

September 11, 2022
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost/First of Creation

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Morning Has Broken" Traditional Gaelic melody arranged by Martha Mier

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

Like a shepherd seeking a lost lamb,
God seeks after us until we are found.

And when we are found, God rejoices.

Like a woman searching for a lost coin,
God seeks after us until we are found.

And when we are found, God rejoices.

Let us worship the One who seeks us out.

Hymn VU 276 "O God Who Shaped Creation"

O God who shaped creation at earth's chaotic dawn,
your word of power was spoken, and lo! the dark was gone!
You framed us in your image, you brought us into birth,
you blessed our infant footsteps and shared your splendoured earth.

O God, with pain and anguish a mother sees her child
embark on deadend pathways, alluring, but defiled;
so too your heart is broken when hate and lust increase,
when worlds you birthed and nurtured spurn ways that lead to peace.

Although your heart is broken when people scorn your ways,
you never cease your searching through evil's tangled maze;
and when we cease our running, your joys, O God, abound
as of a searching woman when treasured coin is found.

In mercy and compassion your goodness is revealed;
with tenderness you touch us, and broken hearts are healed.
You claim us as your children, you strip our prideful shame;
with freedom born of mercy we bless your holy name!

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

God of the least and the lost, we thank You for the good news that You keep looking for us, even if we might not be looking for You; You keep seeking us, even if we might not know we are lost; You keep waiting for us, even if we think we no longer need you. You love us rather than scold us; You open your arms rather than send us away. Even when we hide, God, we are really hoping to be found. Break through our stupidity, our blindness, our stubborn pride that we might know again that we are Your people, and You are our God. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Big Yellow Taxi" Joni Mitchell

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 307 "Touch the Earth Lightly"

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Psalm 14

The foolish have spoken in their heart,
and said 'There is no God.'

**They are corrupt; they do abominable things;
there is no one who does what is good.**

God looks down from heaven upon us all,
to see if any are wise and seek after God.

**But all have gone astray; all alike are corrupted;
there is no one who does good; no, not one.**

Have they no knowledge, all those who do evil?

**They devour my people like so much bread,
and do not pray to God.**

But see, they will tremble with fear,
for God is on the side of the righteous.

**Do not mock the hope of the poor,
for God is their refuge.**

O that deliverance for God's people would come forth from Zion!

**When God restores the fortunes of the people,
then shall Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.**

Scripture: Luke 15:1-10

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

*The other readings for this week are: **Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; 1 Timothy 1:12-17***

Meditation: "Lost and Loster"

Hymn VU 574 "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
 why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
 home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
 Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
 envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Giving in a world that is more concerned with getting is a radical act. It is one of the simple spiritual practices Jesus calls us to, supporting our faith community and those marginalized by society by sharing our financial gifts in common. We give generously because God has given generously to us.

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.

Prayer of Dedication

God of all peoples and God of all places, we present these offerings, that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries, that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Faithful God,

Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness. Break down the barriers that divide that, united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit together at one table, and serve you in one common ministry. This week we pray for St. David's United Church in Woodstock, and their minister the Rev, Jeff Smith.

Sovereign God,

You hold both the history of the nations and the humble life of villages in your care. Preserve the people of every nation from tyrants, heal them of disease, and protect them in time of upheaval and disaster, that all may enter the kingdom that cannot be shaken. This week we pray especially of the people of James Smith Cree Nation and Weldon, Saskatchewan, Ghana and Nigeria.

Eternal God,

Strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities so that the young may be educated, the elderly cared for, the hungry filled, the homeless housed, and the sick comforted and healed.

Merciful God,

You bear the pain of the world. Look with compassion on those who mourn, especially we think of the friends and family of Jim Chaplow, Beryl Gedies, and Melissa Harrison. Reassure them that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall separate them from your love. Likewise we ask that you comfort all who are ill or dying, especially we think of Dale Dickie, Rev. Jim Evans, Donna Harrison, Marje Lanning, Marleen Parish, Doreen Snow, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts...

May they know the peace of your presence in their lives.

Loving God,

You nurture and guide us all like a father and mother. We pray for the families of this congregation, and for all Christian families everywhere. Give them strength to honour you in their homes, and to love and serve each other. Help all who have been baptized in your name to live in peace and unity as sisters and brothers in the household of faith, and to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 608 "Dear God, Who Loves All Humankind"

Dear God, who loves all humankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up, and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire:
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

Commissioning and Benediction

As God sought us out,

may we too seek out those in need in our community.

As God waited patiently on us,

may we too be patient with our neighbours.

As God has showered us with grace,

may we too shower everyone we meet with God's grace.

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit go with us, this week and always.

Amen.

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.

Postlude: "Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above" Dan Forest

Tune: Amsterdam from the Foundry Collection, 1972

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.

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.

DORCHESTER:

UNION:

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

Lectionary Readings for next week: (September 18, 15th after Pentecost)
Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13