

**May 12, 2024**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "Intermezzo" from Cavalliero Rusticana by Pietro Mascagni 1863-1945

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

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship**

**Call to Worship**

You nudge us out of our sanctuaries and into the world around us.

**You guide us to the leper, the prostitute,  
the unholy ones along the byways of the world.**

You urge us to reach out, to make contact with those who are not like us.

**You give us words of unconditional welcome for all we meet.**

You unite us in the power of your Holy Spirit,

**That, in the end, Your family might be made complete.**

**Hymn: VU 213** "Rejoice, the Lord is King" Words: Charles Wesley, 1746; Music: John Darwall, 1770  
Words and Music: Public Domain

Rejoice the Lord is King! Your risen Lord adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing triumph forevermore.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our sins, he took his seat above.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

God's kingdom cannot fail; Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice, in glorious hope, for Christ, the judge, shall come  
to glorify the saints for their eternal home.

We soon shall hear the-archangel's voice;  
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

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You come like a dove, Anointing God, in every time, in every place, in every language and way of communicating, announcing through your Spirit that we are your Beloved.

You come like a whirlwind, Spirit's Brother, justice doing cartwheels before you, grace tumbling over grace, hope gusting open windows of our shuttered hearts.

You come first as a whisper and then a mighty shout, Wind of God, a waterfall of peace and hope cascading down into a pool where we can swim forever.

You come, God in Community, wind, flame, voice, joy, life for all you call your children, and we praise your holy name. Amen.

## **We Are Blessed By God**

**Ministry of Music “I Will Sing Unto the Lord”** Jamie Killion & Joseph Martin

### **A Song of Faith** *(page 4-5)*

We find God made known in Jesus of Nazareth,  
and so we sing of God the Christ, the Holy One embodied.

We sing of Jesus,  
a Jew,  
born to a woman in poverty  
in a time of social upheaval  
and political oppression.

He knew human joy and sorrow.  
So filled with the Holy Spirit was he  
that in him people experienced the presence of God among them.  
We sing praise to God incarnate.

Jesus announced the coming of God's reign –  
a commonwealth not of domination  
but of peace, justice, and reconciliation.  
He healed the sick and fed the hungry.  
He forgave sins and freed those held captive  
by all manner of demonic powers.  
He crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender.  
He preached and practiced unconditional love –  
love of God, love of neighbour,  
love of friend, love of enemy –  
and he commanded his followers to love one another  
as he had loved them.

Because his witness to love was threatening,  
those exercising power sought to silence Jesus.  
He suffered abandonment and betrayal,  
state-sanctioned torture and execution.  
He was crucified.

But death was not the last word.  
God raised Jesus from death,  
turning sorrow into joy,  
despair into hope.

We sing of Jesus raised from the dead.  
We sing hallelujah.

By becoming flesh in Jesus,  
God makes all things new.  
In Jesus' life, teaching, and self-offering,  
God empowers us to live in love.  
In Jesus' crucifixion,  
God bears the sin, grief, and suffering of the world.  
In Jesus' resurrection,  
God overcomes death.  
Nothing separates us from the love of God.

The Risen Christ lives today,  
present to us and the source of our hope.  
In response to who Jesus was  
and to all he did and taught,  
to his life, death, and resurrection,  
and to his continuing presence with us through the Spirit,  
we celebrate him as  
the Word made flesh,  
the one in whom God and humanity are perfectly joined,  
the transformation of our lives,  
the Christ.

**Hymn VU 334** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Words: Edward Perronet, 1780;  
Music: William Shrubsole, 1779; Words and Music: Public Domain

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him Lord of all.

O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace  
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, you martyrs of your God, who from his altar call;  
praise him whose way of pain you trod,  
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him Lord of all.

Let every tongue and every tribe, responsive to the call,  
to him all majesty ascribe  
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him Lord of all.

O that, with all the sacred throng, we at his feet may fall,  
join in the everlasting song,  
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him Lord of all.

**Psalm 1 VU 724**

**R: Blessed are those who follow the law of God.**

Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked,  
or linger in the way of sinners,  
or sit down among those who mock.

**But their delight is in the law of God,  
and on that law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted beside streams of water,  
yielding their fruit in due season.

**Their leaves do not wither,  
and whatever they produce shall prosper.**

**R: Blessed are those who follow the law of God.**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them,

**but they are like the chaff,  
driven away by the wind.**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand  
when judgement comes,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**For God watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**R: Blessed are those who follow the law of God.**

**Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Brothers and sisters, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus, for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

“So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

*The other readings for this week are: 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19. You can look them up on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and search for the passage..... in the translation of your preference.*

**Meditation:** “We are all good enough”

**Hymn VU 268** “Bring Many Names” Words: Brian Wren, 1968; Music: Carlton R. Young, 1987

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Bring many names, beautiful and good,  
celebrate, in parable and story,  
holiness and glory, living, loving God.  
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day,  
planning all the wonders of creation,  
setting each equation, genius at play:  
Hail and hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,  
feeling all the strains of human living,  
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:  
Hail and hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,  
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,  
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:  
Hail and hosanna, old, aching God!

Young growing God, eager, on the move,  
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,  
crying out for justice, giving all you have:  
Hail and hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,  
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:  
Hail and hosanna, great, living God!

### **We Respond To God's Grace**

#### **Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

Tithing isn't about giving up 10% of what is ours.....

Tithing is about keeping 90% of what we have been blessed with.

Tithing is about disrupting the accumulation of wealth on the part of the few at the expense of the many.

It is about the redistribution of wealth so that all have what they need to live lives of dignity.

Our tithes and other offerings will be received.

**Offertory Hymn** "The Festival Doxology" (tune 217 VU) Words: Brian Arthur Wren

Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne 1623, harmonized Ralph Vaughn Williams 1906

Words: Hope Publishing Company Music: Public Domain OneLicense.net A620168

Praise God the Giver and the Gift;  
All hearts and voices now uplift:  
Christ is risen! Alleluia!  
Creator, Christ and Spirit One  
From whom new life and joy have come:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

Divine Parent, your family includes all of creation. As your children, you expect us to love and care for one another. Accept the gifts, tithes and other offerings we present this day. They are offered in support of members of your family who are in need – because they are also members of our family. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

Holy and compassionate God, we come into your presence today hoping in some way to touch you, to see for ourselves the truth of your resurrection. Gather up our lingering fears and confusion, meet our doubts with compassion and understanding. Open our eyes to your love and grace surrounding us. Open our ears to hear you calling us to new challenges. Open our imaginations to new possibilities.

Open our hearts to your Commonwealth made real here on earth as in heaven. Come anew to all who have been unable to believe; come anew to all who have known you but turned away from you.

Come with the fire of renewed passion to reignite your church that it may fulfill your mission, especially we pray this week for St. Andrew's United Church in Cairo, and their spiritual leader, the Rev. Jim Breen.

Come bearing new hope and restored dreams for the earth and all its inhabitants, especially we pray for the people of Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, and for all of those in the Dorchester area who don't currently have a spiritual home and are looking for one that they might deepen their relationship with you, O God, and with community. We pray that we at Dorchester United Church may have the opportunity to engage with the work you are already doing in their lives.

Come with compassion to those who mourn, especially the friends and family of Ken Purdon.

Come with healing and comfort to those who are ill or dying, awaiting treatment or recovering from medical intervention, especially we pray for Janet Carter, Lisa Gardner, their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Come and bless those who gave us birth and who raised us to be the people we are today, our mothers. Help us, all of us, to experience you standing in our midst, saying, "Peace be with you." May our broken world and our broken lives be transformed in your image. We offer woundedness and turn to you for healing and newness of life, for you, O God, are our strength, our hope, and our salvation.

We gather all of these prayers and lift them up to you in the words that Jesus taught us,

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

**Hymn VU 484** "God the All-Holy" Words: Brian Wren, 1988; Music: trad. Gaelic melody; harm. Martin Shaw, 1931  
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God, the All-Holy, Maker and Mother,  
gladly we gather, bringing in prayer  
old hurts for healing; new hopes for holding,  
giving, receiving loving and care.

Spirit, All-Seeing, knitting and blending  
joy in desiring, friendship and ease,  
make our belonging loyal and lasting,  
so that our pledging freshens and frees.

Christ, All-Completing, Nature enfolding,  
evil exhausting in love's embrace,  
weaving and mending, make every ending  
God's new beginning glowing with grace.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

From the comfort of this time, to the discomfort of discipleship,

**we go to serve your people,**

**we go to wrap others in your grace,**

**we go to discover the truth you share in every moment.**

May your grace, love, and presence go with us, this day and always.

**Amen.**

**Response: VU 424** "May the God of Hope Go with Us" vs. 1 Words: (vs. 1) Alvin Schutmaat 1984

Music: Argentine Folk Melody Words and Music: Public Domain

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

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: "Allegro Maestoso"** from Water Music by George Frederick Handel

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sunday, May 19 is **Pentecost**. We will be celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion. If you join us online, please make sure to have some juice and bread ready to go.

**Central Board** meets Wednesday, May 15 to discuss future direction.

**Antler River Watershed Regional Council** Annual Spring Meeting runs Friday, May 24 to Sunday, May 26 at the Unifor Family Centre in Port Elgin.

## **LECTIONARY READINGS:**

May 19 – Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-35*b*; Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21;

John 15:26-27, 16:4*b*-15