

Sunday September 7, 2025
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 18 – Creation Time 1

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: “Take My Life and Let it Be” Music by Henri A. César Malan. Arranged by Philip Keveren.

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

We gather in the presence of the One

Who knows us when we wake up and when we go to sleep,

And in all the moments in between.

We gather in the house of the One

Who has created a family for us:

here as well as in Gaza, in Yemen, and in Afghanistan.

We gather to be the people of God:

Who appeals to us to follow in love, in faith, and in service.

Hymn VU 415 “God, We Praise You for the Morning” Words: Jim and Jean Strathdee, 1984.

Music: Jim Strathdee, 1984. Words and Music © 1985 Desert Flower Music.

OneLicense.net A620168

God, we praise you for the morning, hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise, joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation, mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion, all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter, help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit, Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher, strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour, come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising, Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah! Christ is Lord of our days!

Opening Prayer

Creating and Re-creating God, you seek us out before we seek you.

In Jesus You come to us before our hearts are turned to you.

In the Holy Spirit You come to us, when our spirits wander far from you.

You set a table for us, when our souls are hungry, and our hearts are empty.

Searching God, we admit that:

we are so attached to our material wealth we have trouble sharing it;

we are so absorbed by our pleasures we do not notice the pain of those around us,
much less empathize with them;

we are so wrapped up in ourselves we cannot sense our souls slipping away.

Merciful God, shatter our blinded eyes, hardened hearts, and closed minds;

mold new eyes, new hearts, new minds in us that we may perceive things as you do;

that your dreams might become our dreams;

that we may take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Saviour,

Jesus, the Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Ministry of Music:

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 260 “God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness” Words: © Walter Farquharson, 1970.

Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941; © 1942, renewal 1970 Hope Publishing Co.
OneLicense.net A620168

God who gives to life its goodness, God creator of all joy,
God who gives to us our freedom, God who blesses tool and toy:
teach us now to laugh and praise you, deep within your praises sing,
till the whole creation dances for the goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty, God who binds each friend to friend,
God who names us co-creators, God who wills that chaos end:
grant us now creative spirits, minds responsive to your mind,
hearts and wills your rule extending all our acts by Love refined.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Psalm 139 VU 861

God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

O God, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and rise up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

You discern my path and the places I rest;

you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue, you know it, O God, completely.

You guard me from behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

It is beyond my knowledge, it is a mystery;

I cannot fathom it.

God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

Where can I escape from your spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I lie down in the grave, you are even there.

If I take wing with the dawn and alight at the sea's farthest limits,

there also your hand will be guiding me

your powerful hand holding me fast.

If I say, “Let the darkness cover me and my day be turned to night,”

even darkness is not dark to you:

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

It was you who formed my inward parts;
you fashioned me in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made.

Wondrous are your works;

that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was being fashioned in secret,
intricately woven in the mystery of clay.

Your eyes saw my substance taking shape;

in your book, my every day was recorded,

all my days were fashioned, even before they came to be.

God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

How deep your designs are to me, O God!

How great their number!

I try to count them but they are more than the sand.

I come to the end – I am still with you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error

and guide me in the everlasting way.

God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

Scripture: Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

*The lectionary readings for this week are: **Jeremiah 18:1-11; Luke 14:25-33***

Sermon: "The Cost"

Hymn VU 600 "When I Needed a Neighbour" Words, Music and Harmony: Sydney Carter, 1962;
© 1965 Hope Publishing Co., Stainer and Bell Ltd.
OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there?

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there,

wherever you travel, I'll be there.

And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, I'll be there.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Have you ever wondered about the term 'Tithes and Offerings'? In the days of the first temple, there were no taxes. No tariffs either. The way the monarchy, the priesthood, and all public services, like roads and military, were funded was through tithes. Think of it as the equivalent of our income tax. In addition to tithes, there were times when you may make an additional offering, above and beyond the tithe: the birth of a child, an exceptional harvest, or to compensate for a sin or pay for an uncleanness. In modern times, many churches speak of a tithe as 10% of your income (whether gross or net is a different conversation). If we were to tithe, say 5%, of our net income, we would have so much money that we wouldn't have the people to carry out the ministry that would support, for that is the purpose of our giving – ministry to the marginalized and outcast. Our giving is a sign of our commitment to walking God's way of love and justice and peace. 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

Ever-present God, with this offering, we also present ourselves:

all that we have been, all that we are, all that we shall become,

and our resolve to walk in your way.

Accept us and our offering we pray, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for your church. Form it and reform it that it may truly be your light to those who walk in darkness. Shape and reshape those who serve the church in its many and varied ministries that they may truly be fishers of peoples.

Eternal God, we pray for the leaders of the nations. Mold their thoughts that they may govern with wisdom and temper their hearts that they may do so with compassion. May they seek peace and justice so all may dwell free of war and injustice. We pray this week for the peoples of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo.

Creator God, we pray for the wisdom to be faithful guardians of your creation. Remodel our thinking about our relationship to your creation that we may be open to ways to protect the air, soil and water from pollutants. May we seek ways to reorder our lives to preserve and nurture all life on this planet.

Merciful God, we pray for those who mourn the death of a loved one, especially the friends and family of Alberta O'Neil. We also pray for those who are suffering, sick and dying, waiting for or recovering from medical treatment, especially Annette and Ken, Arnold, Barb, Butch, Barb and Wally, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.... the Elliott family....

May you heal them in mind, body and circumstance so they may feel your presence and know your love in their lives. As we pray, so may we do, and in all that we do grant us the grace, the strength and the wisdom to seek your will, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore, 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 507 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" Words: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985.

Music: English traditional melody, arr. Arthur Seymour Sullivan, 1874.

Words © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael c/o Ann Carmichael Lodge.

Music and Arrangement in the Public Domain. OneLicense.net A620168

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captives free, make ploughshares out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.

But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife,
our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore and earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living Word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go from this place of worship and respite
to engage in your ministry in God's world.

**We go, trying to see things as God sees them;
trying to feel things as God feels them;
trying to understand things as God understands them;
worrying about what God worries about
when God gets up in the morning.**

We go to make God's yearning for creation a reality.

And may the grace of our Lord, Jesus, the 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
OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

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: “To God be the Glory” Music by William H. Doane. Setting by John Carter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

ELUCO Walk and Roll for Families takes place Sunday, September 28th at 2:00 p.m. at Springbank Park. Marje MacMillan is walking again this year and is looking for sponsors. A sponsorship form is located on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

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

OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

Lectionary Readings:

September 14, Fourteenth after Pentecost, Proper 19, Creation Time 2
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10