

September 4, 2022
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song MV 85 "Take, O Take Me as I Am"

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

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

Call to Worship

We gather in the presence of the One

**Who knows us when we wake up and when we go to sleep,
And in all the moments in between.**

We gather in the house of the One

**Who has created a family for us: here as well as in Afghanistan,
in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in Ukraine.**

We gather to be the people of God:

Who appeals to us to follow in love, in faith, and in service.

Hymn VU 220 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health
and salvation.

Come, all who hear:
brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.

Have you not seen
how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work
and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who out of love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Creating and Re-creating God, you seek us out before we seek you.

In Jesus You come to us before our hearts are turned to you.

In the Holy Spirit You come to us, when our spirits wander far from you.

You set a table for us, when our souls are hungry, and our hearts are empty.

Searching God, we admit that:

we are so attached to our material wealth we have trouble sharing it;

we are so absorbed by our pleasures we do not notice the pain of those around us;

we are so wrapped up in ourselves we cannot sense our souls slipping away.

Merciful God, shatter our blinded eyes, hardened hearts, and closed minds;

mold new eyes, new hearts, new minds in us that we may perceive things as you do;

that your priorities might become our priorities;

that we may take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, the Christ.

Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Time for the Young and the Young @



Hymn VU 567 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

Will you come and follow me

if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know

and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,

will you let my name be known,

will you let my life be grown

in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind

if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind

and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare

should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer

in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see

if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free

and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean,

and do such as this unseen,

and admit to what I mean

in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

We believe in God's call on our lives,
and we commit to walking God's way of love and justice and peace.
Our tithes and our offerings are just one tangible sign of our commitment to following God's way.

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

Omni-present God, with this offering, we also present ourselves:
all that we have been, all that we are, all that we shall become,
and our resolve to walk in your way.
Accept us and our offering we pray, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for your church. Form it and reform it that it may truly be your light to those who walk in darkness. Shape and reshape those who serve the church in its many and varied ministries that they may truly be fishers of peoples. This week we pray for Bethel-Maidstone United Church and their minister, the Rev. Paul Rodey.

Eternal God, we pray for the leaders of the nations. Mold their thoughts that they may govern with wisdom and temper their hearts that they may do so with compassion. May they seek peace and justice so all may dwell free of war and injustice. We pray this week for the peoples of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo.

Creator God, we pray for the wisdom to be faithful guardians of your creation. Remodel our thinking about our relationship to your creation that we may be open to ways to protect the air, soil and water from pollutants. May we seek ways to reorder our lives to preserve and nurture all life on this planet.

Merciful God, we pray for those who mourn the death of a loved one, especially the friends and family of Jim Chaplow, Beryl Gedies, and Melissa Harrison. We also pray for those who are suffering, sick and dying, waiting for or recovering from medical treatment, especially Dale Dickie, Donna Harrison, Marje Lanning, Glenda and Paul McMillan, Marleen Parish, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts....

May you heal them in mind, body and circumstance so they may feel your presence and know your love in their lives. As we pray, so may we do, and in all that we do grant us the grace, the strength and the wisdom to seek your will, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore, and who taught us to pray, saying,

**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 139

O God, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You discern my path and the places I rest;
you are familiar with all my ways.**

Before a word is on my tongue,

you know it, O God, completely.

You guard me from behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**It is beyond my knowledge; it is a mystery;
I cannot fathom it.**

Where can I escape from your spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

**If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I lie down in the grave, you are even there.**

If I take wing with the dawn

and alight at the sea's farthest limits,

**there also your hand will be guiding me
your powerful hand holding me fast.**

If I say, 'Let the darkness cover me
and my day be turned to night,'

**even darkness is not dark to you:
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

It was you who formed my inward parts;
you fashioned me in my mother's womb.

**I praise you, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made.
Wondrous are your works; that I know very well.**

My frame was not hidden from you
when I was being fashioned in secret,
intricately woven in the mystery of clay.

**Your eyes saw my substance taking shape;
in your book my every day was recorded;
all my days were fashioned,
even before they came to be.**

How deep your designs are to me, O God!
How great their number!

**I try to count them but they are more than the sand.
I come to the end - I am still with you.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.

Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error
and guide me in the everlasting way.

Scripture: Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

*The other readings for this week are: **Jeremiah 18:1-11 and Philemon 1-21***

Hymn MV 171 "Christ Has No Body Now but Yours"

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.
Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice.
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God.
Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need;
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with ev'ry gift a benediction, be to the people of God.
Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

Meditation: "For everything there is a cost"

We Go Forth With God's Blessing

Hymn MV 161 "I Have Called You by Your Name"

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go from this place of worship and respite
to engage in your ministry in God's world.

**We go, trying to see things as God sees them;
trying to feel things as God feels them;
trying to understand things as God understands them;
worrying about what God worries about
when God gets up in the morning.**

We go to make God's yearning for creation a reality.

Sung Response: "Go Now In Peace"

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:

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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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) and click on the 'Donate' button below the appeal.

UNION:

Choir practice resumes on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. starting September 8. ALL welcome.

September Outreach are the Elgin-St. Thomas, and Port Stanley Food Banks.

DORCHESTER:

A Celebration of Life for Fern Smith is planned for September 10th, 2022, at Dorchester Arena Auditorium.

9:00 to 11:00 Visitation

11:00 to 12:00 Musical Church Service

12:30 to 4:00 Reception

5:00 to 7:00 Smith Family Meal

Social distancing will be manageable. Masks are welcome.

Lectionary Readings for next week: (September 11, 14th after Pentecost)

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10