

**Sunday August 24, 2025**  
**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 16**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** “Let Us Break Bread Together” Inspired by Mendelssohn’s “Consolation”  
from “Songs Without Words” Spiritual. Arr. Faye Lopez

**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**

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Before we got up this morning  
and decided to come to church,

**God was waiting for us,  
to welcome us with grace.**

When we are unsure of what to do;  
when we falter before the next step,  
**we come to listen to God's voice,  
to learn from the One who teaches us  
all we ever need to know.**

When we are surrounded by cruelty and injustice;  
when our fears cripple our souls,  
**God delivers us with steadfast love;  
we are set free to be God's sons and daughters.**

**Hymn VU 241** “Oh, Sing to Our God” Words: Brazilian folk song, trans. Gerhard Cartford.

Music: Brazilian folk song, arr. John L. Bell, 1991. Translation © Gerhard Cartford.

Arrangement © 1991 WGRG, The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense.net A620168

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing out a new song.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing out a new song.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing out a new song.  
Oh, sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God

Oh, dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.  
Oh, dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.  
Oh, dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.  
And sing to our God, and sing to our God.

Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.  
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.  
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.  
Oh, sing to our God. Oh, sing to our God.

## **Opening Prayer**

Why is it, Lord, that we allow our grudges to weigh us down, our anger to disfigure us, our fears to cripple us? Why are we unable or unwilling to let go of our grudges, release our anger, dismiss our fears? Is it because we have forgotten that you, O Lord, are the rock of our refuge, the ground upon which we walk, the outcropping upon which we lean for support when we are weighed down, bent over, crippled by our doubts and fears? Come now and touch us once again with your healing forgiveness. Remind us once again that you, O Lord, are our hope and our comfort, our joy and our peace. May your praise be a song in our hearts and a hymn on our lips. May it be so. Amen.

## **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 71:1-6 VU 789 (part 1)**

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.**

In you, O God, I seek refuge;  
may I never be disappointed.

**In your righteousness, save and rescue me;  
incline your ear and deliver me.**

Be a sheltering rock for me,  
 a fortress where I may find safety;  
**for you are my rock and my stronghold.**  
 Rescue me, O God, from the hand of the wicked,  
 from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

**For you are my hope, my trust from my youth;  
 from the time of my birth I have leaned on you.**

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.**

**Scripture: Luke 13:10-17 Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman**

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

*The lectionary readings for this week are: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17*

**Hymn MV 79** "Spirit, Open My Heart" Words: Ruth Duck, 1994.

Music: traditional Irish melody; arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997.

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Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
 As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
 Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.

All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
 As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
 Spirit, open my heart.

Write your love upon my heart, as my law, my goal, my story.

In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
 As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
 Spirit, open my heart.

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.  
 In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.  
 Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
 As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
 Spirit, open my heart.

**Sermon:** "Fear. Know Evil."

**Hymn VU 477** "I Come with Joy" Music: American folk tune from William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835;  
 arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977. Words: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1993.  
 Words © 1971 and Arrangement © 1977 Hope Publishing Co.  
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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 fine, 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.

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving** © 2025 Thom M. Shuman. Used with permission.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

People of God, lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our Rock and Refuge.**

Daughters and sons of God, give thanks to the One who saves us.

**We lift our thanks and joy to the God who is our hope.**

With a simple Word, Creator of the Universe, you caused chaos to tremble with fear, as mountains stretched to touch the clouds, and rivers cascaded through barren deserts. With a single Breath, life was given to our ancestors, who stood up straight to walk through your Garden. But the spirit of sin put out its hand and crippled us; death enslaved us with its unjust and cruel grip. You touched the lips of the prophets, appointing them to call us home, but we could not lift our heads to see, we would not turn our hearts to listen. Yet, you would not leave us hopeless, but sent Jesus to set us free.

Therefore, we join our voices with the faithful of all time and all places, singing our songs of joy to you:

**Holy, holy, holy, God our hope, our trust.**

**All creation worships you with reverence and awe.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes as the mediator of the new covenant.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, God of the Ages, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Hope, our Trust. Your Child from before time, he became a son of Abraham, so we might all be a part of your family. From the day he became human, he taught us of your hopes for us, so we would not give in to despair. Seeing us held in the unrelenting grasp of sin and death, he put out his hand and rescued us.

As we remember his life, ministry, death, and resurrection yet once more, we will proclaim that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, to set us free from sin;**

**Christ was raised, so we might be set free from death;**

**Christ will come again, rejoicing at all the wonderful things God has done.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon the gifts of the Bread and the Cup, and upon all your family who come to this Table. We come with knees knocking, with hearts pounding, taking shallow breaths, trusting and believing that here, we will find healing, here, we will be touched by your grace, here, we will hear your Word of hope. Then, fed by your love and nourished by your dreams, we shall go to bring your peace to a hurting world. We pray for your church. May a new shoot appear from the stump of that ancient vine. We pray for our leaders: political, business, ecclesiastical, that they would act wisely with righteousness and compassion. We pray for the people of this world, especially the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone. We pray for those who mourn a loss, especially those who mourn the death of a loved one, such as the family and friends of Keith Patterson. We pray for all who are ill or dying, especially Anne, Arnold, Barb, Butch, Ken, Wally, and their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our hearts.....

We shall speak out on behalf of those whom society has rendered voiceless. We will not be afraid to stand up straight and look injustice and cruelty in the eye and proclaim, "Enough!"

And then, when we are gathered with our sisters and brothers from the beginning of creation, we will sit at the Table of the Lamb, joining hands and lifting our eternal praise to you, God in Community, Holy in One.

Until that day, we pray the words Jesus taught us,

**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.**

**Prayer after Communion** (*unison*)

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world united in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

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

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

We believe in God's call on our lives, and we commit to walking, in faith, God's way of love and justice and peace, rather than allow our fears and doubts cripple us. Our tithes and our offerings are just one tangible sign of our commitment to following God's way. Our tithes and our offerings will be received.

**Offertory Hymn: VU 468** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" Words: Fred Kaan, 1975.

Music: Jamaican folk song, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975.

Words and Adaptation © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.

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Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy;  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around; loaves abound.

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around; loaves abound.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, O God.

Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful heart. Amen.

**Hymn VU 481** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" Words: Omer Westendorf, 1964.

Music: Welsh folk tune; harm. Leland Bernhard Sateren, 1972.

Words © 1964 World Library Publications, Inc.

Arrangement © 1972 Augsburg Fortress Publishers OneLicense.net A620168

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us  
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us,  
unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

**Commissioning and Benediction** © 2025 Thom M. Shuman. Used with permission.

Having been welcomed with grace,  
let us go out this day.

**We will go to serve all of God's children,  
deciding to meet them where they are.**

Having listened to God's Word,  
Let us go to share what we have learned.

**We will go to stand with those who are uncertain about life,  
to walk with those who have stumbled on their journey.**

Having been set free by the Spirit  
let us go to be siblings with all,

**we will go to release those bound by cruelty and injustice,  
to bring healing to those crippled by fears.**

**Sung Response: MV 212** "Sent Out in Jesus' Name" Words and Music: traditional Cuban song.  
English trans.: Jorge Maldonado. Arrangement: More Voices, 2007.  
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Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now  
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now  
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain  
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.

O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain  
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.

O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.

**Postlude:** "A Gaelic Blessing" John Rutter

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**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](http://www.scottwoods.ca)

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## **Lectionary Readings:**

August 31, Twelfth after Pentecost, Proper 17

Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14