

DORCHESTER UNITED CHURCH
PENTECOST 16 SEPTEMBER 8TH 2024
ORDER OF SERVICE

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

My Lord, What a Morning. Spiritual. Arr: Cindy Berry

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is important that we take a moment to think about the land that we are located on in our various locations. While we are the current stewards of this land, it was not always so. We recognize that for thousands of years before Europeans and others arrived here, there were already peoples who were stewards of this land. The Anishinaabe, the Mississauga, and others. And before there were people, the land was. As Christians and as Indigenous people alike, we acknowledge that the land which sustains us all, the land on which we live and move and have our being, belongs to God our Creator.

CHRIST CANDLE

In the stillness of the morning, we feel God's presence.

We light this candle that our eyes may be open to newness.

May we be filled with a renewing freshness.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

New life is the work of the Spirit.

We are called to a fresh awareness of the creative impetus.

To worship is to be reminded.

We have come to find our place and do our part.

Let us be open to God's wonderful grace.

HYMN VU 409 Morning Has Broken

1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!

OPENING PRAYER

God of the morning freshness, we throw open the windows of our hearts that the light of your grace may freely enter our house. May the gentle breeze of your spirit refresh us. Let love kindle the fire in our hearts, that we may live in your warmth and light all our days. In the name of Jesus, we pray. AMEN.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

How Great Thou Art. Swedish Folk Melody, arr. By Manna Music Inc.

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 665 Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour

1 Pass me not, O gentle Saviour,
hear my humble cry;
while on others thou art calling,
do not pass me by.

[Refrain:]
Saviour, Saviour,
hear my humble cry;
while on others thou art calling,
do not pass me by.

2 Let me at thy throne of mercy
find a sweet relief,
kneeling there in deep contrition;
help my unbelief. [Refrain]

3 Trusting only in thy merit,
would I seek thy face;
heal my wounded, broken spirit,
save me by thy grace. [Refrain]

4 Thou the spring of all my comfort,
more than life to me,
whom have I on earth beside thee?
Whom in heaven but thee. [Refrain]

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSINGS

PSALM 125 VU 849

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35: 4-7a

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless
sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the
wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

7 the burning sand shall become a
pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of
water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a
swamp,[a]

the grass shall become reeds and
rushes.

GOSPEL: Mark 7: 24-37

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

24 From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.^[a] He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, **25** but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. **26** Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. **27** He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' **28** But she answered him, 'Sir,^[b] even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' **29** Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' **30** So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. **32** They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. **33** He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and

touched his tongue. **34** Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' **35** And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. **36** Then Jesus[□] ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. **37** They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

SERMON: SIGNS OF NEW LIFE

HYMN VU 881 Isaiah 35 (In the Desert)

1 When the King shall come again,
all his power revealing;
splendour shall announce his reign,
life, and joy and healing:
earth no longer in decay,
hope no more frustrated;
this is God's redemption day
longingly awaited.

2 In the desert trees take root
fresh from God's creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit
join the celebration;
rivers spring up from the earth,
barren lands adorning:
valleys, this is your new birth;
mountains, greet the morning.

3 Strengthen feeble hands and knees;
fainting hearts, be cheerful!
God, who comes for such as these,
seeks and saves the fearful;
deaf ears, hear the silent tongues
sing away their weeping;
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones
walking, running, leaping.

4 There God's highway shall be seen
where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean,
walks the road to Zion;
4 There God's highway shall be seen
where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean,
walks the road to Zion;

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, we offer our gratitude for the world you have created with its teeming billions. May people everywhere find the grace to live according to your holy will. May those who have responsibility to lead show kindness and compassion, especially to the weak, the broken and the estranged. We pray for those whose lives are torn by violence in families, in communities and in nations.

There are many who are protesting injustice in a world that has forgotten that we are all your children. Open the way for peacemakers and visionaries to bring their gifts of hope and new life to intransigence and the unwillingness to change. May this earth with all its wealth and abundance fill the lives of those who long for a better day. Give them strength and the confidence to trust in your gracious will.

We pray for those who are unemployed or underemployed, for the homeless living on the streets of our cities. May those overcome by addiction and substance abuse find the compassionate care they need. Give to those in power the will to find solutions that work. Anger and fear have taken their toll on us, and we want to be free to live in the peace that passes all understanding.

Life-giving Source, feed us with your love that we may be drawn from the darkness into the light of your presence. Encircle us with your protective arms. Secure in your sustaining power, may we find the strength and the wisdom to challenge the evils that we live with every day. Hear these, our petitions and intercessions, for you have promised to be our comforter in the time of our need. AMEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

They came from their wilderness wandering to remember, to find restoration and renewal. We, too, make our weekly pilgrimage to declare that gratitude flows from our hands and hearts. Let us commit our time, energy, and resources in the service of a world in pain.

OFFERTORY HYMN MV191: What can I do? What can I bring?

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

Holy one, with wisdom and love to guide us, we dedicate these offerings. May our gifts embody the joy of the prophet as he addressed his people. May what we have brought help to bring strength to the weak and fill the broken with hope and peace. We pray in the name of the one who embodied love. AMEN

HYMN VU 59 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature
sing.

2 Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the earth with truth and
grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

COMMISSIONING

Go out into a world that is no longer the same.

We have been renewed and transformed.

You have been shaped by a new consciousness.

We offer ourselves as signs to this generation.

RESPONSE MV 212

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.

POSTLUDE

Joyful Hymn of Praise, Arr. Faye Lopez