

**Sunday, October 1st, 2023
Pentecost 18, Proper 21
World Communion Sunday**

We Gather in God's Presence

Prelude: "Take the Bread and Wine", By Faye Lopez

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we worship and reside on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and the Anishnaabe people. It is in the spirit of reconciliation and right relationships, and working towards this reality that we come to worship the One who will empower and guide us with grace.

Lighting the Christ Candle

It began in the first glow.

It continues as we open our eyes.

Those who see will tell the story.

It is a story of new life.

We will live in the light of a new day.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations and Life and Work of the Congregation

Call to Worship

We come from a world divided and fragmented by anger and hate.

May we find the grace and humility to worship together.

We bring our broken and wounded lives to God's table.

God has the power to heal all our wounds.

Let us rejoice for God's mercy and goodness are given freely to all who have come to worship today.

Hymn VU 218 We Praise You, O God

1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.

2 We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

3 With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Opening Prayer

God of all people, you are the reason why we mark this day as special in the liturgy.

It is you whom we worship, the source of every good.

You are our hope for the future.

Sometimes you disturb us by challenging the way we think and see the world.

Called to be in your service we must follow a different path.

One that leads in a different direction.

Give us the grace to be faithful on the journey that we may never turn away from you. AMEN

Creed “We Sing Our Praise”

In the communion of the Holy Spirit,
that joins us together in discipleship:

We sing our praise to the One and Triune God,
the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love;

We confess that Jesus is the Christ,
the Holy One embodied that calls us to witness and service;

We receive the Holy Spirit,
the guide that empowers the whole people of God
to receive the gift of ministry
for the mending of the world.
By the bonds of Christian faith,
We are called to be the church:

To yield ourselves to God,
whose covenant of love binds us to one another;

To celebrate the transforming works of the Spirit through God’s reconciling power
in the waters of baptism, and
To Christ’s saving acts in the bread and cup;

To proclaim Jesus Christ, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
the triune God is with us.
We are not alone.

May all blessing, glory, and honour be to God,
now and forever.
Amen

—An affirmation of faith inspired by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and
The United Church of Canada

We Are Blessed By God

Time for the Young and the Young at Heart

The Prayer of Jesus (The Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy 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, for
ever and ever. Amen

Psalm 78 (Parts One and Two) VU 792

Refrain: We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.

Give heed to my teaching, O my people,
turn your ears to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth in a parable,
I will reveal the hidden things of the past.**

What we have heard and known,
What our parents have told us,

We will not hide from their grandchildren,
**but declare to the next generation
the testimony that you gave to Jacob
and the law you appointed in Israel,
which you commanded them to teach to their children,**

that the next generation might know them, children yet unborn,
and these in turn should arise, and tell their children,

**that they should put their trust in you,
and not forget your great deeds,
but keep all your commandments. Refrain**

Marvellous things you did in the sight of our ancestors,
in the land of Egypt, in the plains of Zoan.

**You divided the sea and let them go through,
and made the waters stand up like a wall.**

By day you led with a cloud,
and all the night long with a beacon of fire.

**You split rocks in the wilderness,
and gave them drink in plenty as from the great deep.**

You brought streams out of the rock,
and made water run down like rivers. Refrain

First Lesson Exodus 17: 1-7

Water From the Rock

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Other Readings

Philemon 2:1-13;
Matthew 21: 23-32

Hymn VU 595 We Are the Pilgrims

1. We are pilgrims on a journey,
Fellow travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

2. Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping,
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
Till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,
We will find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

6. Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too.

Sermon "Water in the Wilderness"

Anthem: "One Bread, One Body"

Words and Music by John Foley, arranged by Mark Hayes

Hymn VU 468 Let us Talents and Tongues Employ

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2. Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE EUCHARIST

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God our creator

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right and good always to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, Creator of the Universe.

You have made from one nation
every nation and people to live on this earth.

And so, with your people on earth,
we praise your name and join in
an unending hymn of praise . . .

Holy, Holy, Holy God of power and might,

Your glory is everywhere present.

Blessed is the One who comes in your name.

Holy are you and blessed is Jesus. Through his suffering,
death and resurrection you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the
earth and to make disciples of all nations.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said: "take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new
covenant, poured out for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in
remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and
living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on
these gifts of bread and wine. May they be for us the body
and blood of Christ. Renew our communion with your
Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every
nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your
name. By your Spirit make us one with Jesus, one with each
other and one in ministry to all the world.

Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Holy
Church, all honour and glory is yours, Almighty God, now
and for ever. AMEN

Fraction

Distribution by Intinction

Post Communion Prayer

**For the bread we have eaten and the wine we have tasted we give you thanks, O Holy God.
May what we have said and done here so put its mark upon us that we may be worthy of the
gifts we have received and always live as mature Christians. AMEN**

We Respond to God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Like the crowd on the hillside whom Jesus asked to sit down and share what they had brought, so we
are asked to share today. May we look beyond those who sit beside us to those who live beyond us
and see their hunger, their want and their pain
and offer ourselves freely in the name of the God of justice and freedom.

Offertory Hymn VU 538 For the Gift of Creation

For the gift of creation,
the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed
by the gifts that we give.

Prayer of Dedication

For all that we have received,
May we be thankful.
For all that we hold dear,
May we be grateful.
For all that we are called to give,
May we give with glad and generous hearts
We give in love and only ask for God's blessing. **AMEN**

Hymn VU 421 Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

1. Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us,
new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

2. Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering,
for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.

3. Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters
may journey to that land where justice dwells with mercy,
and love is law's demand.

Commissioning and Benediction

May the power of God's Spirit transform you.
May the gentleness of God's Spirit lead us.
May the gifts of God's Spirit equip you.
May we always live to worship and serve.

Go in peace and may the Spirit enliven you
and may Jesus hold and comfort you as you go.

Closing Response:

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: **"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"**
by Henry Purcell, arr. by Cindy Berry