

June 9, 2024
Third Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 5

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "It is Well with My Soul" Philip P. Bliss. Arr. Cindy Berry

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

Lighting the Christ Candle

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

On an ordinary Sunday, we gather to worship God.

We gather, trusting God will speak to us

and hoping God will surprise us;

we gather, believing Jesus will be with us

and hoping Jesus will work through us;

we gather, with open hearts, that the Spirit may fill us

and with open hands, that we might be a gift to others.

On special days, like today, we gather remembering that
on this very week in 1925 the United Church of Canada was created,

and we remember that since that day God has spoken to us,

surprised us, walked with us, worked through us, filled us with the Spirit,

and we have been a gift from God to our communities and the world.

May our journey to the dominion of God continue,

as a congregation, as a denomination, as the body of Christ.

Let us praise the Lord, our God.

Hymn: VU 222 "Come, Let Us Sing" Words & Music: Jim Strathdee, 1976. Arrangement: Jean Strathdee

Words & Music © Desert Flower Music. OneLicense.net A620168

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,

we have stood silently too long;

surely the Lord deserves our praise,

so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;

God's living waters will never fail.

Surely the Lord will help you to stand,

strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray, and

walk with each other following your way;

our precious brothers and sisters will grow

in the fulfilling love they know.

Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing

to the desire of all living things.

Come, all you creatures, high and low,

let your praises endlessly flow.

Opening Prayer

On the day of Pentecost, O God, the people of Israel were awestruck and amazed as the power of your Holy Spirit blew into the souls of your disciples. The power of your Holy Spirit continues to blow. Blow into the souls of your present-day disciples, blow into our souls. The power of your Holy Spirit continues to work in your church today, as it did 99 years ago, as it did on the very first day of Pentecost. What, we want to know, do you hope we will do with your life-giving energy in 2024 and beyond? Ought we store it up in a battery for when the power goes out? Ought we expend it for our own benefit? Or ought we do as you model for us, lavish it on the broken, the lost, the lonely, the disenfranchised? Come blow through our church and into the world in which we live today. This we pray in the name of our Saviour, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Ministry of Music “I Hear God’s Music” Don Besig and Nancy Price

A Song of Faith (page 6)

We are each given particular gifts of the Spirit.

For the sake of the world,

God calls all followers of Jesus to Christian ministry.

In the church,

some are called to specific ministries of leadership,

both lay and ordered;

some witness to the good news;

some uphold the art of worship;

some comfort the grieving and guide the wandering;

some build up the community of wisdom;

some stand with the oppressed and work for justice.

To embody God’s love in the world,

the work of the church requires the ministry and discipleship
of all believers.

In grateful response to God’s abundant love,

we bear in mind our integral connection

to the earth and one another;

we participate in God’s work of healing and mending creation.

To point to the presence of the holy in the world,

the church receives, consecrates, and shares

visible signs of the grace of God.

In company with the churches

of the Reformed and Methodist traditions,

we celebrate two sacraments as gifts of Christ:

baptism and holy communion.

In these sacraments the ordinary things of life

– water, bread, wine –

point beyond themselves to God and God’s love,

teaching us to be alert

to the sacred in the midst of life.

Hymn MV 171 "Christ Has No Body Now but Yours"

Words: adapted by Stephen C. Warner, 2003, from St. Thresa of Avila Music: Rick Gunn, 2006

Words © 2003 World Library Publications Music © 2006 Rick Gunn. OneLicense.net A620168

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,

no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,

no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,

to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;

no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

No feet but yours to journey with the poor,

to walk this world with mercy and justice.

Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need:

as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,

with ev'ry gift a benediction, be to the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

Psalm 138 VU

R: We worship in your holy place and praise you for your truth and grace.

I praise you, O God, with all my heart;

before the gods I will sing your praises.

I bow down toward your holy temple

and praise your name for your love and faithfulness;

for you have exalted your name

and your word above everything.

On the day that I called, you answered me,

and put new strength in my soul.

R: We worship in your holy place and praise you for your truth and grace.

All earth's rulers shall praise you,

when they hear the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of your ways, O God,

sing that your glory is great.

For though you are high, you care for the lowly.

As for the proud, you humble them from afar.

R: We worship in your holy place and praise you for your truth and grace.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me;
you stretch out your hand against my enemies' rage;
your powerful hand delivers me.

You will fulfil your purpose for me.

Your love, O God, is eternal.

Do not leave unfinished the work of your hands.

R: We worship in your holy place and praise you for your truth and grace.

Scripture: Mark 3:20-35

Jesus and Beelzebul

Then he went home, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin"—for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

The True Kindred of Jesus

Then his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

The other readings for this week are: 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15); 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1. You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage..... in the translation of your preference.

Meditation: "It happened in Port Elgin"

Hymn VU 331 "The Church's One Foundation"

Words: Samuel John Stone. Adaptation © 1982 The United Methodist Publishing House.

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley. Words and Music: Public Domain. OneLicense.net A620168, CCLI 11438349

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be
his living servant people, by his own death set free.

Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
one charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.

Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

We Respond To God's Grace

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, we thank you for the gift of the power of the Holy Spirit that you extend to us. When we accept it, it enables us to live according to your hopes and dreams for us. It empowers us to pray for the little child struggling with fears and the grandfather facing failing health; for the parent who lies awake till the early morning hours and the teenager pressured by peers; for the lonely who are prey to con artists and all of us with ordinary aches, pains, and worries; for those who work through the night and those who sleep in littered parks; for those who are called exceptional and those who are differently-gifted; for those who are filled with doubts and those who spill over with laughter; for joyous praisers of your name and seekers of hope; for those walled out by prejudice and hate and babies who cry from hunger; for the poor who share their last coin with those in greater need and all the ordinary people around the world. This week in our prayers we remember especially Thamesville United Church and their spiritual leader Tabitha Carey; the people of Botswana and Zimbabwe; the friends and family of John Woods; and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Finally, we thank you for the gift of your power that empowers us to work to change the current conditions that prevent this world from being a place where all have what they need to thrive. We gather all of these prayers and lift them up to you in the words that Jesus taught us, singing:

The Lord's Prayer VU 959

Music: David Haas, 1986; © 1986 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.; OneLicense.net A620168

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God blesses us so that we may, in turn, pass God's blessing on to others. As we are blessed, so may we pass the blessing along. Our tithes, and our offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn MV 191 "What Can I Do?" Words and Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy;
arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005. Words and Music © Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy
Arr. © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore OneLicense.net A620168

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Prayer of Dedication

May the gifts we offer be used, Loving God, not to feed strangers we do not know, but our sisters and brothers on this earth who hunger for companionship, as well as for food; who look for a heart which will welcome them, as much as a place to sleep; who long for those who will accept them for who they are, not see them as those who are worthless or detestable. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn VU 418 "Go Forth For God" Words: J.R. Peacey ca. 1970; Music: Genevan Psalter
Words © 1984 Hope Publishing Company; Music: Public Domain OneLicense.net A620168, CCLI 11438349

Go forth for God, go the world in peace;
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,
till in the kingdom we see face to face.
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.

Go forth for God, go to the world in love;
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;
help the afflicted; richly from above
God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.
Go forth for God, go to the world in love.

Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;
hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;
render to no one evil; Christ at length
shall overcome all darkness with his light.
Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.

Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,
to serve God's people every day and hour,
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

Commissioning and Benediction

Let us go into the world as God's beloved children,
Empowered by God's Holy Spirit.

**We go, using the power gifted to us by the Spirit
with compassion and with wisdom.**

**We go to walk beside those living in shadows,
those working multiple jobs, those raising children on their own,
those who are angry, those who have been victims of hatred.**

Go, share the power of God's love to heal and make whole.

Response: VU 298 “When You Walk from Here” Words & Music: Linnea Good
Words & Music © 1991 Borealis Music. OneLicense.net A620168

When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God’s humble care.

Postlude: “Praise Him! Praise Him! *with* I Sing Praises” Arranged by Carol Tornquist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Central Board meets Wednesday, June 19 at 19:00 hrs. (7:00 p.m.).

Holy Diner starts soon! Thursday, June 27 is the first of ten weeks of Holy Diner this year.

LECTIONARY READINGS:

June 16 – Fourth after Pentecost - Proper 6 – Father’s Day

1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34