

**Dorchester United Church -- October 23, 2022**

Twentieth after Pentecost -- Proper 25

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "The Church's One Foundation" Samuel S. Wesley arr. by 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:**

We come here to worship God, to speak to God of our hopes and dreams,  
our regrets and fears, hoping God will draw near.

**We seek proof of God's presence with us,  
proof that we have found favour with God,  
and, finally, proof that we matter, that we are loved by our Creator.**

That is why our forebears built this place of worship.

**That is why we come here each week, to this cleft in the rock,  
hoping to catch a glimpse of the glory of God.**

Let us worship the Lord our God!

**Hymn:** VU 516 "Come, you thankful people, come"

Come, you thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
safe before the storms begin;  
God, our maker, does provide  
for our needs to be supplied:  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,  
harvests for God's praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown,  
here for joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade, and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear:  
Harvest-giver, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For our God, one day, shall come,  
and shall take this harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offences purge away;  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the weeds to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.

Even so, God, quickly come  
to your final harvest home!  
Gather all your people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there for ever purified,  
in your presence to abide:  
come, with all your angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.

### **Introduction of Rev. Larry Schneider**

#### **Opening Prayer** (*unison*)

We come before you today, doing our best to be humble and contrite:  
Seeking your presence with us now,  
Your forgiveness with us this day,  
Your grace with us always,  
Awakening Jesus once again in our hearts, our minds, and our souls. Amen.

#### **We Are Blessed By God**

**Anthem:** "We Will Rejoice" by Don Besig and Nancy Price, music by Don Besig

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

#### **Hymn VU 278** In the Quiet Curve of Evening

In the quiet curve of evening,  
in the sinking of the days,  
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.  
In the lapses of my breathing,  
in the space between my ways,  
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.  
You are there, you are there, you are there.

In the rests between the phrases,  
in the cracks between the stars,  
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.  
In the melting down of endings,  
in the cooling of the sun,  
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.  
You are there, you are there, you are there.

In the mystery of my hungers,  
in the silence of my rooms,  
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.  
In the empty cave of grieving,  
in the desert of my dreams,  
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.  
You are there, you are there, you are there.

### **Psalm 65 Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty**

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;  
and to you shall vows be performed,

**O you who answer prayer!**

**To you all flesh shall come.**

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
**you forgive our transgressions.**

Happy are those whom you choose  
and bring near to live in your courts.

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
your holy temple.**

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
O God of our salvation;

**you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.**

By your strength you established the mountains;  
**you are girded with might.**

You silence the roaring of the seas,  
**the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.**

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
**you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

You visit the earth and water it;  
**you greatly enrich it;**

the river of God is full of water;  
**you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.**

You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,

**softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**

You crown the year with your bounty;

**your wagon tracks overflow with richness.**

The pastures of the wilderness overflow,

**the hills gird themselves with joy,**

the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,

**the valleys deck themselves with grain,**

**they shout and sing together for joy.**

**Joel 2:23-32** God's Spirit Poured Out

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God;

for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for your abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,

the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God,

who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,

and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterwards

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;

your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

your old men shall dream dreams,

and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves,

in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

*The other readings for this week are: **2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18, Luke 18:9–14***

**Meditation:** "A Bountiful Life"

## ***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**

Loving Creator God, we thank you for your many mercies, your love, and the gifts with which you shower us every moment of our lives. We present to you now but a token and portion of what we express when we intone and pray, Thank You. Thank You for our substance, our sustenance, and our sweet Jesus! Amen.

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

Here we are, dear God, coming before you again today in heartfelt prayer.

Bless us and keep us, as we continue along this pathway, that is our life, our meaning found in living out Jesus' commandment to us to love one another, to put ourselves not at the front of the crowd, but encouraging others to join in, to love and worship You. Forgive us for what we have done that goes against your will, and for those potential acts of generosity, kindness, and forgiveness which we have left undone and unrealized, unspoken, and unfelt. Encourage us now and inspire us with Your Word. Enter into our hearts today, healing and encouraging us, comforting and blessing us, so that we might truly earn and maintain the name of 'Christians,' known by our love and selfless sacrifice for others, as Jesus gave for us. Bless and comfort all who suffer from the lack of that which is necessary, who suffer from the pain inflicted by other human beings, natural disasters, and the terrible effects of human-induced climate change.

Where there is food insecurity, bring sheaves of grain and plentiful manna.

Where there is drought, bring rain and warmth and renewal.

As the crops mature and the harvest begins, let us give thanks and pray that this bounty will be a bounty for all, nourishing us on our often troubled and turbulent journeys.

Make us ever mindful of the needs of others, and of our own needs,

So that we may pray for enough, as Jesus taught us to pray,

**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 639** "One more step along the world I go" (4 verses only)

One more step along the world I go  
One more step along the world I go  
From the old things to the new  
Keep me traveling along with you.

And it's from the old I travel to the new  
Keep me traveling along with you.

'Round the corners of the world I turn  
More and more about the world I learn  
And the new things that I see  
You'll be looking at along with me.

And it's from the old I travel to the new  
Keep me traveling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough  
Keep me loving though the world is tough  
Leap and sing in all I do  
Keep me traveling along with you.

And it's from the old I travel to the new  
Keep me traveling along with you.

You are older than the world can be  
You are younger than the life in me  
Ever old and ever new  
Keep me traveling along with you

And it's from the old I travel to the new  
Keep me traveling along with you.

**Commissioning and Benediction** (in unison) *The UCW Benediction*

**May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
rest upon us, and upon all our work and worship done in his name.**

**May he give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us,  
now and forevermore. Amen.**

**Response: "Go Now In Peace"**

Go now in peace, never be afraid,  
God will go with you, each hour of every 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: "Postlude in D Minor"** by Lani Smith

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ALL:**

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

### **DORCHESTER:**

Today we welcome the Rev. Larry Schneider and his wife, Gwen. Larry served as the minister of Dorchester United Church from March 4, 2012 until September 2017, when illness interrupted his journey in ministry. We are thrilled to have them join us today for our anniversary service: to sing in the choir, to preach the word, and to join in fellowship following our service of worship.

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.

### **UNION:**

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

November 13, 2022 is our 202<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Service. Our friend and former General Secretary of the United Church of Canada, Nora Sanders, will be our guest speaker.

### **Lectionary Readings for next week:**

October 30 Twenty-first after Pentecost / Proper 26

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

November 1 All Saints Day

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31