

October 6, 2024  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 22

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "Take The Bread and Wine" Faye Lopez

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

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship**

**Call to Worship** (based on Job 1:1; 2:9-10)

Today we turn to God,

**and, in so doing, we turn our backs on sin and evil.**

Today we praise God,

**for cursing God leads to death.**

Today God challenges us to live out our faith,

**and, at the same time, blesses us with life.**

Let us worship our God.

**Hallelujah!**

**Hymn MV 28** "God of the Bible" Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1995. Music: Tony E. Alonso, 2001.

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God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,

hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,

you are our centre, daylight or darkness,

freedom or prison, you are our home.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,

God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,

God always faithful, you do not change.

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,

suffering with us, taking our part,

still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,

feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,

God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,

God always faithful, you do not change.

Those without status, those who are nothing,

you have made royal, gifted with rights,

chosen as partners, midwives of justice,

birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,

God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,

God always faithful, you do not change.

Not by your finger, not by your anger  
will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

Hope we must carry, shining and certain  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly one to the other,  
till our world changes facing the Cross.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

### **Opening Prayer**

Vineyard of our Delight, you yield abundant fruit for all to share and invite us into your chamber to feast and celebrate. We accept your invitation and enter your presence knowing that: there are times when we forget that all we have comes from you; there are times when we forget to give you thanks; there are times when we have taken more than we need; there are times when we have forgotten the needs of others. Forgive us, gracious God. May we be ever mindful of your blessings. May we treat your creation and all those with whom we share it with reverence. May our prayers of thanksgiving and our lives overflow with gratitude. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

**Ministry of Music:** "How Beautiful" Words and music by Twila Paris. Chorale Setting by Lloyd Larson.

### **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 217** "All Creatures of Our God and King" Words: St. Francis of Assisi, 1225.

English Translation: William Henry Draper ca. 1919. Music: Geistliche Kirchengesange.

Harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams. English Translation © 1919 Boosey and Hawkes.

Music in the Public Domain

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All creatures of our God and King,

lift up your voice and with us sing:

hallelujah, hallelujah!

Bright burning sun with golden beam,

soft shining moon with silver gleam,

sing praises, sing praises,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

O rushing winds and breezes soft,

O clouds that ride the winds aloft,

hallelujah, hallelujah!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice;

O lights of evening, find a voice:

sing praises, sing praises,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Earth, ever fertile, day by day

brings forth rich blessings on our way:

sing praises, hallelujah!

The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,

let them God's glory also show:

sing praises, hallelujah,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

And everyone of tender heart,

forgiving others, take your part:

sing praises, hallelujah!

All who long pain and sorrow bear,

praise God and yield up all your care:

sing praises, hallelujah,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Let all things their Creator bless,

and worship God in humbleness:

sing praises, hallelujah!

Praise God eternal, praise the Son,

and praise the Spirit, three in one:

sing praises, hallelujah,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

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

### **Psalm 26 Plea for Justice and Declaration of Righteousness**

Vindicate me, O LORD,

**for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.**

Prove me, O LORD, and try me;

**test my heart and mind.**

For your steadfast love is before my eyes,

**and I walk in your faithfulness.**

I do not sit with the worthless,

**nor do I consort with hypocrites;**

I hate the company of evildoers,

**and will not sit with the wicked.**

I wash my hands in innocence,

**and go around your altar, O LORD,**

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,

**and telling all your wondrous deeds.**

O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,

**and the place where your glory abides.**

Do not sweep me away with sinners,

**nor my life with the bloodthirsty,**

those in whose hands are evil devices,

**and whose right hands are full of bribes.**

But as for me, I walk in my integrity;

**redeem me, and be gracious to me.**

My foot stands on level ground;

**in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.**

### **Scripture: Job 1:1, 2:1-10**

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and the accuser also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to the accuser, "Where have you come from?" The accuser answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to the accuser, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then the accuser answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that the man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord said to the accuser, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

So the accuser went out from the presence of the Lord and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself and sat among the ashes.

Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive good from God and not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

The other readings for this week are: **Hebrews 1:1-4, 3:5-12; Mark 10:2-16**

**Meditation:** "Life finds a way!"

**Hymn VU 477** "I Come with Joy" Words: Brian Wren, 1968, rev. 1993.

Music: American folk tune from William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835. Arr.: Ausitn C. Lovelace, 1977.

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I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed, the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Truly it is right to give you, loving God, both our thanks and praise, for you alone are God, active and ever present in our lives, yet beyond both time and space. Out of nothing your Word called forth the heavens and the earth. At the sound of your voice light was established. You created all life, including woman and man. You called us to be your people and promised to be our God. Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen, and with all the faithful of every time and place, we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving.

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;  
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Gracious God, from the beginning we have denied you. Adam and Eve turned from your fellowship and were cast from the garden. Cain killed his brother Abel and became an outcast. Jacob wrestled with you, and you put his hip out of joint. David did what was evil in your sight. Countless others rejected the words of your prophets and became lost in this world. And so, in the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus, to walk a little while with us. To the outcast he brought fellowship. To the lame and the ill he brought healing. To the sinner he brought forgiveness. To all he brought salvation. Yet we even managed to deny and betray Jesus, who, on the night of his betrayal took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, he took the cup, saying: "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do it in remembrance of me." And so, in memory of your Son's great sacrifice, we humbly offer what little we have, the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving.

**Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**

We ask you, great and glorious God, to pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on your gifts, that, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we may be united with Christ, and as the body of Christ. Empower us to give you praise, and to continue the work of your mission. For this reason we ask that you pour out your Spirit upon your creation, and make it anew. Breathe anew your Spirit in your Church that it would once again strive daily for your kingdom come. Especially we pray for Union United Church, and their spiritual leader, the Rev. Tom Beecroft. Bless all the peoples of this world that they may learn to live in peace with one another. Especially we pray for the people of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama. Comfort all who mourn, especially the friends and family of Leighton Coatsworth, Bill Greason, and Ruth Laing. Bless with healing those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Gather together your peoples, from the ends of the earth, into your realm, where justice and mercy truly exist. We ask this, that we, with all your people, of every language, race and nation, may share the banquet you have promised.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours,  
almighty God, now and forever, and in whose name we pray:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**The Celebration**

### **Prayer Following Communion**

Here we ate, we drank, and we tasted your goodness, O God.  
May this meal we have shared here today fill our souls with love.  
May the meal we share with all the world fill the world with hope.  
May we leave this table refreshed and replenished,  
ready to be both recipients and agents of grace. Amen.

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

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

We are blessed by God that through us God may bring about healing, reconciliation, justice and wholeness in our community and around the world. Our tithes and our offerings will be received.

**Offertory Hymn VU 538** "For the Gift of Creation" Words and Music: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, 1991.

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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, we present our offering to join the gifts of all others who do your work in the world. Bless and use these gifts and our lives to preserve and spread the good news of your love for us all and the hope you offer in your eternal kingdom, here on earth as in heaven. Amen.

**Hymn VU 660** "How Firm a Foundation" Words: "K" in John Rippon's A Selection of Hymns.

Music: Welsh folk melody, arranged by John Roberts (Henllan) in Caniadau y Cyssegr 1839.

Words and Music in the Public Domain.

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
What more can be said that to you has been said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply:  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not – I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never – no, never – no, never forsake!"

## **Commissioning**

You are community;

**We support and encourage one another,  
Praying and working in the way of Christ together.**

You are called to build community;

**We support the powerless with loving kindness,  
Giving generously to those in need.**

You are blessed by God;

**Creator, redeemer, sustainer.**

Go in peace.

**Amen.**

**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:** “There Is a Fountain” Traditional American Melody. Arr. Cindy Berry

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**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 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 13 – Twenty-first after Pentecost – Creation Time 6 – Proper 23 – Thanksgiving