

**August 28, 2022**  
**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Wesley King

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

It has been said that hospitality is not about inviting people into our perfect church, but about inviting them into the heart of God.

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

**Call to Worship**

God calls to us,

**in the streets and sideroads and places that we live.**

God calls to us,

**in our brokenness and weakness and sin.**

God calls us to forgiveness and wholeness and communion with God.

**Let us glorify our God in song.**

**Hymn VU 242 "Let All Things Now Living"**

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;  
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise:  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,  
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

**Opening Prayer** (*unison*)

Holy One, you invite us all, rich and poor, weak and strong, crippled and whole, sinners all, to take our place at your great banquet. Too often we invite only those we deem worthy, those like us, the rich, the strong, the popular, to our banquets. Too often those we deem unworthy, those not like us, the poor, the weak, the cripple, we bar at the doors. Help us to realize that none of us is invited to Your banquet because we have earned an invitation, but because of Your grace. Empower us to reach out in love and acceptance to those around us, and invite them to join us at Your table. Amen.

## **We Are Blessed By God**

**Anthem:** "Grace" arr. by Mark Hayes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9aclbsi4IA>

### **Psalm 81:1, 10-16**

'It is I who am God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

**Open wide your mouth, and I will fill it.**

But my people would not hear my voice,  
Israel would not obey me.

**So I left them in their stubbornness of heart  
to follow their own devices.**

O that my people would listen to me,  
that Israel would follow my paths.

**I would soon put down their enemies,  
and turn a hand against their foes.**

Those who hate me would cringe before me,  
their fate would be sealed forever.

**But you I would feed with the finest of wheat,  
you I would satisfy with honey from the rock.'**

### **Hymn VU 249** "Rejoice in the Lord Always"

Rejoice in the Lord always  
and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice in the Lord always  
and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

### **Scripture:** Luke 14:1, 7-14 Humility and Hospitality

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

*The other readings for this week are: **Jeremiah 2:4-13; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16***

**Meditation:** “Before the fall”

**Hymn MV 145** “Draw the Circle Wide”

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.

### **We Respond To God’s Grace**

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

In his letter to the Hebrews, Paul wrote, “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” One point that Paul is trying to make is that our offering is about more than paying the utility bills and the staff; that our offering is not really directed to the treasurer or the board of this church; rather, our offering is made through this church, to God. Because our offering is made to God, it is an act of worship. Let us worship God, as is fitting.

#### **Offertory Hymn VU 218** “We Praise You, O God” vs. 1

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

We worship you, Compassionate God, not only with our treasure, but with our time, that we might spend more moments with the lonely; our words, that those without a voice might be healed; our hands, that the hungry might be fed; our hearts, that those who are rejected by society might find a home. Bless all that we offer in worship of you. In Jesus’ name we ask. Amen.

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

Bountiful God, when the sons of Jacob were famished you sent them to their brother Joseph in Egypt who gave to them in abundance and the people multiplied. When the Canaanite woman sought crumbs from the table of her Jewish masters, out of abundance Jesus quenched her need and her daughter was healed. When our souls are parched or starving you slake our thirst and sate our hunger. For this we bless you and give you our thanks and praise.

Faithful God, you said blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled, yet your church staggers like a half-starved person. Whet our appetite for justice and peace that your church may feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, welcome all, and make your dream for this world a reality. This week we pray specifically for the new moderator of the United Church of Canada, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne of the Kwisa'lakw First Nation.

Sovereign God, the leaders of the nations are gluttons for power who gorge themselves at the expense of their peoples. Reveal to them that the purpose of their power is to protect and guide all, and to care for the needy. Inspire them to lead as you would have them lead. We pray this week for the people of Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal

Creator God, our voracious appetites for consumer goods is causing us to poison the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, and the land which supports us. Restore our sanity that we would turn from our destructive ways that your creation may thrive and we may survive.

Compassionate God, we pray for those who crave to know your peace, the sick, the suffering, the dying, the grieving. Satisfy their need. Nurture them and make them strong that they may declare your mercy to all. Especially we pray for the friends and family of Melissa Harrison, who has died, and for Dale Dickie, Donna Harrison, Nick Jones, Marje Lanning, Paul McMillan, Marleen Parish, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and 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 600** "When I Needed a Neighbour"

When I needed a neighbour, were you there,  
were you there?

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there,  
were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there,  
were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there,  
were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?

Wherever you travel I'll be there,  
I'll be there,  
wherever you travel I'll be there.  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
I'll be there.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

It is pride and arrogance that spur people to turn on one another;  
to speak words and commit acts of hatred.

**We are concerned about the disrespect and intolerance we see in our society.  
In humility we commit to build bridges over which people can come together.**

May the humble grace of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ,

**The endless love of God,**

And the joyous communion of the Holy Spirit be with us,  
this day and always.

**Amen.**

**Response: VU 717 "Hallelujah"**

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

**Postlude:** "In The Garden" by C. Austin Miles, arr. by Phillip Keveren

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ALL:

**Book Study:** *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith* by Marcus Borg. If you are interested in this study, please let Rev. Mark know so books can be ordered (they are about \$10), and day of the week and time of day can be set. The study will be broken down into two sessions. Session 1 will run for 5 weeks this fall, and Session 2 will run for 7 weeks in the winter/spring (perhaps the 7 weeks of Lent).

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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
- Opening in 2024, 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>

OR, go to the Dorchester United Church website (at [dorchesterunitedchurch.ca](http://dorchesterunitedchurch.ca)) and click on the 'Donate' button below the appeal.

### DORCHESTER:

On Wednesday, August 31st, with an arrival time of 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Allan and Marion Woods have issued a special invitation to "ALL" for the opportunity to see Allan's ANTIQUE COLLECTION. Please bring chairs and coffee mugs, coffee will be provided, to 17332 Evelyn Drive (between Fairview and Heritage Roads). Everyone is welcome.

### UNION:

**Cruise Night returns TOMORROW!** Monday, August 29, 2022, 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Beef on a Bun will be available 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Lectionary Readings for next week:** (September 4, 13<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost)

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33