

**September 25, 2022**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Third of Creation**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "On Eagles Wings" Michael Joncas. Setting by John Carter.

**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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The word has come for us from God:

**who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.**

The word has come to us from Jesus:

**who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.**

The word flows to us from the Spirit:

**who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.**

**Hymn VU 314** "Come Now, Almighty King"

Come now, almighty King,

help us your name to sing, help us to praise;

one God all glorious, ever victorious,

come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come now, incarnate Son,

your life in us begun, our prayer attend;

come, and your people bless,

come, give your word success;

stablish your righteousness, Saviour and friend!

Come holy Comforter,

your sacred witness bear in this glad hour;

your grace to us impart, now rule in every heart,

never from us depart, Spirit of power!

To the great One in Three,

eternal praises be for evermore;

your sovereign majesty may we in glory see,

and to eternity love and adore!

**Opening Prayer** (*unison*)

Holy One, at your word the cosmos swirled into being, light shone, and life exploded in myriad intricate forms. You spoke, you still speak to us of your intense love and concern for all of creation. So why is it that we prefer to listen to other voices; voices that speak of random chance, and of our superiority, and of scarcity of resources? Unstop our ears and speak again of your design and hopes and dreams for creation; of your glory; of your endless blessings that you lavish upon us. Turn our ears from the messages of this world to listen again for your voice in every moment. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## **We Are Blessed By God**

**Anthem:** "For the Beauty of the Earth" John Rutter.

Performed by Paya Lebar Methodist Girl's School Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHIifRLNYUGw>

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

**Hymn VU 382** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine,  
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God:  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

**Scripture:** Luke 16:19-31

### **The Rich Man and Lazarus**

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

**Psalm 91 VU 808 (On Eagle's Wings)**

You who dwell in the shelter of our God,  
who abide in this shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: 'My refuge,  
my Rock in whom I trust.'

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear:  
under God's wings your refuge,  
God's faithfulness your shield.

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come.

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

For to God's angels is given a command  
to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

'And hold you, hold you in the palm  
of my hand.'

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

**Meditation:** "Fake news or good news?"

## **We Respond To God's Grace**

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

We are called to be the church. We are called to love one another.

We are called to reach out in faith and in hope.

We respond to that call with our lives, with our time and our skills, with our tithes and offerings that the kingdom of God would be made manifest here and around the world.

### **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**

Holy One, accept and bless all that we offer. Use it to create hope for those who are living in despair; healing for those living in brokenness; and joy for those living in fear. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

Holy and Gracious God, empower the life and witness of your church throughout the world. Inspire it's creativity in building your kingdom of hope for all people. Encourage it's risk taking for the sake of your eternal realm. Break down the barriers that divide, that united in your truth and love, all people may sit together at one table, and live in peace. This week we pray for Strathroy United Church and their minister, the Rev. Dr. Brad Morrison.

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 and protect them in time of upheaval and disaster, that all may enter the kingdom that cannot be shaken. This week we pray for the people of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru.

God of Comfort, stand with those who mourn; reassure them that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall separate them from your love. Especially we think of the friends and family of Jim Chaplow, Beryl Gedies, and Les Reading.

Merciful God, You bear the pain of the world. Look with compassion on those who are sick; cheer them by your word, and bring healing as a sign of your grace. Especially we think of the Rev. Jim Evans, Marje Lanning, Glenda McMillan, Marleen Parish, Doreen Snow, Don Thistle, Mac Toner, and their loved ones and their caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

We gather all of these prayers and lift them up to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ, 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 223** “Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing” words by R.B.Y. Scott, (c) 1988 Emmanuel College

Eternal, Unchanging, we sing to your praise:  
your mercies are endless, and righteous your ways;  
your servants proclaim the renown of your name  
who rules over all and is ever the same.

Again we rejoice in the world you have made,  
your mighty creation in beauty arrayed,  
we thank you for life, and we praise you for joy,  
for love and for hope that no power can destroy.

We praise you for Jesus, our Master and Lord,  
the might of his Spirit, the truth of his word,  
his comfort in sorrow, his patience in pain,  
the faith sure and steadfast that Jesus shall reign.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

God sends us from this place with a word of hope

**For us to share with all whom we meet.**

Jesus sends us from this place with a word of life abundant

**For us to build with all whom we meet.**

The Spirit sends us from this place with a word of justice

**For us to strive for, for every person, and for all creation.**

May it be so.

**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.

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will be there supporting us with love.

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

Amen, amen, amen.

**Postlude:** “Come, Thou Almighty King with We will Glorify” Arranged by Carol Tornquist

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ALL:**

Next Sunday, October 2, is Worldwide Communion Sunday. For those joining virtually, please ensure you have your juice/wine and bread at the ready.

### **DORCHESTER:**

Central Board meets September 28 at 7 p.m.

### **UNION:**

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

**Lectionary Readings for next week:** (October 2, 17<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost/4<sup>th</sup> of Creation)  
Lamentations 1:1-6; Lamentations 3:19-26 OR Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10