

**Sunday June 29, 2025
Third Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 8**

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Westley King. Tune: *Sweet Hour* by William B. Bradbury, 1859.

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

At the dawn of day you are with us, O God,

filling us with hope, giving us a clear vision of the way to be taken.

In the heat of the day you are with us, O God,

strengthening us in the struggle,

encouraging us when the way is difficult.

In the cool of the evening you are with us, O God,

calling us to thanksgiving,

enabling us to reflect faithfully on our experiences

and our challenges along the way.

In this service, you are with us, O God,

calling us to worship You who are holy, in body, mind, and spirit.

Hymn VU 245 "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet" Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1975.

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Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle sounding flute.

Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.

Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or snow

or in the morning light.

Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment,
 nothing let your praise destroy.

Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

You are the God who is simple, direct, clear with us and for us.

You have committed yourself to us. You have said

yes to us in creation,

yes to us in our birth,

yes to us in our baptism,

yes to us in our awakening this day.

But we are of another kind, more accustomed to

“perhaps, maybe, we’ll see,” left in wonderment and ambiguity.

We live our lives not back to your yes, but out of our endless “perhaps.”

So we pray for your mercy this day that we may live yes back to you,

yes with our time,

yes with our money,

yes with our strength and with our weakness,

yes to our neighbor,

yes and no long “perhaps.”

In the name of your enfleshed yes to us,

even Jesus who is our yes into your future. Amen.

Walter Bruggemann from Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth

Ministry of Music: Hymn Sing

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 288 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923.

Music: William M. Runyan, 1923. Words and Music © 1923, renewal 1951 Hope Publishing Co.
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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 hast 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 Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Psalm 77 VU 791

I cry aloud to God,
I cry that God may hear me.

**In my time of distress I have turned to God;
with hands uplifted I have prayed all night,
but my soul refuses all comfort.**

God, bend your ear and hear my prayer.

Then I recall your deeds, O God!
I remember your works of old.
I recount all your works and ponder the things you have done.

**O God, your ways are holy.
What god is as great as you!**

You are the one who works wonders;
you have shown your strength among nations.

**By your arm you redeemed your people,
the children of Jacob and Joseph.**

God, bend your ear and hear my prayer.

The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and churned in fear;
the seas trembled to their depths.

Clouds streamed water, the heavens rumbled;
your arrows bolted on every side.

The voice of your thunder was heard in the whirlwind;
lightning lit up the world, the earth quaked and shuddered.

Your way was through the sea;
your path, through mighty waters;
your footprints could not be seen;
**but by the hand of Moses and Aaron,
you led your people like a flock.**

God, bend your ear and hear my prayer.

Scripture: Luke 9:51-62 A Samaritan Village Refuses to Receive Jesus & Would-Be Followers

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The other readings for this week are: 2 Kings 2:1-14; Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Sermon: "You want me to do what?"

Hymn VU 567 "Will You Come and Follow Me" Words: The Iona Community, 1987.

Music: Scottish traditional; arr The Iona Community, 1987.

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Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

As we journey, pilgrims on the road of life, we encounter others who may need our help, or who may help us. Whatever we have, God invites us to share generously and unconditionally. 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

Generous God, your creation is seen in the night sky, the trees and the light of the morning grass. We hear your world in the bellow of homecoming cows, and the rumble of milk tankers. Accept and bless all that we offer with thanksgiving in our hearts. Use what we offer to make your Kingdom a reality in our world and in our time. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, It's summertime. A time for the refreshment and renewal of our spirits that is so necessary before we can refocus our efforts. Grant us a time of fun and frivolity, of rest and relaxation. Grant us dreams and visions of all that we could be as individuals and as a faith community. Restore our souls, our minds, our bodies.

We pray that we would not become so invested in Your church that we mistake it for our own. We pray for Your church throughout the world.

We pray that we would not become so focused on the needs in our own community, in our own nation, that we would forget about the others with whom we share your Creation. We think of all peoples everywhere, and especially the peoples of Kenya and Tanzania.

We pray for all who mourn a loss in their lives. We ask that you would grant them peace and comfort. We think especially of the friends and family of Grant.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment. We ask that you would renew their strength and their health. We pray especially for Annette, Jack, Ken, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own 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 MV 163 “River Running in You and Me” Words and Music: Ian Macdonald and Gordon Light, 2003.
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River running in you and me,
Spirit of life, deep mystery,
dancing down to the holy sea,
River run deep, River run free.

River laughed on my birthing day,
Wind and water joined in play
soaked my soul in a shining spray,
River run deep, River run free.

River, cry my name to me,
lend me hope and memory,
sing me the story of the holy sea,
River run deep, River run free.

I stand on the edge, lookin’ down,
too scared to swim, afraid I’ll drown –
give me the courage to journey on,
River run deep, River run free.

Journey on far from my home,
River – break this heart of stone;
teach me to love, make me your own,
River run deep, River run free.

Hold me close on the day I die,
bear me up when my soul is tired,
carry me home on the rising tide,
River run deep, River run free.

River singin’ in you and me,
Spirit of life – deep mystery –
catch us up in your melody
River run deep, River run free.

Commissioning and Benediction

Worship has ended. It is time to leave this place.

We go, praises still on our lips.

We leave the sanctuary and enter the world.

A world yearning for healing, for justice, for sanity.

And we are the ones called to be healers, to work for justice, to bring a little sanity into the world.

May God go with us, for with God all things are possible.

May it be so.

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: “It Is Well With My Soul” *Philip P. Bliss*. Arr. Cindy Berry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Diner is back. It runs from 5 to 7 p.m. every Thursday until August 28.

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: July 6, Fourth after Pentecost, Proper 9
2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20