

August 13, 2023
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 14

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude:

Lighting the Christ Candle (*VU 840 Refrain 5*)

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

God calls us to be the church.

**We gather as one to worship God,
and to learn about God's hopes for creation.**

God calls us to step out of our comfort zone,
to let go of our own desires and embrace God's hopes.

God calls us to worship,
by living into God's compassion, and justice, and peace, and joy.

Let us worship. Let us listen. Let us live into God's hopes.

Let us sing our joy.

Hymn: VU 220 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear:
brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen
how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who out of love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.

Prayer (unison)

Holy One, we say we long to walk in your footsteps, but when you call us to join you on the winds and the waves our faith falters. We would rather remain in the storm-tossed boat than join you on the waters. We fear we would sink and drown in the tempest, so we stay where we feel safe and secure. Reach out your hand to us to give us the courage to join you in this world's storms that we in turn might reach out to those around us who are tossed by life's storms and together we might find calm. Amen.

A New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

We Are Blessed By God

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 563 "Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

(Please use your hymnbooks as no license is available)

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b (VU 828-829 Parts 1 and 2)

Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

Give thanks and call on God's name.

Make known to the nations what God has done.

**Sing, O sing the songs of praise;
tell of all God's wonderful deeds.**

Exult in God's holy name;

let those who seek God be joyful in heart.

R: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

Turn for help to the One who is your strength;

seek God's presence continually.

**Remember the marvels the Most High has done,
the wonders and judgements God has given,**

O children of Abraham and Sarah, God's servants,*

O offspring of Israel, chosen of God.

R: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

You are the eternal God,

your justice reaches every corner of the earth.

You are ever mindful of your covenant,

the promise you gave to a thousand generations,

**the covenant you made with Sarah and Abraham,
the oath you gave to Isaac.**

You confirmed it for Jacob as binding.

To Israel your everlasting covenant you declared,

**'To you I give the land of Canaan,
as your appointed inheritance.'**

R: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

You called down famine on the land,

and cut off the supply of bread.

**But you sent one ahead of them,
Joseph, whom they had sold as a slave.**

His feet were hurt with fetters, his neck collared with iron;

until his predictions came true, your word tested him.

Then the king sent and released him,

the ruler of nations set him free.

**He made Joseph master of his house,
ruler of all his possessions,**

to correct his officials at will,

to teach his counsellors wisdom.

R: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus Walks on the Water

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

*The other readings for this week are: **Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Romans 10:5-15***

Meditation: "Impossible"

Hymn VU 659 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:

O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard,
and hushed their raging at thy word,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid the storm did sleep:

O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
and bade its angry tumult cease,
and gave for wild confusion, peace:

O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
all travellers guard in danger's hour.
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go:

thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

We Respond To God's Grace

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God, we praise you for the hope which greets us with each new morning.

We praise you for our Saviour, who came to teach us a better way to travel through this lifetime, and for your church which passes that teaching from one generation to the next. Especially we pray this week for Cottam United Church as they search for a new spiritual leader.

We praise you for your Holy Spirit, our comforter, our teacher, our daily friend.

God, we praise you for creation, our home: for the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, the soil that grows our food, and the sun's fires that are the source of energy to grow that food.

God, we praise you for the gift of laughter and the gift of tears. Tears and laughter shared cause us to grow in love and compassion. Tears are a reality for those who mourn the death of loved ones, and so we pray for all who mourn, especially the friends and family of Shirley Dickie and Wayne Stilson.

God we praise you for your presence in our lives. As we learn of your love for us, we find healing and joy.

We pray for all of the broken souls on this earth that desperately need to know you love them; that desperately need to find healing and wholeness. We pray too for those whose bodies need healing, and for them we pray that you would work your will, on earth as in heaven. We pray for ...

and their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Finally we pray for our brothers and sisters around the world, especially this week we think of the people of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

We gather all these prayers together and lift them up to you 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

God of original blessing, You call us to do the seemingly impossible – to live in this world as though your will is done as in heaven – a world where there is no hunger, no homelessness, no racism, no addiction epidemics, no hardship. Even more, you call us to make that world a reality by working as a community to care for the hungry, the homeless, the marginalized, the prisoner, and the isolated, and to work for justice for all people. On our own we can only do so much, but by pooling our efforts and our offerings, we can accomplish much. Our tithes and offerings make blessing possible. Our tithes and offerings will now be accepted, via CanadaHelps and Canada Post, PAR, the offering plate or the mailslot.

Offertory Hymn *lyrics by Mary Luti and used by permission to the tune VU 541 Old 100th*

Praise God, the source of breath and birth,
who formed us from the dust of earth,
and made us kin in unity
to love and set each other free.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, if we want to accomplish the miraculous, then we must be daring enough to offer not just our hearts, our lives, and our time, but also our tangible gifts as well. Bless all that we share that it might accomplish the miraculous for all life on earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn VU 675 "Will Your Anchor Hold"

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

It will surely hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers tell that the reef is near;
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

It will surely hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill our latest breath;
on the rising tide it can never fail
while our hopes abide within the veil.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

When our eyes behold, through the gathering night,
the city of gold, our harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
with the storms all past for evermore.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

Commissioning and Benediction

Go with hope.

We go, filled with the hope of God's promises.

Go with faith.

We go, trusting in God to bear us up when needed.

Go boldly,

for there is nowhere we can go where God is not.

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.

Postlude:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

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.

Save the date! Antler River Watershed Regional Council will be holding a workshop regarding the Remit to establish an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada. The workshop will be held live at Siloam United Church in London, and via Zoom on Friday, October 20th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. More details to follow.

DORCHESTER:

Holy Diner continues through the month of August, Thursdays at 5 p.m. to 7 p.m..

Coffee Time resumes for the month of August (and following), Wednesday morning at 10 a.m.
BYOLC (bring your own lawn chair.... or sit on an uncomfortable wooden stacking chair.... your choice)

UNION:

Stone Church Cruise Nights - Last Monday of the Month – 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:

August 20 - 12th after Pentecost, Proper 15.
Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28