

June 23, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 7

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Morning Has Broken" Traditional Gaelic Melody Arranged by Martha Mier

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

Lighting the Christ Candle

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

Summertime, and the livin' is easy.

We are here, and your blessin's abound.

Oh, there are times when the summer storms rage on,

And they threaten to capsize us.

And on those days it feels to us like you, O God,

Nodded off to sleep while a keepin' your watch.

Yet even then, in the raging storms of life,

You're close as the humid summer air.

Hymn: VU 374 "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" Words: Shirley Erena Murray. © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Attributed to Benjamin Franklin White. Public Domain CCLI 11438349

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

Opening Prayer

O God, make us discontented with things the way they are in the world, in our community, and in our own lives. Make us notice the stains when people get spilled on. Make us care about the homeless, those living with senile dementia, the unemployed, the troubled youth, the addict, and all who live with a stigmatized illness. Jar our complacency, expose our excuses, get us involved in the life of our community and world. Give us integrity once more, O God, as we seek to be changed and transformed, with a new understanding and awareness of our common humanity. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Robert Raines that first appeared in 1971 in Wittenberg Door

We Are Blessed By God

Ministry of Music: "Words for Chief Seattle" Amy Stephen

A Song of Faith (page 7)

We place our hope in God.

We sing of a life beyond life

and a future good beyond imagining:

a new heaven and a new earth,

the end of sorrow, pain, and tears,

Christ's return and life with God,

the making new of all things.

We yearn for the coming of that future,

even while participating in eternal life now.

Divine creation does not cease

until all things have found wholeness, union, and integration

with the common ground of all being.

As children of the Timeless One,

our time-bound lives will find completion

in the all-embracing Creator.

In the meantime, we embrace the present,

embodying hope, loving our enemies,

caring for the earth,

choosing life.

Grateful for God's loving action,

we cannot keep from singing.

Creating and seeking relationship,

in awe and trust,

we witness to Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love.

Amen.

Hymn VU 241 "Oh, Sing to Our God" Words & Music: Brazilian Folk Song. Words & Music: Public Domain.

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Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing out a new song.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing out a new song.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing out a new song.

Oh, sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God.

Oh, dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.

Oh, dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.

Oh, dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.

And sing to our God, and sing to our God.

Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.

Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.

Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.

Oh, sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God.

Psalm 9 VU 732-733 R: Among the peoples everywhere God's deeds we will declare.

I will give thanks to you, God, with my whole heart;

I will tell of all your marvellous deeds.

I will be glad and rejoice in you;

I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

R: Among the peoples everywhere God's deeds we will declare.

For my enemies are driven back,

they stumble and perish before you.

You have upheld the justice of my cause;

seated on your throne, you have given righteous judgement.

You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked;

you have blotted out their name for ever.

Enemies have perished;

you have made their cities a desolation;

the very memory of them has vanished.

You have ruled from eternity;

you have established your throne for judgement.

You will judge the world with righteousness,

and deliver true justice to the peoples.

You are a stronghold for the oppressed,

a tower of strength in a time of trouble.

Those who cherish your name will but their trust in you,

for you, O God, have never failed those who seek you.

Sing praises to the One who dwells in Zion;

proclaim to the peoples the deeds God has done.

For the One who avenges blood has remembered,

and has not forgotten the cry of the poor.

R: Among the peoples everywhere God's deeds we will declare.

Have pity on my, God;

consider the trouble I suffer from those who hate me.

You are the One who lifts me up from the gates of death,

so that I may recount all your praises within the gates of the city,

and rejoice in your saving help.

The nations have fallen into a pit of their own making;

in the net they laid in secret, their own feet are entangled.

You have made yourself known, O God, and given judgement;

the wicked are trapped in the work of their own hands.

The wicked go down to the Dead,

all the nations that are heedless of God.

The needy shall not always be forgotten;

the hope of the poor shall not forever be vain.

Rise up, O God; do not let mere mortals prevail.

Call the nations to account before you.

Put them in fear, O God;

let the nations know that they are but human.

R: Among the peoples everywhere God's deeds we will declare.

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41 Jesus Stills a Storm

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Be silent! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The other readings for this week are: 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49, OR 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16; Psalm 133 (alt); 2 Corinthians 6:1-13. You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage..... in the translation of your preference.

Hymn VU 673 "You Never Saw Old Galilee" Words: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. © The Hymn Society
Music: © 1993 Stainer & Bell Ltd. and Methodist Church (UK) Words & Music: Hope Publishing Co.
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You never saw old Galilee so friendly and so fair,
my mates and I sang merrily and never had a care,
and never had a care.

Out where the sea runs green and cold and many fathoms deep,
I called my mates, "Look in the hold! The Master's gone asleep!
The Master's gone asleep!

And then the clouds grew grim and black; there blew an awful gale.
"Heave to, my mates, the mast will crack if we don't lower sail,
if we don't lower sail!"

The rain poured down, the waves leapt high, the winds they whipped us round
and tossed us toward the terrible sky and roared their terrible sound,
and roared their terrible sound.

We roused the Master from his sleep and called his name in dread:
"Come save us from the awful deep or we're as good as dead,
or we're as good as dead."

Then he stood up against the gale, and told the storm to cease.
Tepestuous winds broke off their wail; waves calmed and lay at peace,
waves calmed and lay at peace.

So friends, although the sea be wide and though your boat be small,
there's naught to fear from time or tide; the Master's Lord of all,
the Master's Lord of all.

Then sing, my friends, sing merrily; O sing both bold and brave.
The one who made the surging sea still rules the wind and wave,
still rules the wind and wave.

Meditation: "The Imperfect Storm"

We Respond To God's Grace

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, You created all that is, seen and unseen: the heavens and the earth; the sky, the seas and the dry land; the sun, moon, and stars; all that flies in the skies, all that swims in the seas, all that moves upon the face of the dry land. We thank you for life: not only our own, but for all life, in all its myriad forms. Especially we thank you that you share the gift of life with us. You are ever-present in both the good times and the challenging times. You know our joys and our fears.

We thank you for your church, a light in the darkness of this world. This week we pray for Dundas Street United Church in Woodstock, and their spiritual leader, the Rev. Susan Cameron.

We thank you for the peoples that we share this world with, for the diversity of thought and of being. This week we pray for the peoples of Kenya and Tanzania.

We thank you for those with whom we share our lives, and we pray for those whom we know who are mourning a loss, especially we think of the family and friends of John Woods; and those who are ill especially Janet Carter, Marion Jenkins.... and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our hearts.....

All this we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray, 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

You can ask the treasurer of the church if you want. She'll tell you. I don't give a single cent to the church. I do, however, give to God through the church. It has taken me years of growing my spiritual discipline to reach the goal of 10% of my income being directed to God. I have arrived, sort of. I give to God slightly more than 10% of my net income, but less than 10% of my gross income. I guess there is always room to grow in our spiritual disciplines, just as there is always need for God's love to be made known in real and concrete ways in our community and in our world. Won't you join me on the journey.

Offertory Hymn MV 191 "What Can I Do?"

Words and Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005.

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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

Gracious God, these offerings are a reflection of our love for you and our commitment to your kingdom of justice and peace. Use them to extend justice in this world of injustice and to bring peace to this world filled with hatred and violence. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn VU 562 "Jesus Calls Us" Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1852. Music: William Herbert Jude 1874.
Words & Music in the Public Domain

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

Long ago apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

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."

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."

Jesus calls us: by your mercies, Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

Commissioning and Benediction

In gathering for worship today we have taken time to

Still the wind and the waves and the storms in our own lives.

As we leave this place, assured of Jesus' constant presence,

We set about stilling the wind and the waves and the storms

In the lives of those we meet this week.

Go now in peace with the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Response: VU 298 "When You Walk from Here" Words & Music: Linnea Good
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When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.

Postlude: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" John Rutter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

LECTIONARY READINGS:

June 30 – Sixth after Pentecost - Proper 8

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43