

**June 25, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 7**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Land Acknowledgement**

I know that some of you are joining us from different areas and locations, but the land that is known as Central Elgin today is part of Treaty 2 of 1790, and is the traditional land of the Haudenosaunee, a confederacy of six Iroquois nations. These Indigenous Nations agreed to the mutual sharing of the land, with mutual obligations and responsibilities to the environment. Throughout the years, people of many nations and nationalities have been part of the creation of the world we see and know around us. Many of them were oppressed, many were not given choice or liberty over their involvement. Today we pray our thanks for the conservancy and lessons of all oppressed people in our past and renew our commitment to recognize and undo legacy injustices, to listen to the stories, and to build better relationships between all races and nations. Let us come before the Creating One as we offer our prayers, listen to holy stories, and sing sacred songs.

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Gathering In Song VU 951** "Holy, holy, holy"

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God!

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

**Call to Worship**

O God, in the stillness of the morning  
we have come into your presence to begin our week.

**We have come to find hope**

**for a better world for all of your children.**

Hear our prayer, Lord.

**We have come to find wisdom,**

**so that we may not speak unwisely or act foolishly.**

Hear our prayer, Lord.

**We have come to find the peace that passes all understanding,**

**for all peoples.**

Hear our prayer, Lord.

**We have come to find love**

**so that we may strive for equity and fairness for all.**

In this moment, remind us that You are with us  
in the rough and tumble of our lives.

**Hymn VU 374** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre"

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

**Opening Prayer** (*unison*)

Holy One, we adore you, whose name is love. Like Ishmael and Isaac, we seek your blessing, for your nature is compassion, and your presence is joy. Like Sarah and Hagar, we compete with one another, mock one another, plot against one another, hurt one another. Forgive us. Teach us to live as brothers and sisters should; rejoicing in one another's blessing, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, showing forth your love to all who live in this world of yours. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**We Worship God**

**Piano Solo**

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

**Hymn VU 703** "In the Bulb There is a Flower"

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

**Prayers of The People & The Lord's Prayer**

Gracious God, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in Jesus, and for our call shown through his mission and priorities. Yet taking up the way of the cross presents us with many questions. Merciful God, why must war and terrorism still be the means of settling disputes between and within nations? Why do so few people vote or get involved in political parties, or in leadership of community groups? Help us, O God, to take a share in faithfully answering local, national, and international questions.

Compassionate God, is there a way of giving hope to the dispirited and depressed? Can we stand beside hard-pressed healthcare providers, social workers, and others? Have we a faith that is broad enough, generous enough, to support the wider church and unknown but needy people through the Mission and Service Fund? Help us, O God, to answer these questions through reflection, prayer, and sustained endeavor. We pray for your church, especially Dundas Street Centre and their spiritual leader, the Rev. Wendy Noble.

Ever-present God, will you inspire us to love deeply in every small act of care as Mother Theresa did? Will you come to us when we feel there is no one around who understands the depth of our need? Will you incite us to rise to the heights of our power of giving, of listening, of enjoying, of serving, taking Jesus as our model?

All-knowing God, listen as we pray for our families, our friends and our neighbours. You know their need more certainly than we do. We ask humbly that you would listen and respond according to the need of each: we pray this week for the people of Kenya and Tanzania; we pray for those who mourn, especially the friends and family of Elgin Johnson; we pray for those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment and for their loved ones and caregivers: especially Zoe, Harry Bishop, Dina Krul, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in the name of our Saviour, Jesus 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 sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.

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

God cares for us in ways of which we are unaware, for God knows us better than we know ourselves. We have much to offer: our time, our talents, our experience, our faith, our forgiveness, and our financial support. Let us give as we are called: in love, in care, in whatever means we are able, knowing that responsible giving brings healing and opens up possibilities only God can give. Our tithes and offerings will be received, through Canada Post or CanadaHelps, PAR or the offering plate.

### **Offering Hymn VU 541 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures high and low;  
Give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

### **Offering Prayer**

God, we release these gifts, letting go of these things that seem important to us: money we feel we have earned, time we feel is limited, lives we feel are our own. We let go of them, knowing they are yours and desiring your healing love to flow through them to all your children who are crying in need. Bless us, and unite us with you, we pray. Amen.

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 86**

**Refrain: In the day of my trouble I call unto you for you will answer me.**

Turn your ear to me, O God, and answer me,  
for I am poor and in misery.

**Preserve my life for I am faithful;  
save your servant for I trust in you.**

Be merciful to me, my lord, for I call to you all day long.

**Gladden the heart of your servant,  
for to you I lift up my soul.**

For you, my lord, are good and forgiving,  
and great in mercy to all who call on you.

**Give heed, O God, to my prayer,  
and listen to my cry of supplication.**

**Refrain: In the day of my trouble I call unto you for you will answer me.**

Among the gods there is none like you, my lord,  
nor can the deeds of any be compared to yours.

**All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow before you.**

They shall glorify your name, my lord,

**for you are great and do marvellous things;  
you alone are God.**

**Refrain: In the day of my trouble I call unto you for you will answer me.**

Turn to me then, and have mercy;  
give your strength to your servant.

**Save your handmaiden's child;  
give me a sign of your favour!**

Then those who hate me will see and be ashamed,

**for you, God, have helped and comforted me.**

**Refrain: In the day of my trouble I call unto you for you will answer me.**

**Scripture:** Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

*The other readings for this week are: **Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39***

**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.

**Meditation:** "When all seems lost"

***We Depart with God's Blessing***

**Hymn VU 266** "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
this word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

Go from here with reckless love.

**We go, ready to waste time for the gospel,  
to waste energy for the vulnerable,  
to waste resources for God's eternal realm.**

Go, willing to make sacrifices,

**for we follow the One who sacrificed all for us.**

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

**Amen**

**Sung 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.

God will be there supporting us with love.

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

Amen, amen, amen.

## **ALL:**

### **Coming Services**

July 9 Outdoor Service with potluck to follow

**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.

## **UNION:**

The **Trustees** meet on Wednesday, July 5 at 7 p.m. at the cemetery.

**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

NOTE: In case of bad weather, come anyway because “rain or shine”

We will be serving the beef-on-a-bun!!!

## **DORCHESTER:**

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

**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 is at the back of the sanctuary.

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

(July 2, Proper 8, Fifth after Pentecost)

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42