

DORCHESTER UNITED CHURCH
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
June 2, 2024, 10: 00 AM

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

“Be Still, My Soul” by Jean Sibelius Arr. Cindy Berry

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we worship and reside on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe peoples.

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

In the semi-darkness of the Tabernacle the light burned low.

We cannot illumine God's presence for God comes without warning into our world.

Come, O Spirit, and shine into our lives.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Call to Worship

The God who created us will not easily give up on us.

The search goes on even though we may be unaware of it.

God is relentless in pursuit of us.

We cannot escape the reach of a loving creator.

Nothing in the created order can break the bond of God's loving concern.

Hymn VU 87 I am the Light of the World

Chorus:

I am the Light of the World

You people come and follow me.

If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery

Of what you were meant to do and be.

1 When the song of the angels is stilled.

When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun!

2 To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above!

3 To free the prisoner from all chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To see God's children everywhere.

4 To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth!

A Prayer for Discipleship VU 564

**Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
alive and at large in the world;
help us to follow and find you today
in the places where we work and meet people,
spend leisure time and make plans.
Teach us to see through your eyes,
and to hear the questions you ask,
by the power of the Cross,
and in the freedom of your spirit, we pray. Amen**

WE ARE BLESSED BY GOD

Hymn VU 371 Open My Eyes That I May See

1 Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,
ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth and let me bear
gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.
Open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my mouth, illumine me, Spirit divine!

First Lesson / Samuel 3: 1-20

Samuel's Calling and Prophetic Activity

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵ and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶ The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹ Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹² On that day I will fulfill

against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³ For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵ Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷ Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹ As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. ²¹ The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

Psalm 139 VU 861

Sung Refrain: God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

O God, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You discern my path and the places I rest;

You are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue, you know it, O God, completely.

You guard me from behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

It is beyond my knowledge; it is a mystery; I cannot fathom it.

R God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

Where can I escape from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

If I lie down in the grave, you are even there.

If I take wing with the dawn and alight at the sea's farthest limits,

There also your hand will be guiding me

Your powerful hand holding me fast.

If I say, "Let the darkness cover me and my day be turned to night,"
**Even darkness is not dark to you: the night is as bright as the day,
For darkness is as light to you.**

R God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

It was you who formed my inward parts;
you fashioned me in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made.

Wondrous are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was being fashioned in secret,
intricately woven in the mystery of clay.

Your eyes saw my substance taking shape;

In your book my every day was recorded;

All my days were fashioned, even before they came to be.

R God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

How deep your designs are to me, O God! How great their number!

I try to count them, but they are more than the sand.

I come to the end—I am still with you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error

and guide me in the everlasting way.

R God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

Gospel Mark 2:23 - 3:6

Pronouncement about the Sabbath

²³ One Sabbath he was going through the grain fields, and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵ And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food, ²⁶ how he entered the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions?" ²⁷ Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the Sabbath, ²⁸ so the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

The Man with a Withered Hand

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ² They were watching him to see whether he would cure him on the

Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." ⁴ Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵ He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Other Readings Deut. 12: 5-15 2 Cor. 4:5-12, Psalm 81:1-10

Sermon "A New Social Order"

Hymn VU 677 O God of Every Nation

1 O God of every nation,
Of every race and land,
Redeem the whole creation
With your al mighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us
And bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us
And heal our strife-torn world.

2 From search for wealth and power
And scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower
Destruction through the night,
From pride of race and station
And blindness to your way,
Deliver every nation,
Eternal God, we pray.

3 Lord, strengthen those who labor
That all may find release
From fear of rattling saber,
From dread of war's increase;
When hope and courage falter,
Your still small voice be heard;
With faith that none can alter,
Your servants under-gird.

4 Keep bright in us the vision
Of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division
Give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious
When truth and justice reign
And Christ shall rule victorious
O'er all the world's domain.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Birthdays, Celebrations and Life and Work of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and The Prayer of Jesus (The Lord's Prayer)

Patient and discerning God, you come among us in your time for you govern all times and seasons. You provide a way for us to face every adversity. Where we have lost all hope, you point us to a time when all will be well.

God of grace, your love sustains us and removes our lack of trust when the throes of despair overwhelm us. We know only too well our own failings. In the face of the tragic circumstances that beset us, you dispel our fears with your calmness.

God of justice, help us to be agents of hope when abject poverty among those who struggle to stay alive takes a heavy toll. Come to those oppressed by the intransigence of the powerful. Give them the will to endure beyond tomorrow and the next day. Your presence assures them that they are not alone.

God of new life, bring your love and freedom to those places caught in the vice grip of the drug culture where violence and brutality are endemic. We seek your help for change and fresh perspectives on the issues that face our world and its diverse people. Where the desire for revenge holds strong, give us a clearer vision of how we can make your loving intentions real.

Hear our petitions and intercessions on behalf of our hurting world that your will may continue to reign supreme. Amen

Together we pray the prayer of Jesus, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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.

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Whenever the call comes; in the early morning or whenever we can clearly discern the voice that is destined to reshape our entire life, we are constrained to listen, as we cannot escape that profound feeling of being redirected from our accustomed lifestyle.

The One who interrupts us just when we have settled into our own comfort zone is an intrusive God who never settles. Those who are unsettled by the call are precisely the ones whom God is calling to invest in a lifestyle that demands a complete makeover.

The Gospel calls it *metanoia* which is nothing less than a total reversal of our value system.

Offertory Hymn VU 544 In Gratitude and Humble Trust

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

Prayer of Dedication

Vast and unknowable God, we are in awe of your gracious love. We cannot match the sacrificial offering you made on our behalf, yet you free us to give with generous hearts and lives in service to a community that has made us one. We offer these gifts as a family of believers who are convinced that our giving can make a difference. Amen

Hymn VU 562 Jesus Calls Us

1 Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me!"

2 Long ago apostles heard it

by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more!"

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these!"

5 Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Commissioning and Benediction

The Spirit sustains and energizes us.

We go out in the power of that Spirit.

God's Spirit is calling us to a new way of living.

To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God is at the heart of that call.

May the grace, mercy and peace of the Spirit be yours.

Closing Hymn

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every 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 watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Postlude

"Simple Gifts" Traditional Shaker melody Arr. Cindy Berry