

September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 18 / Creation 1

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: My Shepherd G.F. Handel

Nancy Quinn

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

We come seeking God.

We want to know God's presence in our lives.

We come seeking God's will in our lives.

We come seeking comfort, insight, and inspiration.

We come seeking reassurance that God is with us.

**We come seeking God's help in our learning,
in our growing, and in our living.**

Hymn: VU 245 "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet"

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.
Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.
Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or
snow or in the morning light.
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment,
nothing let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

Opening Prayer (unison) Written by Eric Hebert-Daly. **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, page 33. Used with permission. It is in knowing that we can find ourselves in loving community that we come to this sanctuary, O God. It is in the sharing of prayer and in upholding one another through difficult times that we feel called to be here. It is in singing together that our spirits are uplifted. It is in reflecting together that we discern how best to serve you and one another. It is in summoning your name that we are healed from our wounds and our weariness. Gather us close to you so that we may feel the warmth and the comfort we seek and the deep love you have for us. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Solo: Pie Jesu From Gabrielle Faure's Requiem

Nancy Quinn

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn: VU 241 "Oh, Sing to Our God"

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing out a new song.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing out a new song.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing out a new song.
Oh, sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God.

Oh, dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
Oh, dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
Oh, dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
And sing to our God, and sing to our God.

Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God.

Psalm 149

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Sing to God a new song;

give praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in its Maker;

let the children of Zion exult in their Sovereign!

Let them praise God's name with dancing;

let them sing God's praise with tambourine and harp!

R: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For you, O God, take delight in your people;

you crown the humble with victory.

Let the faithful exult in their glory;

let them sing for joy as they feast.

R: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Let God's praise be on their lips,
the two-edged sword in their hands,
to bring the nations to justice,
and call to account the peoples,
to bind their rulers with fetters,
their great ones with bonds of iron,
to execute on them the sentence decreed.

This is the glory of all God's saints!

R: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20

Reproving Another Who Sins

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

*The other readings for this week are: **Exodus 12:1-14; Romans 13:8-14***

Meditation: "Is Anybody There?"

Hymn VU 389 "God is Here"

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer;
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

God of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

We Respond To God's Grace

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

We thank you, compassionate God, that you hear the prayers of our hearts.

We thank you for:

We pray for:

students who are returning to school: those who are overjoyed to be back,

those who would rather not be there, and those for whom school is a challenge,

for teachers and other staff who offer their time, energy and skills to students,

all who are displaced from their homes due to acts of violence, war, and terror,

or flood, fire and other natural disasters,

all who have no place to call home,

all who struggle with addiction and/or mental health issues,

all who mourn when the circle is incomplete, when a friend or loved one has died,

this week we pray especially for the friends and family of

George Bennett, Shirley Dickie, Marion Wallace....

all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical treatment or recovering from medical intervention,

especially we think of

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

Thank you for hearing us in every situation of life.

Help us to support one another always:

rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with those who weep.

We pray for brothers and sisters around the world,

this week we pray especially for the people of Ghana and Nigeria.

We want to be joined together as members of the body of Christ,

loving one another and serving the world, and so we pray for your church,

this week we pray especially for Bayham United Church in Straffordville,

and their spiritual leader, Pastor Troy Van Ginkel.

Like Jesus, we want to respond to each human being who crosses our path with sensitivity and compassion. 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

Many in our society wonder if there is a God. Some don't even get as far as wondering, they assume what they see is what they get. Yet all of us need to know meaning and purpose in our lives, and that our life somehow matters. Spreading the good news of the kingdom of God is what we are called, as a church, to do. Sometimes we can do it as individuals. Other times we need help. Our tithes and offerings support the work of spreading the good news of the kingdom of God, and that every life matters.

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, whose life and grace belong
to good and bad, to weak and strong;
whose ways are not our human ways,
whose mercy gladdens all our days!

Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, Holy Three, bless all that we offer for the benefit of those who desperately need to hear and know that they are loved, by You and by us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Hymn MV 30 "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"

It's a song of praise to the maker, the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the maker, the gray whale sings in the sea,

R: And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver when high tides break on the shore,

R: And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the summer breeze joins the song,

R: And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's the chorus of all creation; it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation; a song the universe sings,

R: And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Commissioning and Benediction

Jesus said,

"...love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

As Jesus has loved us, go and love the unloved, the unlovely, and the unlovable,
and may the grace of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit go with us all,
this day and always. **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: Nearer, My God to Thee Inspired by Chopin's Fantasied Impromptu, Lowell Mason,
arr. by Faye Lopez

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

Vacation: Rev. Mark will be on vacation from Wednesday, September 13 to Tuesday, September 19 inclusive so he can travel to Victoria, B.C. for his daughter's wedding. Stories to follow.

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:

Central Board meets Tuesday, September 12 at 7 p.m.

Refugee Fund: Dorchester's official support of the Rajeh Family is coming to an end in October 2023. Ruba and Youssef continue to take English courses as the family adjusts to its new circumstances. Their income is very limited while their expenses for shelter and food are ongoing. We are accepting financial contributions to our fund until Sunday, September 17th. Please consider donating as you are able. We are truly blessed to have this opportunity and Youssef and Ruba are so very grateful for our support. Financial donations to DUC will be gratefully received, noting "Refugee Fund" and including your name and address for your tax receipt. E-transfers may be sent to dorchesteruc.treasurer@gmail.com. Thank you once again for your support.

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 across from the elevator, outside the front of the sanctuary.

Coffee Time Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. BYOLC (bring your own lawn chair.... or sit on an uncomfortable wooden stacking chair.... your choice)

UNION:

SEARCH TEAM TRAINING is being offered Tuesday September 12th from 7-9 PM by Zoom. To register, go to https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/search_team_training

Unified Board meets Wednesday, September 20 at 7 p.m.

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.

LECTIONARY READINGS:

September 17 - 16th after Pentecost, Proper 19, Creation 2

Exodus 14:19-31; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 OR Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 24 - 17th after Pentecost, Proper 20, Creation 3

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16