

November 5, 2023
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 26

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "A Flower Remembered" John Milford Rutter

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

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

Call to Worship

We light this candle, remembering those who served in two World Wars

We will not forget

(silence)

God, **grant us your peace.**

We light this candle, remembering the six million Jews who died in concentration camps.

We will not forget

(silence)

God, **grant us your peace.**

We light this candle, remembering the "righteous gentiles" who resisted evil and all those people of other nationalities who endured the horrors of the camps and the atrocities of war and stood in solidarity with the oppressed.

We will not forget

(silence)

God, **grant us your peace.**

We light this candle, remembering all those forced to wear the pink triangle, persecuted and condemned because of their gayness, or those forced to be "comfort women" – violated and abused.

We will not forget

(silence)

God, **grant us your peace.**

We light this candle, remembering all those who were displaced by war, those who were victims of aggression and oppression, those who can never forget.

We will not forget

(silence)

God, **grant us your peace.**

We light this candle, remembering all those who are still victims of war and discrimination and persecution and racism.

We dare not forget

(silence)

God, **grant us your peace.**

We light this candle, remembering the many conflicts of today, such as in the Ukraine, Syria, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Yemen, Croatia, Ethiopia, Gaza, Somalia, and Haiti.

We dare not forget

(silence)

God, **grant us your peace.**

Hymn: VU 686 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.

Cure your children’s warring madness, bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness, rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.

Set our feet on lofty places, gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christ-like graces, pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not them nor thee.

Opening Prayer (unison) VU 525

Eternal God,
whose image lies in the hearts of all people,
we live among peoples
 whose languages are different from our own,
 whose faiths are foreign to us,
 whose ways we fail to understand.

Help us to remember
 that you embrace all people with your love,
 that all religion is a response to you,
 that the yearnings of other hearts
 are much like our own, and are known to you.

Help us to recognize you
 in words of truth, things of beauty,
 and actions of love about us.

We pray in the name of the One who calls us
 to be neighbour and friend. Amen.

We Lament Our Past

Anthem: “In Flanders Fields” Music – Greg Gilpin; Lyrics – Major John McCrae

Psalm 78:1-7

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 meaning of things in 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 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: We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25 The Glorious New Creation

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating,
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime,
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat,
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
on all my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

*The other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 2:2-5 or Micah 4:1-4***

Hymn: VU 687 “When Will People Cease Their Fighting?”

When will people cease their fighting? When will armies wage no war,
nations conquer not their neighbour, weapons idle, used no more?
When will guns and bombs be silent? When will captives be set free?
All creation groans in longing for the world’s true liberty.

Floods and earthquakes, drought and famine plague the world with awesome ill,
but far greater is war’s horror caused by human stubborn will.

Blest are those who, working, praying, purpose in their hearts to be
instruments of peace, committed to the nations’ harmony.

As we strive for peace with vigour, hoping to be shown the way,
we are strengthened in the knowledge of a future, perfect day,
for we know that deeper, richer peace is ours when Christ shall reign;
then will all our swords be plowshares and God’s children free from pain.

Meditation: “Lest We Forget”

We Respond To God’s Grace

Invitation to Invest in God’s Mission

We believe that change is possible. We believe that God’s love can work through us, transforming and enabling us to live in God’s way. And so we present our tithes and offerings, via CanadaHelps and Canada Post, PAR, the offering plate or the mailslot.

Anthem: “For the Fallen” Mike Sammes

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

Like the prophets of old, we search for the ways of God in the world. We present these offerings as symbols of our commitment to continue the search for peace with justice in our local and global communities. We offer these gifts for the transformation of our own hearts and minds, and the transformation of our world, for the good of all. Amen.

Hymn VU 526 “Weep for the Dead”

Weep for the dead. Let tears and silence tell
of blood and battle, horror and renown.
The years diminish, but do not dispel
the pain of lives destroyed, and life laid down.

Silent the dead. Remembering we stand
silent as they, for words cannot esteem
causes of war, the love of native land,
all that they were, and all they might have been.

Raising our flag, we stand with muffled drum,
judged by the colours of God’s love and loss,
recalling as we pray, “Your kingdom come,”
a purple robe, and blood upon a cross.

Summoned by love that leaves no room for pride,
we pray that every continent and isle,
wounded by war, war's hate may lay aside,
and find a way to heal and reconcile.

Weep for the dead, from all the ills of earth.
Stand by the cross that bids all hatred cease.
March to the drums of dignity and worth.
Salute the King of Love, the Prince of Peace.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession *(please stand as you are able)*

Reading the Roll

Last Post - Minute of Silence – Rouse <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9RwkNVqtog>

The Lord's Prayer

We remember, Grieving God, those, in so many places, in so many times, who have died in times of war and in times of peace. We pray we might honour them by becoming your children, makers of peace to our broken world.

We remember, Nurturing God, children who have grown up around us in our schools, in our neighbourhoods, in our churches, and who have gone to war; and we pray for those throughout the world who are innocent civilians and child orphans and suffer as the result of acts of violence.

We remember, God of Truth, the wars which rage within us, the aggression we feel towards others, our unwillingness to forgive, our desire to foster divisions and discord, our discomfort in being called to love our enemies; and even as we despair, we pray for new hope, as we struggle to see you in our world, we pray for discerning hearts, as we confront ancient fears, we pray for new love, and for your old, old peace to be born in us anew.

We remember, God of Peace, all those who have fought and died in wars, and especially we remember:

Roll of Honour
Crumlin
WWI

Private David Hendry
Sapper Richard E. Fox
Sapper John Woods
Private Stewart K. Kersey
Private Freeman Duffin
Private George Woods
Private William Smith
Private William Williamson
Private Harry Preston
Private Earnest Fitzgerald

Private Clarence Guest
Private Robert Crosby
Private Grant Duffin
Private Harry Weir
Private John Billington
Private Randall Woods
Private LaMont Gee
Private Robert Ashman
Private Ernie Ashman
Private Everett Bedgood

WWII

Hubert P. W. Thomson	John S. McMartin
J. Kenneth Duffin	Angus Armour
Jack W. Byers	Jack Crombie
W. Kenneth G. Duffin	Jack Benny
Fred A. Leitch	Ewart W. Jolliffe
Jesse W. Dawkins	George Benny
Ronald J. Dawkins	C. Murray Logan
Donald F. Duffin	Marian P. Thomson
George J. Phelps	Frank Benny

Roll of Honour Dorchester

Grant Bowlby	Russel Killborne
Harold Boxes, M.D.	Ted Lake
Cliff Broadhurst	Norm Lake
Roy Broadhurst	Charles Miles
Victor Couch	Jack Percy
Everet Crockett	Lyle Reading
John Crockett	Betty Robinson
Douglas Ferrar	Morgan Robinson
Leo Gent	Jack Rogers
Bruce Hunt	Will Spragg
Ted Hunt	Jack Wallis
Jack Hunt	Wes Williams
Andy Johnson	Bill Johnson
Fred Crockett	Neil McDonald

Ben Mulholland

Last Post - Minute of Silence – Rouse

We remember, Sovereign God, that all peoples are your children, and so we pray for all the peoples of this world. Especially this week we pray for the peoples of Oceania: American Samoa, the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

We remember, God of Comfort, those who are fighting back tears as they grieve the death of loved ones, especially we remember the friends and family of Mike Gwalchmai, and the Rev. Colin Swan.

We remember, Great Physician, those who are fighting for their lives, those who are fighting illness or death, especially we remember, and their friends and family and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.

As we remember, we pray, Healing God, the words your son taught us, saying:

**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.**

Laying the Wreathes

We Go Forth in Peace, and with Hope

Hymn VU 678 "For the Healing of the Nations"

For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom, from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service, earth its destiny may find.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go from this place.

We go, remembering the dead.

Go from this place.

We go, remembering the horrors and suffering of war.

Go from this place.

We go, remembering who it is we serve.

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.

Response: VU 424 "May the God of Hope Go with Us" vs. 2

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.

May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude: "Nimrod" from The Enigma Variations Edward Elgar Arr. by Jim Paterson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

Christmas is coming! Fortunately, the new Gifts with Vision catalogue is available to help you buy that perfect gift for the person with everything and transform lives at the same time. You can find it at www.giftswithvision.ca

Gospel Concert - Saturday, November 18 & 19

Be sure to mark November 18 or November 19 on your calendars to make sure you can attend the St. Andrew's Choir Gospel Concert. The concerts will be at 2:30 p.m. Several guest musicians will be joining us for two afternoons of wonderful music. Tickets are \$15. To purchase a ticket contact Susan Grieve at grievescan@gmail.com or 519.495.2281. St. Andrews-Westminster U.C. is located at the corner of Glanworth Drive and Highbury S.

Screening Party: The new documentary, *INVASION: In an era of reconciliation, Indigenous land is being taken at gunpoint*, will be shown at Wesley-Knox United Church, 91 Askin St., London, on Wednesday, November 22 at 7 p.m. The documentary is 18 minutes long, and will be followed by a discussion of solidarity and possible next steps.

Westminster United Church, Thamesford, presents **It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play** on November 24, 25, December 1, 2 at 7 p.m., and December 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each and include Christmas desserts and beverages. Tickets are available by calling 519-285-3212 or at www.makingconnexions.com/show

DORCHESTER:

Central Board meets Wednesday, November 29 at 7 p.m. Please review the information regarding Remit 1 and come ready to discuss.

Coffee Time Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.

UNION:

Anniversary Service: We will be celebrating our **203rd** anniversary on Sunday, November 12. The Rev. Jane Van Patter (past-president of Antler River Watershed Region) will be our guest speaker.

Unified Board meets Wednesday, November 22 at 7 p.m. Please review the information regarding Remit 1 and come ready to discuss.

Our **Christmas Bazaar** will be held Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m. to noon. There will be baking, preserves, crafts, vendors, and a tea room for snacks and beverages.

November Outreach Focus

The Christmas Shoppe in St. Thomas. New items such as pajamas, tops, pants, sweaters, socks, underwear or toys are greatly appreciated. The age range for these items is newborn to 12 years (up to size 16). If you have time to volunteer the first week of December, please let Roberta know and she will pass the information on.

LECTIONARY READINGS:

November 12 – 24th after Pentecost, Proper 27

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13