

Sunday August 31, 2025
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 17

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: “The Song of The Tree of Life. by R. Vaughn Williams

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

Be still, and know that God is.

Before creation began, God is.

And when all human striving has ceased, God is.

**From everlasting to everlasting, God is God,
who alone is worthy to be worshipped.**

Let us sing praise to the Lord our God.

Hymn VU 395 “Come In, Come In and Sit Down” Words and Music: James K. Manley, 1984.

Arrangement: Darryl Nixon, 1987. Words and Music © 1984 James K. Manley.

Arrangement © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People.

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Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

You know the reason why you came,

yet no reason can explain;

so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,

for we are a part of the family.

Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

God is with us in this place,

like a mother's warm embrace.

We're all forgiven by God's grace,

for we are a part of the family.

Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;

we are the branches, Christ is the vine.

This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,

but we are a part of the family.

Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family.

Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.

We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts,

we who have sinned against you, in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone,

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

for we know that even those things that are hidden from memory,

or are too deep for words are not beyond your forgiving love;

that we may perfectly love you, with our whole heart and mind and strength,

and worthily magnify your holy name,

by loving our neighbours as ourselves, as Jesus showed us.

Then may we delight in your will and walk in your ways;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ministry of Music: 'And God Said: "Let the Earth"' with vergure clad
from **The Creation** by Franz Joseph Haydn.

Solo. Nancy Quinn. Soprano

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 81:1, 10-16 VU 796-797 Part Two

Refrain

"It is I who am God,
 who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Open wide your mouth, and I will fill it.

But my people would not hear my voice,
 Israel would not obey me.

**So I left them in their stubbornness of heart
 to follow their own devices.**

O, that my people would listen to me,
 that Israel would follow my paths.

**I would soon put down their enemies,
 and turn a hand against their foes.**

Those who hate me would cringe before me,
 their fate would be sealed forever.

**But you I would feed with the finest of wheat,
 you I would satisfy with honey from the rock.**

Refrain

Scripture: Luke 13:10-17 Humility and Hospitality

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The lectionary readings for this week are: Jeremiah 2:4-13; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sermon: "GC45 Report"

G. Keith Kaiser

Hymn MV 1 "Let Us Build a House" Words and Music: Marty Haugen, 1994.
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Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
 their songs and visions heard
 and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
 as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
 prayers of faith and songs of grace;
 let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

In his letter to the Hebrews, Paul wrote, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." One point that Paul is trying to make is that our offering is about more than paying the utility bills and the staff; that our offering is not really directed to the treasurer or the board of this church; rather, our offering is made through this church, to God. Because our offering is made to God, it is an act of worship. Let us worship God, as is fitting.

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

We worship you, Compassionate God, not only with our treasure, but with our time, that we might spend more moments with the lonely; our words, that those without a voice might be healed; our hands, that the hungry might be fed; our hearts, that those who are rejected by society might find a home. Bless all that we offer in worship of you. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Bountiful God, when the sons of Jacob were famished you sent them to their brother Joseph in Egypt who gave to them in abundance and the people multiplied. When the Canaanite woman sought crumbs from the table of her Jewish masters, out of abundance Jesus quenched her need and her daughter was healed. When our souls are parched or starving you slake our thirst and sate our hunger. For this we bless you and give you our thanks and praise.

Faithful God, you said blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled, yet your church staggers like a half-starved person. Whet our appetite for justice and peace that your church may feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, welcome all, and make your dream for this world a reality. This week we pray specifically for the new moderator of the United Church of Canada, the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath.

Sovereign God, the leaders of the nations are gluttons for power who gorge themselves at the expense of their peoples. Reveal to them that the purpose of their power is to protect and guide all, and to care for the needy. Inspire them to lead as you would have them lead. We pray this week for the people of Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal

Creator God, our voracious appetites for consumer goods is causing us to poison the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, and the land which supports us. Restore our sanity that we would turn from our destructive ways that your creation may thrive, and we may survive.

Compassionate God, we pray for those who crave to know your peace, the sick, the suffering, the dying, the grieving. Satisfy their need. Nurture them and make them strong that they may declare your mercy to all. Especially we pray for the friends and family of Alberta O'Neil, who has died, and for Annette, Arnold, Barb, Butch, Ken, Pat, Wally, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in Jesus' name, 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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn VU 509 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" Words and Music: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981.

Harmonized: Michael Pope, Daniel L. Schutte, and John Weissrock, 1983.

Words, Music, Harmony: © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music,
administered by Oregon Catholic Press. OneLicense.net A620168

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,
 I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
 I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
 Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

Commissioning and Benediction

Having listened for God's word,
we go, where God leads, to serve God by serving others.

Having sung hymns of praise and hope,
we go, carrying joy to all we meet.

Having been filled with the Spirit of justice,
**we go, carrying justice and hope to all who are marginalized,
 to all who are subjected to injustices.**

And may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
 go with us all, this day and always. **Amen.**

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

Words and music © 1988 Harold Flammer Music

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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: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee. (Trad.) Arr. by Phillip Keven

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Committee meets Tuesday, September 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

Reynolds Creek UC Board meets Thursday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Dorchester UC Board meets Wednesday, September 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Spiritual Formation Group meets Wednesday, September 17th at 2:00 p.m.

THANK YOU to all who made Holy Diner such a resounding success this year.

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:

September 7, Thirteenth after Pentecost, Proper 18, Creation Time 1

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33