

Sunday November 17, 2024
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 28

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Take Time To Be Holy" Words by W.D. Longstaff. Music by George T. Stebbins. Arr. Tom Fettke
Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

God spoke to Abram in Haran,

"Follow me!"

Jesus spoke to Simon and Andrew at the lakeshore,

"Follow me!"

The Holy Spirit speaks to us today,

"Follow me!"

We are called to trust, to bless, and to follow our God.

Let us worship the Lord our God.

Hymn VU 220 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Words: Joachim Neander, 1680.

English translation: Catherine Winkworth, 1863. Music: *Stralsund* Gesangbuch, 1665.

Words, English translation, and Music in the Public Domain.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear: brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who out of love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Merciful God, you give us all that we need, all that truly matters. You promise to walk with us through this journey of life, through good times and trials alike. Despite your promises and blessings, God, at times we have trouble trusting you, and fear the future, the unknown. Help us to let go of the past, to stop worrying about the future, and to truly live in the present. Help us to cherish every act of kindness, every gift of love, every moment of friendship. In every simple act of caring we do, may we find your Spirit. In every act of reaching out to others, may we be filled with your courage. In every moment of worship, may we find your forgiving grace. Bless the work we do and the love we share. All this we ask through Jesus Christ. 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 660 "How Firm a Foundation" Words: "K" in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787.

Music: Welsh folk melody, arr. John Roberts, 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 than 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!”

We Open Ourselves to Receive God’s Blessings

Responsive Reading: 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Hannah’s Prayer (Song)

“My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in my God.

**My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory.**

“There is no Holy One like the LORD,
no one besides you;

there is no Rock like our God.

Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;

**for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.**

The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.

Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.

The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts.

He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.**

For the pillars of the earth are the LORD’s,
and on them he has set the world.

“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
for not by might does one prevail.

The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered;
 the Most High will thunder in heaven.

The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king,
and exalt the power of his anointed.”

Scripture: Mark 13:1-8 The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

The other readings for this week are: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25

Meditation: “Inside, Outside, Upside Down”`

Hymn VU 288 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923. Music: William M. Runyan 1923.

Words and Music © 1923, renewal 1951 Hope Publishing Co. OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
 there is no shadow of turning with thee;
 thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
 as thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided
 great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided
 great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –
 wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.
 Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided
 great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God calls us to do the unconsidered, the unlikely, and the impossible; to make real the Kingdom of God, here on earth as in heaven. We do this through acts of caring and through the sharing of the resources God has blessed us with. We offer to God a fraction of our blessings.

Offertory Hymn VU 218 "We Praise You, O God" Words: Julia Cory, 1902. Music: Netherlands melody, 1626.
 Harmonized by Edward Kresmer. Words, Music and Harmonization in the Public Domain.

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
 in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
 We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
 we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, may these gifts, given gratefully, be brought to life through the power of your Creative Spirit. Multiply and use them to extend your liberating realm throughout the earth. In Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the blessings of life. We bless you for the wonders of the world: for heights of mountains and breadth of prairie, for diversity of people and intimacy of families, for the goodness of all you have made, and for the work you have given to us. We bless you for the gift of Jesus Christ, who lived, and died, and lives again wherever justice is known, wherever love is found. We bless you for your life among us liberating us from all that holds us in bondage, healing brokenness, renewing spirits, and supporting us in the fellowship of this congregation. Grant, O God, that in the course of this day, and throughout the coming week, our hearts may be filled with thankfulness for these and all your blessings.

Holy One, we pray for your church that it may be a beacon of hope for all who find themselves drowning in the storms of life. Especially we pray for Banner United Church.

We pray for the people of the world, our brothers and sisters in creation, especially this week we think of the people of East Timor, Indonesia and the Philippines.

We pray for all who mourn the death of loved ones, especially the friends and family of Donna Harrison, Roy Irwin, Marjorie Kivell and Gord Lewis.

We pray for all who are ill, especially we remember Anita, Kurt, Christa, Erin and their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts...

All of these prayers we gather together and offer them, in the name of our Lord, Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and 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 262 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Words: Martin Luther, 1529.

Translation: Frederick H. Hedge, 1853.

Music: melody Martin Luther, 1529. Harmonized from The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930.

Words, Translation, and Music in the Public Domain.

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
with power and malice great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed the truth to triumph through us:
the prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also,
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is forever.

Commissioning

Go to the world to:

Console the inconsolable,

Love the unloved and the unlovable, and

Erase the margins that none be marginalized.

**And may the God of the improbable
go with us to make the impossible possible.**

Amen.

Response: VU 961 “Let us, O God, Depart in Peace” George Whelpton. In the Public Domain

Let us, O God, depart in peace, who in your name are gathered here.

Disclose the brightness of your face, and be forever near.

Postlude: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Ludvig van Beethoven. Arr. by Cindy Berry.

In a setting of George F. Handel’s *Prelude in G*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dorchester United Church is invited to join with St. Peter’s Anglican Church for a service of Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m.

We (St. Peter’s Anglican and Dorchester United) would like to share the faith that is ours as Christians with the Dorchester community. We ask that you unpack all those nativity sets you have stored away and bring them to the church where we can display them in the lower hall. We will invite the community to come and see them for the cost of a donation of a non-perishable food item for the Dorchester Food Bank. Perhaps we could even set up our outdoor nativity, so people know where to go! Dropoffs can be Wednesday mornings 10-11 am, or Sunday mornings. The display will be open to the public Saturday, December 7, 12 to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 8, 1 to 3 p.m.

The Thames Centre Community Choir presents a Concert of Sacred and Secular Song of the Christmas Season at Thorndale United Church on Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m. Admission by donation.

Fishbowl: Cross-Generational Discussion. ARWRC is holding an online discussion between youth (teens to twenty-somethings) and elders (45+) to better understand one another and their context within the church. To learn more, go to <https://arwrcucc.ca/youth-and-elders-fishbowl-discussion/>

LECTIONARY READINGS:

November 24 – Reign of Christ

1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (responsive); Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8