

July 31, 2022
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "The Lord's My Shepherd" by Jessie Seymour Irvine, arr. by 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

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God of the past who whispered in the prophets' ears;
who rescued us from sin's slavery:

we are here to thank you.

God of the future, who is tearing down the old world,
and building your kingdom in our midst:

we are here because we trust you.

God of the present who, in the giftedness of our diversity,
creates us to be one people:

we are here to praise you.

God of life who surprises us when we find it within us:

we celebrate your grace.

Hymn VU 415 "God, We Praise You for the Morning"

God, we praise you for the morning;
hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise,
joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,
mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,
all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter,
help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher,
strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour,
come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Christ is Lord of our days!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Extravagant God, like the farmer with the bumper crop, you lavish your abundance on us, holding nothing back, yet we lust for more. Like the farmer who built a new and bigger barn, we cling to what we have accumulated. In so doing we reveal our idolatry; goods have become our god; material things are what we worship. Forgive our greed and our lack of faith in you. Relieve our fears and anxiety. Help us to be secure in your love for us. Help us to risk everything we have and everything we are for the sake of your eternal realm. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Look at the World" by John Rutter, International Festival Chorus Singapore
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUSwtK32XoY>

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn MV 144 "Like a Healing Stream"

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth.... like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
Yearning for an end to want and need.... like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war... like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong, like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

Psalm 107:1-9

O give thanks, for God is gracious;

God's steadfast love endures for ever.

Let the redeemed of God say so, those redeemed from trouble,

whom God gathered in from the lands,

from the east and the west,

from the north and the south.

Some lost their way in desert wastes, finding no place to settle;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

Then they cried to you, God, in their trouble;
you rescued them from their distress.

**You led them by a straight path,
till they reached a place to settle.**

Let them thank you, O God, for your steadfast love,
for the wonders you do for us.

**For you satisfy the thirsty,
and fill the hungry with good things.**

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21 The Parable of the Rich Fool

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

*The other readings for this week are: **Hosea 11:1-11; Colossians 3:1-11.** You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer.*

Meditation: "What's in your barn?"

Hymn MV 1 "Let Us Build a House"

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

When you blessed the farmer with so much abundance that his barns would not hold it all,
you did so that he might share of his vast stores, not hoard it to himself. All we have comes from
you also, and we share it with your people, wherever they may be, that it might be a blessing to all
those in need.

Offertory Hymn VU 540 "Grant Us, God, the Grace"

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Prayer of Dedication

Accept and bless, O God, all that we offer freely and gratefully, not begrudgingly or out of a sense
of obligation. May it bring hope and life and abundance to any in need, and inspire further
generosity through the giving and receiving. In Christ's name we ask. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for people of faith all over the world, that all who love you may be united in
your service rather than divided by our differences. This week we pray especially for Belmont,
Harrietsville-Mossley Pastoral Charge, and their minister Karlene Kimber.

Sovereign God, we pray for the business and political leaders of the world. Remind them that all
we have is a trust from you, meant for sharing and blessing all people, rather than fighting over.
Remind them of their responsibility to protect and care for those who live in the margins of society.
We pray this week for the people of the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe, and
all those who live in places plagued with war, terrorism and violence.

Compassionate God, we pray for all who are ill or dying, and their loved ones and caregivers, and
for all who mourn. Especially today we pray for Marilyn Smith (Union), and the friends and family
of Evelyn Knight and Marlene Smith, and all those known only in the silence of our hearts.....

Head of the household of the human family, first born Son, Spirit of Life, Holy in Three, Holy in
One, this we ask 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, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn VU 427 "To Show By Touch and Word"

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.

Commissioning and Benediction

We came to God's house seeking shelter from the vicissitudes of the world.

Let us go into the world, working for God's justice and peace.

We came to God's house seeking security in familiarity.

Let us go into the world, risking all that we have and all that we are for God's dominion.

We came to God's house to be with one another.

Let us go into the world, expanding our family to include all whom we meet.

May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit go with us.

Amen.

Response: VU 424 "May the God of Hope Go with Us" vs. 1

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude: "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" from Katholisches Gesangbuch, arr. by Cindy Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

10,000 Signatures for Peace

Earlier this year several Canadian denominations accepted the challenge of getting 10,000 signatures, by the end of July 2022, on a petition calling for an end to the Korean war. So far, 1,397 have signed, leaving only today to collect 8,603 signatures. To sign the petition, go to

en.endthekoreanwar.net

Don't forget to enter the "United Church of Canada" in the "denomination" field so your signature will be counted.

DORCHESTER:

The **Holy Diner** is open Thursdays from 5-7 p.m. throughout August in the parking lot at Dorchester United Church, 4100 Catherine Street.

UNION:

Cruise Night returns! Monday, August 29, 2022. More details to follow.

Lectionary Readings for next week: (August 7, 9th after Pentecost)

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40