

October 9, 2022
Thanksgiving Sunday/Last of Creation

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Come , Ye Thankful People, Come" George J. Elvey, Arr. Victor Labenske

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

Be joyful and sing as we gather to worship God!

Let the whole world sing praise to God!

We know that the One who made us is God!

We are God's people, and God is our shepherd!

God is good! God's love and faithfulness last forever!

Let the whole world sing praise to God!

Hymn VU 519 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

Sing to the Lord of harvest,
sing songs of love and praise,
with joyful hearts and voices
your hallelujahs raise;
by whom the rolling seasons
in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest
a joyful song of love.

God makes the clouds drop fatness,
the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness,
the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them all with fullness,
all things with large increase,
and crowns the year with goodness,
with plenty and with peace.


Bring to this sacred altar
all things God's goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
the souls Christ died to save:
your hearts lay down before him
when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
who gave his life for all.

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say, Thank You!
The hills and valleys are filled with colour, and we say, Thank You!
The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say, Thank You!
Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say, Thank You!
Our life is filled with love of family and friends, and we say, Thank You!
We fill this house of God with our voices, saying, Thank You!
May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O God, as we enter into this service of thanksgiving and praise. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "O, Give Thanks to the Lord" music by Lloyd Larson, lyrics by Mary Kay Beall

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Psalm 100 VU 820 "Make a Joyful Noise"

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song!
Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song!
Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song!
Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Scripture: John 6:25-35

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

*The other reading for this week is: **Philippians 4:4-9***

Meditation: "Give Thanks"

Hymn VU 227 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission Deuteronomy 26-:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him,

“Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.”

“A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down to Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.”

(offering is placed on the communion table)

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Offertory Hymn VU 518 “As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought”

As those of old their first-fruits brought
of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today our first-fruits bring:
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.

Prayer of Dedication

Extravagant God, you yield abundant fruit for all to share, and invite us into your chamber to feast and celebrate. As we present our gifts, fill us with your passion to feed the world, that, leaving no one poor or hungry, all may dwell with you in peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God, you are our creator and our sustainer.

We give you our thanks and praise for all of the blessings of this life:
for the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome;
for splendours seen and unseen.

for human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;

for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying.

for work to do and strength to work; for comradeship of labour;
for exchanges of good humour and encouragement.
for marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one;
for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love.
for family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures.
for children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness;
for their sudden sympathies.
for the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values;
for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows.
for growing up and for growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience;
for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing.
for your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases;
for preserving us in temptation and danger.
for the church into which we have been called;
for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament; for our life together in the Lord;
for Courtright-Sixth Line Pastoral Charge, and their minister Gabrielle Heidinger.
for the diversity of nations, cultures, and languages in this world;
for the people of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama.
for the gift of life, and for those who mourn the loss of life, especially the friends and family of
Les Reading, Jan Turley, and Pauline Livingstone;
for the gift of health, and for when we are not healthy, for a health care system;
for health care workers, and for those who are ill, awaiting medical intervention,
or recovering from treatment, we pray, especially for the Rev. Jim Evans,
Marleen Parish, Doreen Snow, Don Thistle, Barb Thompson, Mac Toner,
and their loved ones, their caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts...

for your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;
who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship.
especially for your Son, Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again;
for our hope in him; for the joy of serving him.
We thank and praise you, Eternal God, for all your goodness to us.

**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 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.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go forth with joy and thanksgiving.

We go, a song of praise in our hearts.

We go, rejoicing, with gladness in our hearts, for God is good.

And may the love of God fill you to overflowing,

The peace of Christ surround you,

And the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you,

Now and forever. Amen.

Response: VU 298 "When You Walk from Here"

When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.

Postlude: "Now Thank We All Our God" Johann /Crueger, Arr. Victor Labenske

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

The Heart of Christianity book study, Part 1, runs Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m., from October 13 to November 10.

Last year, a number of people ordered *The Christian Seasons Calendar*. The Resource Centre is going to place an order and is interested in knowing how many to order. If you would like to order one of these calendars again this year, or for the first time, please let me know immediately. If they order 25 or more, the price will be discounted by 40%.

DORCHESTER:

Yousef, Ruba, Lana, and Jawad Rajeh are scheduled to arrive in Toronto on October 27. In order to prepare for all of the many things that will be needed you are invited to Pick a Pumpkin at the front of the church. You can either supply the item, or make a financial donation. Items can be left in the baskets by the table. Financial donations should be made to Dorchester United Church noting Refugee Fund.

UNION:

Union United Church Cemetery and Union United Church Trustees meet
Wednesday, October 19 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Lectionary Readings for next week: (October 16, 19th after Pentecost/Proper 24)
Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5; Luke 18:1-8