

Sunday June 22, 2025
Second Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" (Chorale from Cantata 147). J.S. Bach

Laura Bolt - flute

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

Where is God to be found?

We look to the heavens and into the depths, searching for God.

Where is God to be found?

We search near and far across the continents, seeking our God.

Where is God to be found?

We wait through the watches of the night and the heat of the day, longing to know our God.

Where is God to be found?

When all striving ceases,

when we are so quiet that we can hear our own hearts beating withing us,

then God makes Godself known to us.

Let us worship God, known in this time and place.

Hymn VU 389 "God Is Here" Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1978. Words © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: William P. Rowlands, ca. 1905. Music in the Public Domain.

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God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our life-long need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here, in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
 in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
 here as bread and wine are taken,
 Christ sustains us, as of old.
 Here the servants of the Servant
 seek in worship to explore
 what it means in daily living
 to believe and to adore.

God of all, of church and kingdom,
 in an age of change and doubt
 keep us faithful to the gospel;
 help us work your purpose out.
 Here, in this day's dedication,
 all we have to give, receive;
 we, who cannot live without you,
 we adore you! We believe!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

God of highest heights and deepest depths; God of utter darkness and searing brightness; God of distant lands and the neighbourhoods where we live, we gather in this sacred space to worship you. Quiet the incessant noise of our thoughts that we may hear your word for us today. Quell our fears and worries that we may grasp your call for us. Open us to the message of your wisdom that we might be challenged and transformed by it. Forgive us for the times our actions reveal our faithlessness. Forgive our selfishness, our greed, our impatience, our resistance to your will for us. Forgive our striving to do it our way, and not your way. Open our minds to understand your grace, your generosity, your patience, your justice, your righteousness. Help us to truly know you. Transform us as we seek your wisdom and strength to live new lives, resurrected lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "Caledonia" Dougie MacLean, 1977. Arr. by R.C. Irvine Laura Bolt – flute

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.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Psalm 42 VU 766 "As the Deer Pants for the Water" Paraphrase and Music: Martyn Nystrom.

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As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you!

I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy;
you alone are the real joy giver
and the apple of my eye.

You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you!

You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a king;
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything!

You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you!

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-15a Elijah Flees from Jezebel and Meets God at Horeb

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus."

*The other readings for this week are: **Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39***

Sermon: "Hide and Seek"

Hymn VU 608 "Dear God, Who Loves All Humankind" Words: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872.

Music: Frederick Charles Maker, 1887. Words and Music in the Public Domain.

Dear God, who loves all humankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
reclothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up, and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!
 O calm of hills above,
 where Jesus knelt to share with thee
 the silence of eternity,
 interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dew of quietness
 till all our strivings cease;
 take from our souls the strain and stress,
 and let our ordered lives confess
 the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
 thy coolness and thy balm;
 let sense be dumb, let flesh retire:
 speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
 O still small voice of calm!

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Holy One, we like to make grand gestures. We would like what we offer to be like a mighty wind that would blow away all suffering and poverty; like an earthquake that would shake the foundations of greed and injustice in our world; like a raging fire that would consume every prejudice and act of hatred, but, in reality, all we are able to offer seems so small and insignificant compared to the needs of the world. Yet, what we are able to, we offer for the sake of your kingdom. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn VU 218 "We Praise You, O God" Words: Julia Cory, 1902. Music: Netherlands melody, 1626, harmonized Edward Kremser, 1877. 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

Accept, bless and multiply all that we offer. Take what we offer and join it with all that others offer to turn our pittance into that mighty wind, that quaking earth, that raging fire that would clear the way for your kingdom of hope for the hopeless, justice for those treated unjustly, and peace for all who have received the gift of life from You, O God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, Holy Three, There are times when we know your presence in our life. It is as close as the breath we draw in. And we glory in those moments. There are also times when we wonder, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" We wonder where you have gone and why you are ignoring or possibly punishing us with the silent treatment. Yet, even in those times our faith reminds us that you never forget about us or forsake us for you are always with us; it is we who are forgetting about you or who have turned from you in those times we feel your absence.

Everpresent and ever-concerned God, hear our prayers and our concerns today.

We pray for your church. Give us the imagination and courage to take risks for your kingdom. Not risks that would be harmful, but risks that would return dividends thirty, fifty, a hundredfold.

We pray for our leaders; political, business, ecclesiastical. Give them a vision of the way you would like to see things run. Give them the courage and strength they need to work toward that vision. Give them a sense of your justice, and with it, a healthy dose of your compassion.

We pray for the people of this world, that all would find healthy ways of resolving disputes without resorting to violence; that all may find creative ways of reconciling past wrongs; that all may live in peace and prosperity with one another. This week we pray especially for the people of Malawi and Zambia.

We pray for all who mourn a loss in their life, especially the loss of a loved one. We pray specifically thinking of the family and friends of Gail Moir and Grant. May they know the comfort of your presence and the support of their communities.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially Annette, Clara, Jack, Ken, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our hearts....

All this we pray in the name of the One 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 660 "How Firm a Foundation" Words: "K" in John Rippon's A Selection of Hymns, 1787.

Music: Welsh folk melody, arr. 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 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!”

Commissioning and Benediction

Our worship is ended,

and our ministry begins.

We go boldly, following the Way of Jesus,

for there is nowhere we can go where God is not.

May the peace of Christ, the grace of God,

and the companionship of the Holy Spirit

go with us, this day and always.

Amen.

Sung Response: VU 424 vs. 1 “May the God of Hope Go with Us” Words: Alvin Schutmaat, 1984.

Music: Argentine folk melody. Words and Music in the Public Domain.

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that’s new, faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

Postlude: “Meditation” from the opera THAIS by Massenet.

Transcription for Flute and Piano by. P. Taffanel

Laura Bolt – flute

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Laura Bolt, for gracing us this day with your musical talents on the flute!

TODAY! June 22, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wesley-Knox United Church (91 Askin St. London) is holding a Palestinian Land Exercise to educate us on the modern background of what is happening right now between Israel and Palestine.

Holy Diner returns, starting this coming Thursday, June 26, running until Thursday, August 28 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Thames Centre Pride event will be held at Dorchester Park noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 6.

UCW Summer Event is July 19 at Siloam United Church, London, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The guest speakers and musical performers are Colleen Jamieson, Danielle Hill and Jolene Jamieson-Nethcott. They are members of Oneida First Nation and are known collectively as "Sisters in Spirit."

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Lectionary Readings for next week: June 29, Third after Pentecost, Proper 8
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62