

August 20, 2023
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 15

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, Attiwoonderk (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 MV 156 "Dance with the Spirit"

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life abornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

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

Call to Worship Written by Peter Chynoweth. **Gathering**, Pentecost 1 2023, page 37. Used with permission.

Many are the reasons we gather:

we are one as the body of Christ.

Excited, anxious, reluctant, restrained:

we are one as the body of Christ.

Brought here, sent here, drawn here, just here:

we are one as the body of Christ.

Let us open our hearts and minds to the possibility of change.

Whatever happens and however it happens:

God is present here.

Hymn VU 409 "Morning has Broken"

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, just as the Canaanite woman challenged Jesus, so you challenge us. You challenge us to examine and sometimes change our beliefs and our behaviours. You challenge us to live with one another, and with you, in peace and with righteousness, regardless of the difficulty of doing so. There are times when that is easy, and there are times when it is the biggest challenge of our lives. No matter what change brings we trust that we can negotiate it because we trust that you are with us, in the midst of it all, holding us, teaching us, loving us into the people you would have us be. Praise be to you, gracious and generous God. Amen.

We Worship God

Time for the Young and the Young @



Hymn VU 299 “Teach Me, God, to Wonder”

Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;
let your world of beauty capture me.

Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
let your world of people speak to me.

Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,
in your world of loving my place take.

Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour when we meet.

Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

Prayers of The People & The Lord's Prayer

God our creator, our centre, our friend, we thank you for the blessings of life, for those who are dear to us, for those who have gone before us, and for all who have helped and influenced us. Most of all, we thank you for the faith that is in us, for our awareness of you, and our hope in you. Keep us, we pray, thankful, faithful, and hopeful until our lives shall end.

Gracious God, we pray for your church and the faithful all over the world, that all who love you may be united in your service. This week we pray for St. Andrew's United Church in Chatham, and their spiritual leader, Greg Simpson.

We pray for the peoples and leaders of the nations, that they may be reconciled one to another in pursuit of your justice and peace. This week we think especially of the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone.

We pray for all who are oppressed, for all who suffer from prejudice, greed or violence, that the heart of humanity may warm with your tenderness.

We pray for all in need by reason of disaster, whether natural or of human cause, that they may know the hope of your faithfulness through the help of others.

We pray for the land, the sea, and the sky, that we may learn to live with respect in creation and use your gifts with reverence.

We pray for all who mourn a loss, especially the friends and family of Shirley Dickie and Wayne Stilson. Grant them comfort in their mourning.

We pray too for all who are ill or dying, awaiting treatment or recovering from medical intervention, that they may receive strength and courage, and that they may find healing and wholeness. Especially we think of,.....

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

God of compassion, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,
in the name of Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever, and 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Minute for Mission *(video)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2GTn0JoWpl>

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God does not offer us just the crumbs of grace that fall from the table but invites us to the great feast of grace. May we offer more than just platitudes and pocket change to those in need in our communities, our country, our world. Our tithes and offerings will be received, through Canada Post or CanadaHelps, PAR or the offering plate.

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.

Offering Prayer

Holy One, bless all that we offer, that it may become grace, hope, justice, and love to all whom it touches.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Psalm 133

Behold how pleasant, how good it is!
Behold how pleasant, how good it is!

How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
fragrant as precious oil
when running fresh on Aaron's beard.

Behold how pleasant, how good it is!
Behold how pleasant, how good it is!

How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
fresh like the morning dew
that falls on Zion's holy hill.

Behold how pleasant, how good it is!
Behold how pleasant, how good it is!

How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
there is where God bestows
the blessing, life for evermore.
Behold how pleasant, how good it is!
Behold how pleasant, how good it is!

Scripture: Matthew 15:21-28

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

*The other readings for this week are: **Genesis 45:1-15; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32***

Meditation: "A funny thing happened on the way to....."

Hymn MV 145 "Draw the Circle Wide"

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms.
Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.
Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.
Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

We Depart with God's Blessing

Commissioning and Benediction

God's grace is bigger than our imaginations;
God's generosity knows no bounds.

We go into a world of vengeance and greed,
where narrowness of spirit and a sense of scarcity rule.

**Let us take the wideness of mercy, that is God's grace
and the sense of abundance that underlies God's generosity
into the world to transform it into God's dream and desire for all peoples.**

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.

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.

UNION:

A **Congregation Meeting** will be held following worship on Sunday, September 3 to approve profiles in preparation of the search for a new minister.

A Celebration of the Life of Shirley Dickie will be held at Union United Church on Thursday, August 24 at 2 p.m., followed by a private family committal. In accordance with the wishes of the family, there will be no visitation and no reception.

Unified Board will meet Wednesday, September 20th at 7 p.m.

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”!!!

DORCHESTER:

August 27th An ecumenical service (DUC and SPAC, plus possibly DPC) has been planned for Sunday, August 27th. We will gather for worship at Dorchester United Church at **9:30 a.m.** The Rev. Quenton Little (Anglican) will be preaching. Communion will be celebrated.

Worship Committee will meet Tuesday, August 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Central Board will meet Tuesday, September 12 at 7 p.m.

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)

LECTIONARY READINGS:

August 27 - 13th after Pentecost, Proper 16.

Exodus 1:8 - 2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20