

June 18, 2023

Third Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 6

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "Faith of our Fathers" Henri F. Hemi. Arr. Cindy Berry

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

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

**Call to Worship**

We gather to worship the One who works wonders in our lives.

**God blesses us with joy and lightness of being,  
gifts from the very heart of God.**

We gather to learn how to follow Jesus, the One who offers us grace and hope.

**Jesus sends us into the brokenness  
of the world to restore hope and deliver healing.**

We gather in the presence of the Spirit, who breathes gentleness and peace upon us.

**The Spirit empowers us to offer  
reconciliation and justice to all whom we meet.**

**Hymn: VU 245** "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet"

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet, praise the Lord with the harp and lute,  
praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.

Praise the Lord in the field and forest, praise the Lord in the city square,  
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.

Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine, praise the Lord in the dark of night,  
praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light.

Praise the Lord in the deepest valley, praise the Lord on the highest hill,  
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal, praise the Lord with the pipe and string,  
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.

Praise the Lord on a weekday morning, praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,  
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.

Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow, praise the Lord in the time of joy,  
praise the Lord every moment, nothing let your praise destroy.

Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet, praise the Lord in your work or play,  
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

**Prayer** (*unison*)

Holy One, You are the love which never ends, the joy which overflows, the faith that is always full. So it is that we gather together this day, with thanksgiving on our lips, to sing glad songs and praises to You, God of grace. Send your Holy Spirit to cleanse our messy hearts, to teach us new steps in the dance of life, to offer us the breath of hope for our suffocating lives. Jesus, remind us that you are the Word we can speak to power, the healing we can offer to the broken, the justice which can eliminate oppression. Be with us in our worship, and go with us into our ministry this coming week. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **We Are Blessed By God**

**Anthem: "Hear us, O Father"** Words by Nancy Price, Music by Don Besig

Incorporating **"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"** words by Edwin Hatch, Music by Robert Jackson

**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.

**Psalm 116**

**Refrain: How can I repay you God, for all the goodness you show to me?**

I love you, God, because you heard my voice  
when I made supplication,

**because you turned your ear to me,  
when I called upon your name.**

The cords of death entangled me,  
and the pangs of the Grave laid hold on me;

**I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called upon the name of God:

**'O God, I pray, save my life.'**

**Refrain: How can I repay you God, for all the goodness you show to me?**

How can I repay you, God,  
for all the good things you have done for me?

**I will take up the cup of salvation,  
and call upon the name of God.**

**I will pay my vows in the presence of all God's people.**

**Refrain: How can I repay you God, for all the goodness you show to me?**

Precious in the sight of God is the death of the saints.

**O God, I am your servant;**

I am your servant, the child of your maidservant.

**You have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**and will call upon the name of God.**

I will pay my vows to God in the presence of all God's people,

**in the courts of the house of God, in your midst,**

**O Jerusalem.**

**Refrain: How can I repay you God, for all the goodness you show to me?**

**Scripture: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7**

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?" The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "Yes, you did laugh."

The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

*The other readings for this week are: **Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)***

**Meditation:** "Hope vs. Fear"

**Hymn VU 580** "Faith of Our Fathers"

Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy,  
whene'er we hear that glorious word:  
    faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
    we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our mothers, daring faith,  
your work for Christ is love revealed,  
spreading God's word from pole to pole,  
making love known and freedom real:  
    faith of our mothers, holy faith,  
    we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our sisters, brothers too,  
who still must bear oppression's might,  
raising on high, in prisons dark,  
the cross of Christ still burning bright:  
    faith for today, O living faith,  
    we will be true to you till death.

Faith born of God, O call us yet;  
bind us with all who follow you,  
sharing the struggle of your cross  
until the world is made anew.  
    Faith born of God, O living faith,  
    we will be true to you till death.

**We Respond To God's Grace**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer (VU 960)**

Lord of all being and source of every blessing, we thank you for all things good:  
for life and love, for health and food, for work and rest, for loving supportive fathers,  
for everything which gives us pleasure, nourishment, and strength.

In addition to life's blessings, Lord, there are also challenges and difficulties.

God of heaven and earth, we pray for your church, the Body of Christ, especially for Norwich United Church, and their spiritual leader, Janice Pow;

we pray for those who live in far off places. Today we especially remember the people of Malawi and Zambia, and all of those affected by natural disaster – fire, flood, tornado, and hurricane.

Lord of life, there are those among us who do not feel very alive because they mourn the death of loved ones. Comfort them in their mourning and grant that they may find peace. Especially we remember the friends and families of the Rev. Dr. Grafton Antone, and Elgin Johnson.

Lord of all compassion, there are those among us who are ill and in declining health. Heal those you would have healed, comfort those who are dying, and give strength to their loved ones and caregivers. We pray especially for Zoe.

Lord, we pray finally for ourselves. Help us to believe in ourselves as you do. Teach us to care for ourselves, and to rest so that we will have energy to deal with the challenges that come our way.

This we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:  
for thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

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

We heard again the story of Abraham, who looked beyond his own concerns and became the unwitting host to three ordinary angels, and the recipient of divine promises that inspired laughter, wonder, and joy. We too look beyond our own concerns, and offer gifts to support the needs of our world. Our tithes and offerings will now be accepted, via CanadaHelps and Canada Post, PAR, the offering plate or the mailslot.

### **Offertory Hymn VU 544 "In Gratitude and Humble Trust"**

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today  
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.  
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,  
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, may we too unwittingly host angels through the gifts that we offer. May these gifts lead to laughter, wonder, and joy for the recipients. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### **Hymn VU 424 "May the God of Hope Go with Us"**

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

I say to you one of the most common phrases of the entire Bible, 'Fear not!'

**We are secure in our faith that we are God's beloved.**

As Jesus said to the disciples, I say to you,

"Go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'"

**We go to spread hope and healing and reconciliation in the world.**

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

**Amen.**

**Response: VU 974 "Amen"**

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

**Postlude: "On Eagle's Wings" Michael Joncas. Setting by John Carter**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ALL:**

#### **Coming Services**

July 9 Union Outdoor Service with potluck following

**Indwell** has been selected by the City of London to operate a new, city owned 44-unit apartment building at 403 Thompson Road. We will offer on-site supports, including nursing, food security, addictions support, and housing support at this site. We will also care for the building with our facilities team. We will be looking to hire people to fill these staff roles and others. If you or someone you know is interested in working for Indwell, please check out [www.indwell.ca/jobs](http://www.indwell.ca/jobs). We value diversity, and welcome candidates from all backgrounds who share our commitment to building thriving communities.

### **DORCHESTER:**

**Worship Committee** meets Tuesday, June 27 at 7 p.m.

**Central Board** meets Tuesday, June 20 at 7 p.m.

The **Holy Diner** returns, starting Thursday, July 6. If you are able and willing to help cook and/or supply cookies please contact Brenda Olejnik or Carol Reid.

### **UNION:**

**Unified Board** meets Wednesday, June 21 at 7 p.m.

**Wanted:** Volunteers to greet people as they arrive at church, light the Christ candle, and take the offering forward. Each week one person will cover all three tasks. A sign-up list of available dates will be provided by Lynne Winter.

**The Outreach Focus for the months of May and June is:** Second Stage Housing.

Wish list: Antiseptic cleaner, Lysol spray or wipes, New Toilet plungers, New Toilet brushes  
Liquid hand soap, Dish soap. Dryer sheets, Paper towels, Toilet paper

**Stone Church Cruise Nights** - Last Monday of the Month

June 26, July 31, August 28, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Everyone Welcome. Custom - Rods – Classics - Muscle Cars - Trucks

Special Interest & Vintage vehicles of all kinds

Hot Beef-on-a bun, Hot Dogs, Ice Cream, Cold Drinks

**NB** We will be serving the beef-on-a-bun “rain or shine”!!!

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

(June 25, Fourth after Pentecost, Proper 7)

Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39