reaching into schools, camps, hospitals, shelters, prisons, and churches with three main goals: to help transform lives, deepen meaning and purpose and build a better world.

Mission & Service is one of our church's best answers to the question "What would Jesus do?"

Thank you for your support.

**CENTERING** (a time of silence in preparation for worship)

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

One: Jesus is the Light of the World!

All: **May he shine through us every day.**

**GATHERING MUSIC:** “Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary”

MV #18

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living  
sanctuary for you.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come! Join this community of God’s people –  
people who gather as faithful disciples of Christ.

**All: We seek the One who frees us from uncertainty and doubt.**

One: Come! Join the welcome of God’s people –  
people who meet together for justice and peace.

**All: We seek the One who is trustworthy,  
the One who gives us what is good.**

One: Come! Join the celebration of God’s people –  
people of the One who was, and is, and shall ever be.

**All: We raise our voices in praise and honour to God,  
and worship the One who is faithful.**

### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION** (said together)

**God of grace and God of glory, come and be known to us in our gathering together; come and be present in the songs we sing and in the prayers we raise. From the busy byways of life, we come to find once again that you are always present and always ready to receive us. As we affirm our faith this day, deepen the roots of our commitment, that we may learn your calling upon our lives. Surround us now with the love and comfort of your Holy Spirit and the direction and redemption of Christ. Amen.**

▲ **HYMN:** “Take Time to be Holy”

VU #672

**Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;  
abide in Him always, and feed on his Word.  
Make friends of God’s children, help those who are weak,  
Forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.**

**Take time to be holy, let him be your guide;  
and run not before him, whatever betide.  
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,  
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.**

**Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,  
each thought and each motive beneath his control.  
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,  
You soon shalt be fitted for service above.**

### **INVITATION TO WHOLENESS AND RIGHT RELATIONSHIP**

We are invited to pray - all who have hurt someone else, and all who have been hurt by another. We are called to pray: for hope, for healing, for mercy. We pray to the One who seeks to make us whole; whose will it is to restore us to new life. Join me as we pray, saying,

### **PRAYER FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS**

**God, when we tread a path to your door we find it open and welcoming. When we make requests of you, even the most difficult, selfish or presumptuous, you give according to your grace and goodness. Forgive what is twisted or dangerous in us when we make our requests and demands. Restore us with the surprise of your willingness. Teach us to offer ourselves in return to those who make requests of us. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S NEVER-ENDING LOVE AND MERCY**

**One:** Here is the good news: Christ came searching for us, calling us by name, leading us into God's kingdom.

**All:** **In Christ, we become new people: broken, we are made whole; lost, we are found; forsaken, we are restored to new life. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART**

Jesus' disciples noticed that Jesus prayed a lot. He thanked God for food and for help—sometimes before he even got the help. He prayed all alone and in the middle of a group. Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray. He

gave the disciples a prayer we call “The Lord’s Prayer”. Today we are looking at Luke’s version, which is shorter than Matthew’s—Matthew’s is the one we know. But we can still learn a lot from Luke.

When you pray, what do you call God? I usually start off my prayers saying, “Loving God” because I know that God loves me and everyone so much. The first thing we see is that Jesus calls God “Father”. We can, too. It means we are God’s very own children and we can talk to God just like we can talk to our dad or mom. We don’t need to use big words. Just talk with God. Any name we use is fine, but Jesus wants us to remember that God is as close to us as a dad or mom or someone else who loves us a lot.

Then Jesus does not tell us to pray for what we need. Jesus says to pray that God’s kingdom will come to pass. That means that time when everyone will follow God. When that happens, there will be peace, all people will be friends, we will all know God’s love, we will love the planet God made. We need to practice living that way now, being peacemakers, friends, forgiving people. Now that is something worth praying for!

Next Jesus tells us how we are to pray for ourselves. “Give us day by day our daily bread.” Jesus does not mean we should just pray for bread and maybe peanut butter! He means we can pray for the things we need in order to live as God wants us to live – like water to drink or a house to live in. We trust God to provide those things every day.

And then we pray for how we treat others. “Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.” It is hard, but we have to work at forgiving people who have been mean to us. That does not mean it is ok that they hurt us. It is never ok. It does not mean that we have to let them keep on being mean to us. We may have to get away from them if they won’t stop. We may have to tell an adult or have an adult help us talk to them. But to forgive means we need to ask God to take the anger out of our hearts.

“And lead us not into temptation. This sentence means that we don’t want to have things happen to us that might make us stop loving God. If we take something that is not ours, or hit our brother, is that a loving thing to do? Of course not! Everyone has hard things happen. Even when our brother or sister make us so mad we want to hit them, we can ask God to help us through those things and to trust God when things are difficult.

Just like you talk to your friends at school, or people at home many times a day, God is always there for you to talk with as well. I just love the piece Irene and Donna sang this morning, “How long has it been, how long has it been since you talked to the Lord?”. God wants to hear from you. I hope you will talk to God every day!

Let’s pray ..

Thank you, God, for giving us the words to pray, and for always being there for us. Thank you for sending Jesus to be our friend and showing us how to live and love. Hear us now as we pray the words he taught, saying, “Our Father ... Amen.”

## **A READING FROM OUR FAITH TRADITION**

### **Luke 11:1-13**

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.’

And he said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.” And he answers

from within, “Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.” I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

‘So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God within us,  
For the Word of God among us,  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON:** Lord, Teach Us to Pray

**▲ HYMN:** “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

**Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
that calls me from a world of care,  
and bids me at my Father's throne  
make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
my soul has often found relief,  
and oft escaped the tempter's snare  
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!**

**Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
of those whose anxious spirits burn  
with strong desires for thy return!  
With such I hasten to the place  
where God my Savior shows his face,  
and gladly take my station there,  
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!**

**Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
thy wings shall my petition bear  
to him whose truth and faithfulness  
engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since he bids me seek His face,  
believe his word, and trust his grace,  
I'll cast on Him my every care,  
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!**

### **INVITATION TO INVEST IN GOD'S MISSION**

In the act of giving, in compassionate sharing, Christ is made known, and the gospel comes alive. Let us give as we are able. Let us give as we are called.

### **DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING (said together)**

**Generous God, we have known your unfailing love and faithfulness, your care and provision, your protection and salvation. And so we respond with deep gratitude, offering back to you a portion of what we have received from you. Accept the gifts we bring – tangible expressions of our love and gratitude for what you have so generously given to us. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**One: "O God, hear our prayer ....**

**All: and, in your love, answer.**



**▲ HYMN: “What a Friend”**

VU #664

**What a friend we have in Jesus,  
a;; our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit;  
O what needless pain we bear;  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer**

**Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do our friends despise, forsake us?  
Are we tempted to despair?  
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness;  
and we'll find new courage there.**

## **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

One: We have come from many places.

**All: We have gathered with many needs.**

One: We depart now, filled with the presence of the One Spirit that guides us all.

**All We go, seeking to serve one another, and to live as true followers of Christ.**

One: And know that wherever you go, God – the One who made us, the One who makes us free, and the One who makes us one – goes with us wherever we go, and gives us everything we need.

**All: Amen.**

**▲ HYMN: “Alpha and Omega”**

**He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.  
He’s behind me, He’s before me, He’s ever my friend.  
Whatever I do, wherever I go,  
Jesus is my source and my goal.**

**You are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.  
You’re behind me, You’re before me, You’re ever my friend.  
Whatever I do, wherever I go,  
You are my source and my goal.**