

August 18, 2024
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 15

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Amazing Grace" Inspired by Sibelius' "Romance" Virginia Harmony Arr. Faye Lopez

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

Lighting the Christ Candle

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship (based on Ephesians 5:18c-20)

Come, praise the Lord!

We come, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

Come, praise the Lord!

We come, giving thanks to God for all things.

Come, praise the Lord!

We come, seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Let us sing to the Lord our God.

Hymn: VU 248 "When Long before Time" Words & Music: Peter Davison, 1981. Arrangement: George Black, 1981.
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When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all the deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream...

...the silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word,
the Singer was please as the earth sang the Song,
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.

Though down through the ages, the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again,
our God Is with Us in the world now as then.

The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory for ever, through life and through death.

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord, creator of the heavens and the earth. You are the wellspring of wisdom. Christ, the Word made flesh, offers us his body to feast on, yet too often we come to church looking for a drive through fast food meal. We want to be in and out fast so we can get back to the life of this world. Slow us down, that we might ruminate on your word, instead of inhaling it. Help us to savour our saviour, that we might gain understanding and serve you, instead of this world. Amen.

A New Creed VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 661 "Come to My Heart" Words & Music: Joe Pinson, 1979. Words & Music © 1981 Joe Pinson.
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Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; fill me with love today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Psalm 111

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

I will thank you, God, with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in their assembly.

**Great are your works, O God,
studied by all who delight in them.**

Honour and majesty are your work;
your righteousness endures forever.

**You have won renown for your wonders;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

You give food to those who fear you;
you keep your covenant always in mind.

**You have shown your power in action,
giving your people the heritage of nations.**

The works of your hands are faithful and just;
all your precepts trustworthy.

**They stand fast forever and ever;
grounded in justice and truth.**

You sent redemption to your people;
you decreed your covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is your name.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom;
those who practise it have good understanding.

May your praise endure forever.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-20

Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The other readings for this week are: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; John 6:51-58

Meditation: "Into Every Life..."

Hymn VU 657 "He Leadeth Me" Words: Joseph Henry Gilmore, 1862. Music: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1864.
Words & Music in the Public Domain.

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me!

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis his hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me!

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine,
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me.
He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me!

And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory's won,
even death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me.
He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me!

We Respond To God's Grace

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, you are the giver of all good, you continually pour your benefits upon us. Age after age the living wait upon you and find that your faithfulness has no end, that your care is unfailing. We praise you that the mystery of life is a mystery of infinite goodness. We give you thanks for all the joy of life, and for the love of family and friends.

We pray for your church that it may fulfill your intention for it to be an instrument of your justice, healing, and peace in this world. This week we pray especially for St. Clair United Church in the Aamjiwngnaang First Nation.

We pray for our brothers and sisters around this world that we may all be reconciled one to another, and that we all may have that which we need to thrive. This week we pray especially for the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone.

We pray for all who mourn a loss that they may come to know wholeness in your embrace. Especially we pray for the friends and family of Tom Pike and Gabriel Wencel.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, recovering from medical treatment or awaiting medical intervention that they may find healing and wholeness of spirit. Especially we pray for Billie Latham, and for all who are known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

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

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God blesses us so that through us all the peoples of the world may be blessed. We bless others with the time, the skills, and the resources that God has blessed us with. Our tithes and 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

God of all peoples and places and times, we present these offerings that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries that each of us may be a part of your answer to the cries of the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn VU 675 "Will Your Anchor Hold" Words: Priscilla Jane Owens, 1882. Music: William James Kirkpatrick, 1882. Words & Music in the Public Domain.

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?
We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

It will surely hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers tell that the reef is near;
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow.
We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

It will surely hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill our latest breath;
on the rising tide it can never fail
while our hopes abide within the veil.
We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

When our eyes behold, through the gathering night,
the city of gold, our harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
with the storms all past forevermore.
We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

Commissioning and Benediction

May the blessing of God, the giver of every good and perfect gift;

And of Christ, who summons us to service;

And of the Holy Spirit, who inspires generosity and love,

Be with us, now and always.

May it be so.

Amen.

Response: MV 212 "Sent Out in Jesus' Name" Words & Music: traditional song, Cuba

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Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.

O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.

O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.

Postlude: "O Store Gud (O Great God)" Inspired by Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to those who provide refreshments after worship during the year!

Refreshments following worship will resume in September.

St. Peter's Anglican Church celebrates their 170th Anniversary on Sunday, September 15 at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Todd Townshend will be their honoured guest. A catered lunch will follow worship. Tickets are \$40 and are available until September 6 by calling 519-282-8057.

Coffee Time with friends and acquaintances happens every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Holy Diner: Thursdays until August 29th, 5-7 p.m., Rain or Shine!

LECTIONARY READINGS:

August 25 – Fourteenth after Pentecost – Proper 16

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69