

**September 15, 2024**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 19**

**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**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship**

**Call to Worship**

Who did you come looking for?

**Not just a teacher. Not simply a healer. More than just a miracle worker.**

Who did you come looking for?

**Not just a storyteller. More than just a moral example.**

Who did you come looking for?

**The Messiah.**

**The One who is God's own anointed.**

**The One who is with us and for us.**

**The One who will save us from our own worst selves.**

Let us worship the God of life and love and harmony.

**Hymn MV 135** “Called by Earth and Sky” Words & Music: Pat Mayberry, 2005.

Arrangement: Margaret Stubington, 2005. Words & Music © 2005 Pat Mayberry.

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Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas,  
deep ocean's dream, waters of healing,  
rivers of pain, the wash of love again.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;  
wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit,  
blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;  
vast fragile land. Seeds of our wakening,  
rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.

Precious the fire that lights our way,  
bright dawning day. Fire of passion,  
sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.  
Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.

**Opening Prayer for Proverbs 1:20-33**

Written by Bill Perry. **Gathering**, Pentecost 2, 2024, page 35. Used with permission.

Gracious God, a mark of our present world, particularly in more populated areas, is noise. We may get accustomed to it, become skilled at tuning it out, yet its presence doesn't diminish. It overwhelms much. Still, our scriptures tell us that this is where the voice of Wisdom can be heard, where your word, your guidance, and your call can be experienced: amid the chaos and the noise. In this time of worship, we have turned the noise of our lives down, but not eliminated it. It remains a part of us. Bless us with your voice, O God, amid the quiet and the noise, the stillness and the movement in this place. 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 589** "Lord, Speak to Me" Words: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872. Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1872.  
Word and Music in the Public Domain

Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me seek  
your straying children lost and lone.

O lead me, so that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet;  
O feed me, so that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, so that I may teach  
the precious truths which you impart;  
and wing my words, that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflows  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.

### **We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings**

#### **Psalm 19**

**Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!**

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.

**One day speaks to another,  
and night shares its knowledge with night,**  
and this without speech or language;  
their voices are not heard.

**But their sound goes out to all the lands,  
their words to the ends of the earth.**

**Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!**

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun  
which comes out like a bridegroom from under the canopy,  
like an athlete eager to run the race.

**Its rising is at one end of the sky,  
it runs its course to the other,  
and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat.**

**Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!**

God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul;  
**God's instruction is sure,  
giving wisdom to the simple;**  
God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart;

**God's commandment is pure  
giving light to the eyes;**  
God's fear is clean, enduring forever;

**God's judgements are true,  
every one of them righteous;**  
more desirable than gold, even much fine gold;  
**sweeter also than honey,  
pure honey from the comb.**

**Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!**

By them is your servant warned;  
**for in keeping them there is great reward.**

But who can discern unwitting sins?

**O cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,  
lest they get the better of me.

**Then shall I be clean and innocent of great offence.**

**Glory and praise to God whose word brings life!**

**Let the words of my mouth  
and the thoughts of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, O God,  
my strength and my redeemer.**

**Scripture:** Mark 8:27-38 *Peter's Declaration about Jesus/Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection*

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

*The other readings for this week are: **Proverbs 1:20-33; James 3:1-12***

**Meditation:** "Satan comes a callin'"

**Hymn VU 183** "We Meet You, O Christ"

Words: Fred Kaan, 1966. Music: Peter D. Smith, 1969; arr. Peter R. Walker, 1993.

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We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;  
your image we see in simple and wise.  
You live in a palace, exist in a shack.  
We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.

In millions alive, away and abroad;  
involved in our life you live down the road.  
Imprisoned in systems you long to be free.  
We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.

We hear you, O Man, in agony cry.  
For freedom you march, in riots you die.  
Your face in the papers we read and we see.  
The tree must be planted by human decree.  
You choose to be made at one with the earth;  
the dark of the grave prepares for your birth.  
Your death is your rising, creative your word:  
the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

### **We Respond To God's Grace**

#### **Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

Jesus said, "You will always have the poor with you." Two thousand years later, it is still true, we have people in this world who are poor, and hungry, and without hope. And, what about us? Have we become apathetic towards the plight of our brothers and sisters in Creation? Our offerings to God are a sign of our commitment to God's vision of life on earth. Our offerings to God are a spiritual practice. Let's practice now.

**Offertory Hymn VU 538** "For the Gift of Creation" Words and Music: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, 1991.  
Words & Music © 1991 Abingdon Press. OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,  
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,  
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.  
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, whether we offer our time, our labour, our skill, or our finances, we do so that lives may be transformed and that your vision, the Kingdom of God, might be realized here on earth, as it is in heaven. Bless all that we offer that it may be a blessing to those most in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

God whose glory the heavens are telling, we praise you for the light leaping across northern skies, for the vibrant colours starting to appear in the trees, the sound of leaves crunching underfoot, and friends for celebration. We praise you for your continuing presence in a world where wealth has so much to say, and the wicked prosper, and relationships go sour, and hearts and dreams are broken. In laughter and tears alike we praise you.

We pray for the peace of the world, O God, and for the peace that only you can give – not only the absence of conflict and battle, but also the fullness of life that is prosperity for all, goodwill among neighbours, and welcome for every outsider.

Hear us now as we name the situations near and dear to our hearts:

for your church, that it might be a witness to all what things could be like if we all put you first. Especially we pray for Riverside United Church in Windsor, and their spiritual leader, the Rev. Andrew Gilliland;  
for families buffeted by the storm of economic despair, for war-torn countries, for all who have no safe place to shelter or safe water to drink or adequate food to feed their families. Especially, this week, we pray for the people of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay;  
for all who mourn a loss in their lives, and for all who are ill or dying, waiting endlessly for medical intervention, or recovering from treatment, and for those known only in the silence of our hearts.....

We gather these and all our prayers, those spoken aloud and those too deep for words, in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying:

**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.**

**Hymn VU 341** "Fairest Lord Jesus" Words: from the German. Translated by Church Chorals and Choir Studies.

Music: Silesian folk melody in Schlesische Volkslieder. Words, Translation & Music in the Public Domain.

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down:  
thee will I cherish, thee will I honour,  
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
who makes the troubled heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and fair the twinkling, starry host;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.

All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly,  
wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;  
none can be nearer, fairer or dearer  
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.

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Go now with God:

**who covers us with tender mercies;**

Go now with Christ our Lord:

**who is our good companion;**

Go now with the Spirit:

**who gives us good food at the Table  
and living water to nourish us.**

Go knowing that God will direct your path:

**bringing us joy and delight**

**as we continue on our journey of faith.**

**Response: VU 298** “When You Walk from Here” Words & Music: Linnea Good, 1991.  
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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:** “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” Henry Purcell Arranged by Cindy Berry

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Central Board** meets Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m.

The **study group** meets Wednesdays at 2 p.m. until October 30.

Metropolitan United Church is hosting a series on **Grief and Loss** Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.

September 24 – *Who am I now? Change of Roles and Loneliness* – Grace Tallman, Grief Counsellor

October 1 – *Supporting Family Members in Greif* – Lisa Highfield, Healing Hearts and Heart Space

October 8 – *Grief, The Courageous Journey* – Alfredo Marroquin, Director St. Joseph’s Hospice

FREE admission (Donations will be given to St. Joseph’s Hospice).

FREE parking is available at Central High School.

**St. Peter’s Anglican Church** celebrates their 170<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **LECTIONARY READINGS:**

September 22 – Eighteenth after Pentecost – Creation Time 3 – Proper 20

Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37