

July 2, 2023
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 8

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "We Have Met For Worship" William Moore Arr. by 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

Children of God, come and worship!

We are led by the Spirit of God.

Our Redeemer accepts us and invites us to gather as people of faith.

We come as we are, ready to receive the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Let us worship the Lord, our God.

Hymn: "O Canada"

O Canada! Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all *of us* command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,

The True North, strong and free!

From far and wide

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada! Where pines and maples grow.

Great prairies spread and lordly rivers flow.

How dear to us thy broad domain,

From East to Western Sea,

Though land of hope for all who toil!

Thou True North, strong and free!

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada! Beneath thy shining skies

May stalwart sons and gentle maidens rise,

To keep thee steadfast through the years

From East to Western sea,

Our own beloved native land!

Our True North, strong and free!

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Ruler Supreme, who hearest humble prayer,
Hold our dominion within thy loving care;
Help us to find, O God, in thee
A lasting, rich reward,
As waiting for the Better Day,
We ever stand on guard.

*God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.*

Prayer VU 525 (*unison*)

Eternal God,
whose image lies in the hearts of all people,
we live among peoples
 whose languages are different from our own,
 whose faiths are foreign to us,
 whose ways we fail to understand.

Help us to remember
 that you embrace all people with your love,
 that all religion is a response to you,
 that the yearnings of other hearts
 are much like our own, and are known to you.

Help us to recognize you
 in words of truth, things of beauty,
 and actions of love about us.

We pray in the name of the One who calls us
 to be neighbour and friend. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Piano Solo: “Blessed Assurance” Phoebe P. Knapp Arr. by Melody Bober

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 288 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Psalm 13

Refrain: Be still, my soul, for God is on your side.

How long, O God, will you utterly forget me?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I suffer anguish in my soul,
and be so grieved in my heart day and night?

How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Refrain: Be still, my soul, for God is on your side.

Look at me, and answer me, O God my God;

give light to my eyes, lest I fall asleep in death,

lest my enemies claim to have prevailed against me,
lest my foes rejoice at my downfall.

But my trust is in your mercy.

Let my heart be joyful in your salvation.

I will sing to you, O God,

because you have dealt so lovingly with me.

I will praise your name, O God most high.

Refrain: Be still, my soul, for God is on your side.

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

*The other readings for this week are: **Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42***

Meditation: "Risky Business"

Hymn VU 642 "Be Thou My Vision"

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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 everything which gives us pleasure, nourishment, and strength. We give you thanks for this place that we call home – Canada. It is not perfect, yet truly we are blessed. In addition to life's blessings, Lord, there are also challenges and difficulties.

We pray for your church which faces many challenges in these days, especially we pray for Trinity United Church in Wallaceburg as they search for a new spiritual leader.

We pray for those who live in far off places, today we pray especially for the people of Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda, and for those who are affected by disaster, whether natural or of human causes. We pray for those who mourn a loss, especially the friends and family of Elgin Johnson, who has died. We pray for those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially Zoe, Harry Bishop, Mary Kaiser, Dina Krul, Gerald Pfeffer, Mac Toner, their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts....

Lord, we pray finally for ourselves. Teach us to value ourselves as you do. Teach us to care for ourselves, to rest, to enjoy life and to trust in you no matter what challenges come our way. All this we pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray,

**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.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
for yours is the kingdom
the power and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

When God asked Abraham to offer up his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice, God was also asking Abraham to sacrifice his hopes and dreams and future. Fortunately, God doesn't ask us to sacrifice our children, only our time, our gifts and skills, our own lives, and our resources. 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 God, accept these gifts and use them to restore hope to the hopeless and to bring new life to all the places of death in our world. In Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn VU 681 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your words of life again.

In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the strong compassion of your face.

O Jesus, from the mountain side,
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide,
and tread the city's streets again,

till all the world shall learn your love
and follow where your feet have trod,
till glorious from your heaven above
shall come the city of our God.

Commissioning and Benediction

May the One who created you,
the One who came to challenge and to teach,
the One whom death could not contain,
bless you with courage and strength to live out the Good News of the Kingdom of God,
this day, and always.

Amen.

Response: VU 974 "Amen"

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Postlude: "A Gaelic Blessing" John Rutter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

Vacation: Rev. Mark will be on vacation Monday, July 17 to Sunday, August 6 inclusive. In his absence, for pastoral emergencies, please call:

DUC: July 17 to 31 – Mary Dillon 519-878-7134

August 1 to 6 – Karlene Kimber 519-282-3056

Union: July 21 to August 6 – Rev. Tom Beecroft 519-615-0281

Coming Services

July 9 Union Outdoor Service with potluck following. There will be no zoom service on this day.

DORCHESTER:

Summer Closure: There will be no worship service July 9, 16, 23, or 30. You are invited to join Union United Church on July 9 at 9:45 a.m. for an outdoor service and potluck lunch – please bring a dessert, your own dishes, cups and cutlery and a lawn chair, and sunscreen. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided. You are invited to join Reynold's Creek United Church at 9:30 a.m. on July 16, 23, and 30.

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.

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 located at the rear of the sanctuary.

UNION:

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

Summer Closure: There will be no worship service on July 16 or July 23.

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 located at the rear of the sanctuary.

The Outreach Focus for the month of July is Indwell. Our goal is to assemble three Welcome Baskets for people who will be moving into The Station on Queen Street. Each welcome basket consists of: a laundry basket (sturdy rectangular), laundry detergent pods (no powder please), all purpose cleaner spray bottle, broom and dustpan, mop and bucket, bathroom cleaner, toilet bowl brush, toilet plunger, kitchen sized garbage bags, bathroom size waste basket, hand soap, bath towel, toilet paper, a roll of paper towels. Please bring your items to church on July 9, or drop off to Bonnie Marceau by that date.

Stone Church Cruise Nights - Last Monday of the Month – July 31, August 28, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
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:

(July 9, Sixth after Pentecost, Proper 9)

Genesis 23:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 OR Song of Songs (Solomon) 2:8-13;

Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30