

October 16, 2022
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 24

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song: MV 18 "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

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

Call to Worship (based on Jeremiah 31:27-34)

Here God engraves God's promises on our hearts.

We gather, seeking to be transformed by God's grace.

Here God fills our souls to overflowing with compassion.

We gather, seeking to learn to be God's agents of justice in our world.

Here God breathes the Word of life into our lives.

We gather to offer ceaseless praise for God's ceaseless caring.

Hymn VU 264 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise;
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, you work tirelessly to transform us into the people you created us to be. You speak through Holy Scripture; you demonstrate through the life and teachings of Jesus; you prod through your Holy Spirit; yet we insist on reading false narratives, on modeling our lives on the lives of our culture's celebrities, on stubbornly holding on to our old ways. Forgive us, God. Write your new commitment – *your* hopes, *your* dreams, *your* vision – on our hearts. Lead our wayward feet back to your path of righteousness and justice. Build up our faith, that, filled with your grace and compassion, we might seek *your* justice for all of creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem:

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 365 “Jesus Loves Me”

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, 'Let them come to me.'

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

As a sign of God's continuing faithfulness to us, God blesses us with every good thing.
As a sign of our faithfulness to God and God's dreams for this world, we offer our tithes
and offerings.

Offertory Hymn VU 518 vs 3 “As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought”

With gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best to you,
not just to serve your cause, but share
your love with neighbours too.

O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

Prayer of Dedication

Like your words, O God, the tangible gifts with which we are blessed are not to be hoarded or
hidden away for rainy days. Rather we offer them so they might bring healing, hope, grace, and
peace to all around us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for all your mercies:
for your goodness that has created us,
your grace that has sustained us,
your wisdom that has challenged us,
your patience that has borne with us,
and your love that has redeemed us.

Help us to love you and all your children, and to be thankful for all your gifts, by serving you and delighting to do your will.

We pray for your church:

for its continuing usefulness as a channel of grace and hope,
for its rescue from bureaucracy and stagnation,
for its witness to unity and justice,
for its commitment to hospitality and compassion.

This week we hold up Rural Pastoral Charge as they search for a new spiritual leader.

We pray for the people of the world:

for all in need by reason of famine, flood or earthquake,
for all who are refugees, internally displaced people, or political prisoners,
this week we pray especially for the people of the Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

We pray for all who mourn a loss, especially we think of the friends and family of Les Reading, Jan Turley, and Pauline Livingstone.

We pray for those who are ill or dying, those awaiting treatment or recovering from medical intervention, especially for Jack, Rev. Jim Evans, Mary Kaiser, Marleen Parish, Haley Scott, Barb Thompson, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All these things we pray 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 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:97-104 part 4

O how I love your law! It is my study all day long.

**Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies;
for it is always with me.**

I have gained more insight than all my teachers,
for your instruction is my study.

**I have more understanding than the aged,
for I keep your commandments.**

I have held my feet back from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.

**I have not swerved from your judgements,
for you, yourself, have taught me.**

How sweet is your word on my tongue,
sweeter than honey in my mouth!

**Through your commandments I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.**

Scripture: Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' "

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

*The other readings for this week are: **Jeremiah 31:27-34; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5***

Hymn VU 660 "How Firm a Foundation"

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!

Meditation: Faith in what?

Hymn VU 262 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
with power and malice great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
the truth to triumph through us:
the prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is for ever.

We Return to Our Ministries

Commissioning and Benediction

In this time and place, God has transformed us into disciples.

We go, sharing God's promises with all whom we meet.

In this time and place, God has called us to be agents of God's justice.

We go, sharing God's compassion with all whom we meet.

In this time and place, God has breathed new life into us.

We go, sharing hope and new life with the world.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

The Heart of Christianity study continues, Thursdays at 2 p.m.

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.

DORCHESTER:

October 23 is Anniversary Sunday. Rev. Larry Schneider will be the guest speaker. A lunch will follow the worship service. If your surname starts with A-M, please bring sandwiches to share. If you surname starts with N-Z, please bring desserts to share.

Yousef, Ruba, Lana, and Jawad Rajeh are scheduled to arrive in Toronto on October 27. In order to prepare for all 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.

Lectionary Readings for next week:

(October 23, 20th after Pentecost/Proper 25)

Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14