

**August 7, 2022**  
**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Gathering In Song VU 951** "Holy, holy, holy"  
Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God!

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

**Call to Worship**

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We are people who have been called  
to follow where God leads us.

**By faith we can obey,  
even when asked to walk into  
an unknown future.**

We are people who have been challenged  
to tell God's story to others.

**By faith we have the ability  
to share the good news  
of the Kingdom of God.**

We are God's children who are invited  
to feast at the Table of grace.

**By faith we will embrace  
our sisters and brothers in Christ.**

**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*)

Gracious God, who creates, sustains, and redeems all life, we come seeking your disturbing presence and your comforting peace. We praise you for the joy of being your people. May your Spirit be with us and move within us in this time of worship. Give us hearts that hear your Word, and minds that are open to the transforming power of your love. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

**We Are Blessed By God**

**Anthem:** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Performed by The Redeemed Quartet

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVgfTcb\\_YWE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVgfTcb_YWE)

**Time for the Young and the Young @** 

**Hymn VU 365** "Jesus Love Me"

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
in his love we shall be strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
as he loved so long ago,  
taking children on his knee,  
saying, 'Let them come to me.'

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today,  
walking with me on my way,  
wanting as a friend to give  
light and love to all who live.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

### **Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

Our offering isn't like our annual dues for the country club. Our offering is about more than just maintaining the building and paying the staff. Our offering is about transforming individual lives and transforming systems of injustice. Our offering is about reconciling peoples and creating God's eternal dominion here, on earth, as in heaven.

### **Offertory Hymn VU 538 "For the Gift of Creation"**

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,  
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,  
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.  
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

### **Offering Prayer**

It is by faith, hopeful God, that you bless us. It is by faith that we offer back to you a portion of what you have blessed us with, trusting that you will take these gifts and use them in the work of your kingdom of justice and hope, grace and wonder. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven:

remind us this day that you are not only creation's Architect,  
but you are the Babe who cried for food,  
the teenager who knew loneliness,  
the adult who felt the rejection of loved one.

Hallowed by Thy name:

yours is the name spun by the stars;  
yours is the name whispered by the dying;  
yours is the name written on our hearts.

Thy Kingdom come:

may it be a kingdom of peace, not prejudice;  
may it be a kingdom of sharing, not grasping;  
may it be a kingdom of hope, not hurting.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven:

may your Word be more than print on a page;  
may your justice be more than a wish in our hearts;  
may your will become our deepest desire.

Give us this day our daily bread:

let us taste it in the kisses of loved ones;  
let it fill us in the empty moments of our lives;  
let it slip out of our hands to mend the brokenness of our world.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive others:

may those who have hurt us find a welcome in our hearts,  
even as we have found our home in yours.

And lead us not into temptation:  
turn our hearts from the seductions of our world;  
and the simple pleasures that turn us from you.  
Keep us from thinking we are so important  
that we ignore those around us.  
Help us to always bring others to you in prayer,  
before we bring ourselves, as we do in these moments:  
We pray for your church in every place, especially for St. Luke's United Church in Sarnia, and for their  
minister, the Reverend Melanie Kirk-Hall  
We pray for your children the world over, especially for the people of Cameroon, Central African  
Republic, and Equatorial Guinea  
We pray for those who mourn the loss of a loved one, especially the friends and family of Evelyn Knight  
and Marlene Smith  
We pray for all who are unwell in mind, body or spirit, especially Paul McMillan, Marilyn Smith (Union)  
and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....  
But deliver us from evil:  
not just great evils of war and hunger,  
but from ingratitude, self-love, pride,  
all those little evils that do such great harm.  
For thine is the kingdom:  
our heart's true longing;  
and the power:  
which you set aside to serve us in weakness;  
and the glory:  
which we would mirror in our lives, our bodies, our minds, our souls, this day and every day.  
forever and ever.  
We pray together the words that Jesus taught the disciples...

**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 yours is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 50**

God, the Almighty, has spoken;

**and summoned the world**

**from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

God shines out from Zion, a city perfect in beauty.

**Our God appears, and will not keep silence.**

Before you, God, runs a consuming fire,

and a mighty tempest rages about you.

**You call on the heavens above,**

**and on the earth below,**

**to witness the judgement of your people:**

'Gather my people before me,

the people who made covenant with me by sacrifice.'

**The heavens proclaim your justice,**

**for you yourself are judge.**

**Scripture:** Luke 12:35-40

**Watchful Slaves**

<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

*The other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16.***

**Hymn VU 566** "Awake, O Sleeper"

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
and Christ shall give you light;  
so learn his love, its length and breadth,  
its fullness, depth, and height.

To us on earth he came to bring  
from sin and fear release,  
to give the Spirit's unity,  
the very bond of peace.

There is one body and one hope,  
one Spirit and one call,  
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,  
one God who made us all.

Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
who died that he might save;  
with kind and gentle hearts forgive  
as God in Christ forgave.

For us Christ lived, for us he died,  
and conquered in the strife.  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
and Christ shall give you life.

**Meditation: "Taken For Granted"**

***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.

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.

## **Commissioning and Benediction**

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By faith, let us go out as God's people.

**We will gather others around us and dance into God's kingdom.**

By faith, let us go to follow Jesus to serve with compassion and grace.

**We will share the good news of hope and peace with everyone we meet.**

By faith, let us go to join the Holy Spirit in welcoming all of God's children.

**We will add as many chairs as are needed, so all may feast on God's love.**

**Sung Response:** "Go Now In Peace"

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Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there supporting us with love.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen, amen, amen.

## **ALL:**

Rev. Mark will be walking again this year, on September 17, in **That Dam Hill 5K walk/run** to raise money for **Indwell**. Last year I was sponsored for over \$1,000. This year, if my sponsorship doubles that - \$2,000, I'll walk while wearing a clown wig.....and I'll post the photos (proof) for all to see.

This year the money raised will help support 3 Indwell projects in London:

- Opening this fall, Embassy Commons at 744 Dundas Street will offer 72 one- and two-bedroom apartments.
- Opening in 2024, Indwell will create 138 new apartment homes at the former Victoria Hospital grounds in the SoHo neighbourhood.
- Opened in 2019, Woodfield Gate offers 67 units of housing with onsite supports including nursing, food security, and addictions support to 70 individuals.

All donations are collected online (no cash please) simply go to....

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/fundraising/977d118b-a29a-428d-8549-87d5dfd12887>

## **UNION:**

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

## **DORCHESTER:**

The **Holy Diner** is up and running on Thursday evenings from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. throughout the month of August in the church parking lot. Come one, come all, and bring a neighbour or a friend or even a stranger in need!

**Lectionary Readings for next week:** (August 14, 10<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost)

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56