

August 27, 2023
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 16

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: Let Us Break Bread Together

inspired by Mendelssohn's "Consolation" from Songs Without Words arr. Faye Lopez

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.

**Different congregations, different denominations,
yet we gather as one to worship the one God we all worship.**

God calls us to step out of our comfort zone,

to let go of our own agendas, and to embrace God's dream.

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 and dreams for all creation.

Let us sing our joy.

Hymn: VU 402 "We Are One"

We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.

We are one as we sing,
as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.

We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.

We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.

We are one as we feast,
as we feast, peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine
there's a sense of love divine.

We are one as we come,
as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace
as we meet at table in this place.

We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.

Collect (*unison*)

Almighty God,
We are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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

Piano Solo: Amazing Grace inspired by Sibelius "Romanze" Arr. Virginia Harmony

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,
Thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 124

Refrain: Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.

'If God had not been at our side,'

now let Israel say:

'If God had not been at our side

when mortals rose up against us,

then they would have swallowed us alive,

when their fury was roused against us.

Then the flood would have swept us away,

and the torrent would have covered us.

Then the raging waters

would have gone right over our heads.'

R: Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.

But praised be God:

who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird

from the hunter's snare;

the snare is broken and we are free.

R: Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

*The other readings for this week are: **Exodus 1:8 - 2:10; Romans 12:1-8***

Hymn VU 371 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Meditation: "You Have the Keys"

Hymn VU 480 "Let US Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Truly it is right to give you, loving God, both our thanks and praise, for you alone are God, active and ever present in our lives, yet beyond both time and space. Out of nothing your Word called forth the heavens and the earth. At the sound of your voice light was established. You created all life, including woman and man. You called us to be your people and promised to be our God. Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen, and with all the faithful of every time and place, we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving.

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;

heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest.

Gracious God, from the beginning we have denied you. Adam and Eve turned from your fellowship and were cast from the garden. Jacob wrestled with you, and you put his hip out of joint. David did what was evil in your sight, and you took his son, Absalom. Countless others rejected the words of your prophets and became lost in this world. And so, in the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus, to walk a little while with us. To the outcast he brought fellowship. To the lame and the ill he brought healing. To the sinner he brought forgiveness. To all he brought salvation. Yet we even managed to deny and betray Jesus, who, on the night of his betrayal took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, he took the cup, saying: "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do it in remembrance of me." And so, in memory of your Son's great sacrifice, we humbly offer what little we have, the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving.

Christ has died,

Christ has risen,

Christ will come again.

We ask you, great and glorious God, to pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on your gifts, that, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we may be united with Christ, and as the body of Christ. Empower us to give you praise, and to continue the work of your mission. For this reason, we ask that you pour out your Spirit upon your creation and make it anew. Gather together your peoples, from the ends of the earth, into your realm, where justice and mercy truly exist. We ask this, that we, with all your people, of every language, race and nation, may share the banquet you have promised, including those who mourn the death of a loved one, especially the friends and family of Shirley Dickie and Wayne Stilson, and those who are experiencing ill health,..... their loved ones and caregivers.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours,

almighty God, now and evermore. Amen.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer following Communion

We give thanks, almighty God, that bread broken brings wholeness;

that wine poured out replenishes;

that time spent with the Risen Christ and with one another is both gift and grace.

Amen.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God promised Jacob that through him and his offspring, all the families of the earth would be blessed. It is through us that God blesses the world in our time. We do this by reaching out to those in isolation, by extending worship into people's homes, by caring for the vulnerable in our community. In response to God's promise, Jacob promised to give one tenth off all that God gave him, back to God to bless the families of the earth. Through our tithes and offerings we too bless all the families of the earth. 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

God, use what we offer to bless the vulnerable and marginalized in our world, and help us to be as generous as Jacob in our giving. Amen.

Hymn MV 154 "Deep in Our Hearts"

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Commissioning and Benediction

Though we are flawed and broken people,

God chose us!

To receive healing, forgiveness, and blessing,

God chose us!

To resist evil, and to work for justice for all,

God chose us!

We go with the blessing and courage and strength of God,

To transform individual lives,

and to transform this broken and hurting world

into the dominion of God.

May it be so.

Amen.

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: A Claire Benediction *words and music by John Rutter*

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:

St. George's Anglican Church in Thorndale is having their BBQ chicken dinner on Sept 13. Take out only! Rev'd Quenton has tickets to sell. \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids.

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:

September 3 - 14th after Pentecost, Proper 17.

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28