

**July 9, 2023**  
**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 9**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that this community is located on the land of the McKee Treaty that was signed on May 19, 1790 by the Wyandot and Anishinaabe Nations, including ancestors of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. It is also the traditional territory of the, Haudenosaunee, Attiwonderonk (Neutral) and Mississauga Nation. These First Nations continue to provide ongoing stewardship of the land and waters in this area.

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Gathering In Song VU 412 "This Is the Day" vs 1**

This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice, and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

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

**Call to Worship**

We gather here today to worship you, O God.

**We come seeking a relationship with our Creator.**

You come like the sunrise in early morning, rising over the far horizon,

**And we are in awe of the One who created it all.**

Join us in our worship,

**And be one with us.**

**Hymn VU 820 "Make a Joyful Noise"**

Make a joyful noise all the earth!  
Worship your God with gladness.  
Make a joyful noise all the earth.  
Come to this place with a song!

Know that your God has made you. Know it's to God we belong.

And come to this place with joyfulness and praise. Worship your God with a song!

Make a joyful noise all the earth!  
Worship your God with gladness.  
Make a joyful noise all the earth.  
Come to this place with a song!

Enter these gates, thanks giving. Enter these courts with praise.

Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name. Worship your God with a song!

Make a joyful noise all the earth!  
Worship your God with gladness.  
Make a joyful noise all the earth.  
Come to this place with a song!

Ages through endless ages, seasons of endless years,  
the love of our Maker ever shall endure. Worship your God with a song!

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song!

**Opening Prayer** (*unison*)

Meet us here, Holy One, in this sanctuary of time and space that we have set apart in our week as an opening for your Spirit into our hearts and homes. In a world that is aching and divided, may our prayers be a gentle and soothing gift, offered in your name and in the spirit of your gathered ones across time and space. Amen

Written by Wendy MacLean.  
**Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2023  
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**We Worship God**

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

**Hymn VU 577** "I've Got Peace Like a River"

I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain,

I've got joy like a fountain,

I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain,

I've got joy like a fountain,

I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

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

Holy One, You are the love which never ends, the joy which overflows, the faith that is always full. So it is 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, for this is the responsibility of your church. We pray for your church the world over, especially St. Paul's United Church in Aylmer, and their spiritual leader, Pastor Brian Wilkie. We pray for our neighbours, near and far, especially the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia. We pray for those who mourn a loss, and we pray for those who are ill or dying, especially Harry Bishop, Dina Krul, Mac Toner, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray with heart and soul and voice, as we pray the words you taught us,  
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**

Love is reaching out to neighbours, near and far, without their having to ask, especially those who are victims of injustice, those who are marginalized, those who are unloved, those who are despised or even hated by us, those who we count as enemies, for to God, who reached out to us, we are all the 'other'. Help us to be as welcoming, as caring, as generous as you, Loving God, as we share our gifts with you and the world. Our tithes and offerings will be received, through Canada Post or CanadaHelps, PAR or the offering plate.

## **Offering Hymn VU 542 "We Give You But Your Own"**

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

## **Offering Prayer**

Holy One, accept all that we freely and joyfully offer. Bless our offerings and use them to work for justice and reconciliation, to restore hope, and to create your peace, which passes all understanding. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 45**

**Refrain: God has blessed you forever and ever.**

My heart overflows with a noble theme;  
I utter the song I have made for the king,  
my tongue like the pen of a ready scribe.

**You are the fairest, the most handsome;  
God endows your speech with grace;  
God has blessed you forever.**

**Refrain: God has blessed you forever and ever.**

Gird your sword on your thigh, O hero,  
in splendour and majesty.

**In your majesty ride on to conquer  
in the cause of truth and justice.**

Let your right hand teach by awesome deeds,  
arrows sharp in the heart of royal enemies.

**The nations shall fall at your feet.  
Your divine throne endures forever.**

Your royal sceptre is righteousness;  
you love right and hate what is wrong.

**Your God has anointed you  
with more oil of gladness than all your peers.**

All your garments are fragrant  
with myrrh, aloes and cassia.

**Out of the ivory palaces  
stringed music makes you glad.**

**Refrain: God has blessed you forever and ever.**

**Scripture:** Song of Songs (Solomon) 2:8-13

*The voice of my beloved!*

*Look, he comes,*

*leaping upon the mountains,*

*bounding over the hills.*

*My beloved is like a gazelle*

*or a young stag.*

*Look, there he stands*

*behind our wall,*

*gazing in at the windows,*

*looking through the lattice.*

*My beloved speaks and says to me:*

*"Arise, my love, my fair one,*

*and come away,*

*for now the winter is past,*

*the rain is over and gone.*

*The flowers appear on the earth;*

*the time of singing has come,*

*and the voice of the turtledove*

*is heard in our land.*

*The fig tree puts forth its figs,*

*and the vines are in blossom;*

*they give forth fragrance.*

*Arise, my love, my fair one,*

*and come away."*

*The other readings for this week are:*

***Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30***

**Hymn VU 333** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Love divine, all loves excelling,

joy of heaven to earth come down,

fix in us thy humble dwelling,

all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion,

pure, unbounded love thou art;

visit us with thy salvation,

enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Meditation:** "Love"

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

**Hymn VU 639** "One More Step Along the World I Go"

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 travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all 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 travelling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling 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 travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling 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 travelling along with you:  
    And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
    keep me travelling along with you.

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Go into the world, sowing the grace of God abundantly,  
Scattering love unconditionally,  
And planting the seeds of hope enthusiastically,  
Among all those whom you meet.

**Sung Response: 424 VU "May the God of Hope"**

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.

## **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 17 to 21 – either Mary Dillon or Karlene Kimber

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

**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 rear of the sanctuary.

## **UNION:**

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

**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”!!!

## **DORCHESTER:**

**Summer Closure:** There will be no worship service July 16, 23, or 30. 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 willing and able to help cook and/or supply cookies please contact Brenda Olejnik or Carol Reid.

### **Lectionary Readings for the next weeks:**

July 16, Proper 10, Seventh after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23, Proper 11, Eighth after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30, Proper 12, Ninth after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; OR Psalm 128; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 6, Proper 13, Tenth after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 13, Proper 14, Eleventh after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33