

Sunday August 17, 2025
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 15

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: “Let All Things Now Living” Traditional Welsh melody (Ash Grove). Arr. Cindy Berry.

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 (*unison*)

Come I this day to the Father,
Come I this day to the Son,
Come I to the Holy Spirit powerful;
Come I this day with God,
Come I this day with Christ,
Come I with the Spirit of kindly balm.

God, and Spirit, and Jesus,
From the crown of my head
To the soles of my feet;
Come I with my reputation,
Come I with my testimony,
Come I to you, Jesu;
Jesu, shelter me.

Hymn VU 410 “This Day God Gives Me” Words: attrib. St. Patrick; adapt. James Quinn, SJ, 1969;

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Music: Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton. Music in the Public Domain.

This day God gives me strength of high heaven,
sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth,
flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
depths of the ocean, firmness of earth.

This day God sends me strength to sustain me,
might to uphold me, wisdom as guide.

Your eyes are watchful, your ears are listening,
your lips are speaking, Friend at my side.

God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, saving from ill.

Angels of heaven, drive from me always
all that would harm me, stand by me still.

Rising, I thank you, mighty and strong One,
King of creation, giver of rest,
firmly confessing Threeness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.

Opening Prayer

Father, you spoke your Word and the earth was birthed

Speak new life to me this day;

Jesus, you came to us as the Word of God

Speak new life to me this day;

Spirit you awaken me to the Word of God

Speak new life to me this day.

Father, Son and Spirit

Welcome me now to the Word of life.

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.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Psalm 148 VU 871

Let the whole creation cry, "Glory be to God on high."

Praise God from the heavens, give praise in the heights!

Give praise, all you angels, praise God, all you hosts!

Praise God, sun and moon, give praise, stars and lights!

Praise God, farthest heavens, and all waters beyond heaven!

Let the whole creation cry, “Glory be to God on high.”

Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command they were created,
who established them for all time, setting bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise God from the earth, great sea creatures and ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and frost, gales that obey God’s decree,
all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,
wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound,
sovereigns who rule earth and its people,
all who govern and judge this world,
young men and women alike, old people and children together!**

Let the whole creation cry, “Glory be to God on high.”

Let all things praise the name of God,
the name above every other, whose splendour covers heaven and earth.

**You give strength to your people,
songs of praise to your faithful,
to Israel, the people dear to your heart.**

Let the whole creation cry, “Glory be to God on high.”

Scripture: Genesis 1 Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The lectionary readings for this week are: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56.

Sermon: Celtic Christianity

Hymn VU 642 "Be Thou My Vision" Words: Irish ca. 8th C, trans. Mary Elizabeth Byrne, 1905;
versified Eleanor H. Hull, 1912. Music: Irish traditional melody.
Words and Music in the Public Domain.

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
 thou mine inheritance, now and always;
 thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
 great God of heave, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heave, after victory won,
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 still be my vision, O ruler of all.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Circle us Lord, with arms of love and rid our hearts of fear.
 Circle us Lord, with Spirit's power and cast aside despair.
 Circle us Lord, with words of peace sufficient for each hour.
 And as you circle us, O Lord, may we circle the needy and marginalized of this world
 through our ministries and through our offerings.

Offertory Hymn: 544 VU "In Gratitude and Humble Trust" Words: Frank von Christerson, 1960.

Tune 625 Kingsfold

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Music: English and Irish traditional melody.

Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Music in the Public Domain.

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In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today
 to share your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
 O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
 teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Prayer of Dedication

May the work of our hands benefit all people.
 May the care of our hearts ease the sorrows of others.
 May the offerings we present be a blessing to those in need of it.
 Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

We breathe in God as we hear the universe's great symphony of life;
 through the music of the birds, the rain touching the earth,
 the wind rustling through the trees.

We breathe in God through the warmth of the sun,
 that great ball of fire that warms the earth,
 gives light for us to see the glories of God's creation,
 and which makes the plants grow.

We breathe in God through the air that we inhale,
 air that the plants exhale, as they inhale the breath that we exhale,
 air that is constantly in circulation.

We breathe in God through the waters flowing in streams and crashing on shorelines,
water that gives life to this land, and all who inhabit it.

We breathe in God through the musty earth that passes on nutrients to plants and insects,
microbes and animals that all have a place in our food chain.

We breathe in God as this land gives way to time;
time captured in the history and story of its people.

We breathe in God as life gives way to death
and we pray for those who mourn, especially the friends and family of Keith Patterson.

We breathe in God as we feel life giving force
in the celebration and ritual of a land cloaked in beauty.

We breathe in God as we share and celebrate our own stories.

We breathe in God as we find time and space to give thanks
and celebrate those who make our lives complete and those who accompanied us on this journey.

We breathe in God as we express our concern to you for family and friends who are ill or dying,
especially Annette and Ken, Barb and Wally.

We breathe in God as we contemplate
and feel God's life-giving presence in our lives as we walk this sacred land.

We breathe in God as we carry this story with us
and as we journey, may we be the breath of God to those whom we meet.

We breathe in God as we pray together the words that Jesus taught the disciples...

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 242 VU 808 "Let All Things Now Living" Words, Descant: Katherine K. Davis, 1939.
Words, Descant © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Co.
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Music: Welsh folk melody. Music in the Public Domain.

Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces,
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise;
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Commissioning and Benediction (*unison*)

Deep peace of the running waves to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the son of peace to you.

May it be so. Amen.

Sung Response: "Go Now in Peace" Words and music: Don Bessig and Nancy Price.

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Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there supporting us with love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen, amen, amen.

Postlude: "Amazing Grace" From *Virginia Harmony* Arr. Martha Mier

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Diner continues its run from 5 to 7 p.m. every Thursday until August 28.

You are invited to the **CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK** Good Neighbour Project Pig Roast at Browns United Church, 136545 13th line St. Marys on August 17, 2025.

Bring a salad or dessert, dishes and a lawn chair. Entertainment at 5:15 p.m. and supper at 6:00 p.m. A donation jar will be available.

The Scott Woods Band is coming to Lambeth United Church on Sunday, September 28 at 7 p.m. For tickets, call The Scott Woods Band at 1-855-726-8896 or at www.scottwoods.ca

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Lectionary Readings:

August 24, Eleventh after Pentecost, Proper 16

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17