

October 22, 2023
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 24

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Amazing Grace" (in the setting of Edvard Grieg's Morning Mood) Arranged by Cindy Berry

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 here to worship God, to speak to God of our hopes and dreams,
our regrets and fears, hoping God will draw near.

**We seek proof of God's presence with us,
proof that we have found favour with God,
and, finally, proof that we matter, that we are loved by our Creator.**

That is why our forebears built this place of worship.

**That is why we come here each week, to this cleft in the rock,
hoping to catch a glimpse of the glory of God.**

Let us worship the Lord our God!

Hymn: MV 1 "Let Us Build a House"

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger;

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

God who breaks through the borders that divide
moving out and into the world
loving down the things that keep us apart
while keeping us distinct in the glory of creation.
Help us celebrate the infinite ways we are created in your image.
May we love You and our neighbour
with all our heart
with all our feeling
with all our thought
in all-consuming love.

May we love You
with all our soul
with all our being
with all our life
and through all generations to come.

May we love You
with all our might
with all our strength
with all that we possess
with the utmost of being

May all our blessings serve to bless others in Your holy name.

May we love and be loved as You love us.

Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "United in Christ" Lyrics by Don Besig and Nancy Price. Music by Don Besig.

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn: VU 253 "Sing Your Joy"

Sing your joy, proclaim God's glory!
Rise and sing, the morning has come!
Bless our God and praise all creation;
song of the earth, and light from heaven:
God is alive! Hallelujah!

All the earth is filled with rejoicing,
light and life, the wonder of God!
Christ has triumphed! Risen forever!
Joy of our hearts, and hope of our dreaming:
God is alive! Hallelujah!

May we learn to become your kingdom,
may we be your kindness and truth!
Love is our calling, gift of your presence;
children of God, and spirit of Jesus:
God is alive! Hallelujah!

Light our way, O God of the living,
may we learn to see with new eyes!
Jesus the Lord, our power and promise;
light for the blind, and food for the hungry:
God is alive! Hallelujah!

Psalm 99

Refrain: You rule with justice in delight, and faithfulness maintain.

You reign, O God, and the peoples tremble,
you sit enthroned upon the cherubim, and the earth is quaking.

**You, O God, are great in Zion,
you are exalted over all the nations.**

Let them praise your great and awesome name:
holy are you and mighty, a ruler who delights in justice.

**You have determined what is fair,
you have done in Jacob what is just and right.**

R: You rule with justice in delight, and faithfulness maintain.

Moses and Aaron were among your priests,
Miriam among those who called on your name,
they called to you, God, and you answered.

**In the pillar of cloud you spoke to them,
they kept your teachings and the law that you gave them.**

O God, our God, you answered them;
**to them you were a forgiving God,
though you punished their offenses.**

Proclaim the greatness of God
and worship on God's holy hill;
for God, our God, is the Holy One.

R: You rule with justice in delight, and faithfulness maintain.

Scripture: Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." The Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

The other readings for this week are: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

Meditation: “Calling Out in the Dark”

The Rev. Gabrielle Heidinger

Hymn MV 161 “I Have Called You by Your Name”

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus’ body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as your go;
feel it pulsing in creation’s ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus’ robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

We Respond To God’s Grace

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord’s Prayer

Ever-gracious God, you call people from near and far into the fellowship of your church. Continue to watch over this congregation, we pray; disturb their complacency; fill it again and again with your Spirit; deepen their faith and their relationship with you, so that they might continue to be faithful co-workers with you— “that all the world might see” and praise you.

Sovereign God, 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, especially we pray today for the people of The Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Martin/Sint Maarten, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Montserrat, Saba, St. Eustatia, Cayman Islands, St Barts, Martinique, Guadeloupe, US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Anguilla, Turks & Caicos, and Puerto Rico.

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need by reason of famine, flood, earthquake, or other natural disaster that they may know the hope of your faithfulness through the help of others. We think especially of the people of Afghanistan, who struggle to recover from a series of earthquakes with little foreign aid.

God of Justice, we pray for all those whose lives are impacted by warfare, terrorism, and violence. In your eyes, there is no such thing as just war. There is no justification for terrorism or violence. Please open our eyes and hearts that we might put an end to our warring ways. Be with the people of Ukraine and Russia, Gaza and Israel, and all others so afflicted.

God, our Creator, we pray for the land, the sea, and the sky, that we may live with respect in creation and use your gifts with reverence.

Great Physician, we pray for all who mourn a loss, especially we pray for the friends and family of ... We also pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from medical treatment, especially we think of... , and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts

All powerful God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
you 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

The call of Christ is as clear today as it was in the days of our ancestors: to be a people of faith who support one another with commitment and love. In these challenging days we show our commitment in the way we minister with and to others. Our love is made real as we share the mission of Christ to care for the vulnerable and the marginalized. We reach out to the lonely and the isolated, we feed the hungry, we support the homeless. We do this through the gift of our time and through our tithes and offerings. May God keep us ever mindful to see with our heart's eye the needs of others and reveal to us how we may be a presence of hope and healing for them. May God accept and bless our ministries and our offerings, which are a sign of our gratitude for God's abiding love in our lives. Our tithes and offerings will now be accepted, via CanadaHelps and Canada Post, PAR, the offering plate or the mailslot.

Solo: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need **The Rev. Gabrielle Heidinger**
Lyrics, Psalm 23 Isaac Watts Tune: Resignation (North American Traditional)
from Southern Harmony, 1835 Arranged by: Stephen DeCesare

Offertory Hymn *to the tune VU 232 Hymn to Joy*

Joyful, joyful, Lord we bring you gifts that you can use today.
Take them, bless them, may your kingdom spread to all the world, we pray.
We are here: our time, our talents, we would dedicate as well.
May we show Christ's love within us, by our lives our faith to tell.

Prayer of Dedication

We are inspired, O God, by those who live their faith with integrity and enthusiasm. We are blessed with people who give, not out of their guilt, but out of their faith. We are blessed with people who serve, not out of their reluctance, but out of their exuberance. We present these gifts, pleased to be part of your mission, and excited to share with those around us. Use these gifts, and us, we pray, to make your eternal realm of justice and peace, a reality, on earth as in heaven. In Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn VU 528 "God of Life"

God of life, in Christ you lead us, guiding us along the way.
In our past, through joys and sorrows, you have been our strength and stay.

Keep us faithful, true disciples, in our learning and our praise,
Celebrating past and present, consecrating future days.

God of words and Word Incarnate, words that challenge and embrace,
grant us boldness in our speaking, while we know your loving grace.
Give us words both clear and winsome, loving hearts and listening ears,
celebrating past and present, consecrating future years.

God of music, psalms and anthems, help us sing your faith anew;
melodies expanding worship, harmonies enriching too.
May our lives be hymns in action, tuned to Christ in note and rhyme,
Celebrating past and present, consecrating future time.

God of days and years and eons, still you call as in the past.
Work undone demands our labour; justice yearns for peace at last.
Yours the vision and the challenge; ours the mission and the praise,
celebrating past and present, consecrating future days.

Commissioning and Benediction *based on Ephesians 3:20*

As we leave this time of worship, let us give thanks and glory to God.

**Glory to God, whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,
In the church, and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever.**

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus the Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit go with us,
this day and forevermore.

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: "Gaelic Blessing" John Rutter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

The **Salt of the Earth Calendar** for 2023-2024 is now available by order. If you would like to order a calendar, please let Rev. Mark know **today**. The order is being placed this afternoon.

ARWRC Annual Fall Meeting is to be held Friday, October 27 – Saturday, October 28. All sessions will be online only, except for the Celebration of Ministry service which will be live at St. Andrew's United Church in St. Thomas at 4:00 p.m. – Jannine Lunn is the ordinand.

DORCHESTER:

Worship Committee meets Wednesday, November 1 at 3:30 p.m.

Coffee Time Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.

UNION:

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held right after worship on October 29, to receive a recommendation from the Search Committee.

Outreach Focus until the end of October

The Inn: bath towels, blankets for twin size beds, shaving cream/gel, razors, sunscreen, sunglasses, nail care products, running shoes, art supplies (colouring books, pencils)
fruit & pudding cups, apple sauce cups, water bottles / juice boxes, cereal / granola bars, coffee, teas, hot chocolate, sugar and powdered coffee whitener, paper cups (no lids) napkins and plastic cutlery.

LECTIONARY READINGS:

October 29 – 22nd after Pentecost, Proper 25

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46