

**September 29, 2024**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 21**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "Jesus, Lord, We Look To Thee" *Foundery Collection. Arr. Cindy Berry.*

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship**

**Call to Worship** Written by Jennifer Henry. **Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2024, page 34. Used with permission.

We gather as part of God's great diversity,

**made in God's image, you and I.**

We sing the Creator's love song of life,

**giving voice to the sacred, deep in our hearts.**

We risk hope as the Jesus movement,

**called to bold discipleship in our time.**

We embrace the Spirit who moves in and through,

**pressing us to daring conspiracies of love and justice.**

Holy Three, Holy One, we come together in worship.

**Hymn MV 30** "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" Words: Ruth Duck, 1992. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1992.

Words © 1992 G.I.A. Publications Inc. Music © 1992 Ron Klusmeier. OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI

11438349

It's a song of praise to the Maker,

the thrush sings high in the tree.

It's a song of praise to the Maker,

the gray whale sings in the sea,

And by the Spirit you and I

can join our voice to the holy cry

and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver

when waves and waterfalls roar.

It's a call of life to the Giver,

when high tides break on the shore,

And by the Spirit you and I

can join our voice to the holy cry

and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;

the bumblebees hum along.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;

the summer breeze joins the song,

And by the Spirit you and I

can join our voice to the holy cry

and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's the chorus of all creation;  
it's sung by all living things.  
It's the chorus of all creation;  
a song the universe sings,  
And by the Spirit you and I  
can join our voice to the holy cry  
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

**Opening Prayer** Written by Wendy MacLean, Brockville, Ontario, © 2023. **Gatheringworship.ca**,  
prayers for: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Used with permission.

Holy One, Child of Life, Great Spirit, we meet you in the company of ancestors and the oft-unnoticed presence of people praying throughout the country, connected by a longing for peace and healing.

Find our hearts open and ready for reconciliation as we face the injustices of the past and long for the joy of a future of peace and healing. Help us to attend well to the stories we need to receive. Awaken our hearts with the stories of residential school survivors and their kin.

Together, we weep for the children, then and now: for braids, beads, new moccasins, and the orange shirt taken away leaving only broken hearts; for parents whose hearts were torn from them when their children were taken; for children whose tongues were silenced when they lost their languages and names.

Awaken our spirit, O God. Help us to hold the stories faithfully, so that they may transform us and become part of us. May our prayers be translated into compassion and may our "Amen" be this truth: Indigenous brothers, sisters, and siblings: We receive your stories. May they lead us in wisdom and may we journey together in love. Amen.

## **Ministry of Music**

### **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 699** “Live into Hope” Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1976.

Music: Thomas Williams’ Psalmodia Evangelica, Vol. 2., 1789. Harmonized by Lowell Mason

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press

Music in the Public Domain

OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

Live into hope of captives freed,  
of sight restored, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see  
the year of God’s own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see  
with insight and with clarity,  
removing shades of pride and fear,  
a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,  
the right to speak, the right to be,  
the right to have one’s daily bread,  
to hear God’s word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed  
from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

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

#### **Psalm 124**

**Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.**

“If God had not been at our side,”

**now let Israel say:**

“If God had not been at our side  
when mortals rose up against us,  
**then they would have swallowed us alive,  
when their fury was roused against us.**

Then the flood would have swept us away,  
and the torrent would have covered us.

**Then the raging waters  
would have gone right over our heads.”**

**Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.**

But praised be God:  
who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

**We have escaped like a bird  
from the hunter's snare;  
the snare is broken and we are free.**

**Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.**

**Scripture: Esther 7:1-10, 9:20-22**

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace, but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. The king rose from the feast in wrath and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that the king had determined to destroy him. When the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman had thrown himself on the couch where Esther was reclining, and the king said, "Will he even violate the queen in my presence, in my own house?" As the words left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman's face. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very pole that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hung Haman on the pole that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

*The other readings for this week are: **Esther 7:1-10, 9:20-22; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50***

**Meditation:** "Genocide"

**Hymn VU 685** "We Turn to You" Words: Fred Kaan, 1965. Music: Alfred Scott-Gatty, 1900.

Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Co. Music in the Public Domain. OneLicense.net A620168

We turn to you, O God of every nation,  
giver of good and origin of life;  
your love is at the heart of all creation,  
your hurt is people's pain in war and death.

We turn to you, that we may be forgiven  
for crucifying Christ on earth again.  
We know that we have never wholly striven  
to share with all the promise of your reign.

Free every heart from pride and self-reliance,  
our ways of thought inspire with simple grace;  
break down among us barriers of defiance,  
speak to the soul of all the human race.

On all who fight on earth for right relations  
we pray the light of love from hour to hour.  
Grant wisdom to the leaders of the nations,  
the gift of carefulness to those in power.

Teach us, good Lord, to serve the need of others,  
help us to give and not to count the cost.  
Unite us all, to live as sisters, brothers,  
defeat our Babel with your Pentecost!

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

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

"Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise," wrote the author of the book of James. To which I would add, are any among you blessed? They should share their blessings. When we share our blessings, the hungry are fed at soup kitchens, community meals, and the local foodbank. When we share our blessings, the homeless are housed in shelters and supportive housing. When we share our blessings, we are blessed and community is strengthened. Let's share our blessings through our tithes and offerings.

**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, bless all that we offer that the hungry may be fed, the homeless housed, the grieving comforted, the lost led home, and may that bring healing to your heart which breaks at all the brokenness in this world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us. We come before you as your children. We are small and weak; we need your strength and wisdom. Let us walk in beauty, and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. May our hands respect the things you have made. May our ears be sharp to hear your voice. Make us wise, that we may know the things you have taught your people, the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. We seek strength, not to be superior to our brothers and sister, but to live in harmony with ourselves and all your creation. Help us to be ever ready to come to you, so when life fades as a fading sunset our spirits may come to you without shame. Today we lift up the concerns of our hearts to you:

We pray for Indigenous peoples the world over; for the cultural, lingual, and sometimes literal genocide that has been practiced against them; for families and communities torn apart; for abuse and violence perpetrated against them; for children, lost and broken, who grow old without growing into who you created them to be.

We pray for your church, may it be a source of healing and reconciliation between your peoples. This week we pray for Corunna United Church and their spiritual leader, the Rev. Bob Mercer. We pray for all of those in the Dorchester area who don't currently have a spiritual home and are looking for one that they might deepen their relationship with you, O God, and with community. We pray that we at Dorchester United Church may have the opportunity to engage with the work You are already doing in their lives.

We pray for all who live in fear or have been displaced by war and violence, especially the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Lebanon, Nigeria, Somalia, Mali, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Haiti.

We pray for our sisters and brothers around the world, this week we pray for the people of Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

We pray for all who mourn that they may be comforted, especially the friends and family of Leighton Coatsworth and Ruth Laing.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting treatment or recovering from medical intervention, especially

...

and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray 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,  
the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn VU 112** "O God, How We Have Wandered" Words: Kevin Nichols, 1980. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1836.

Words © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy. Music in the Public Domain.

### ***PLEASE USE HYMN BOOKS***

#### **Commissioning**

May God walk with you this day,  
**as we seek to walk with the broken, the dispossessed and the marginalized.**

May Jesus walk with you this day,  
**as we follow The Way, despite our fears and misgivings.**

May the Holy Spirit walk with you this day,  
**as we leave our worship and enter our ministry to the vulnerable in this world.**

May it be so.  
**Amen.**

**Response: VU 298** “When You Walk from Here” Words & Music: Linnea Good, 1991.  
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:** “Day by Day” Oscar Ahnfelt. Arr. Tom Fetke.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Greentec**, will be holding will be offering a **Waste Collection Event** in the church parking lot on October 5th, 2024, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. A complete list of items being collected and unacceptable items is posted on the bulletin board.

**Cross Country Check-In!** All are invited to join an informal, thoughtful national meeting on October 22 at 6:00 p.m. ET with the General Secretary, the Rev. Michael Blair, and guests from the General Council Executive—LIVE ONLINE. They want to hear from the church across the country so they can prepare for the November General Council Executive meetings and beyond. Everyone is welcome. Registration is now open on [CHURCHx.ca](http://CHURCHx.ca)

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

## **LECTIONARY READINGS:**

October 6 – Twentieth after Pentecost – Creation Time 5 – Proper 22 – Worldwide Communion  
Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16