

**Sunday September 14, 2025**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 19 – Creation Time 2**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** “My Lord, What a Morning” Spiritual. arr. Cindy Berry

**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**

God seeks us out, boldly, tirelessly,

**As the shepherd seeking the sheep that had strayed the fold.**

God searches relentlessly for us,

**As the woman searching her home for her lost coin.**

God waits patiently for us,

**As the father awaiting the prodigal son's return.**

God is there to the end, awaiting our return, again,

**Let us turn again and praise the Lord our God.**

**Hymn MV 12** “Come Touch Our Hearts” Words and Music: Gordon Light, 2002; arr. Andrew Donaldson, 2002.  
vss 1-4 Words and Music © 2002 Common Cup Company.

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Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough to overturn in justice,  
to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
help us to open doors of understanding,  
to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve,  
steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.

### **Opening Prayer (*unison*)**

God of the least and the lost, we thank You for the good news that You keep looking for us, even if we might not be looking for You; You keep seeking us, even if we might not know we are lost; You keep waiting for us, even if we think we no longer need you. You love us rather than scold us; You open your arms rather than send us away. Even when we hide, God, we are really hoping to be found. Break through our stupidity, our blindness, our stubborn pride that we might know again that we are Your people, and You are our God. 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 307** "Touch the Earth Lightly" Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1991. Music: Colin Gibson, 1991.  
Words and Music © 1992 Hope Publishing Company.  
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Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster clouds of disaster,  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently and making us one.

### **We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings**

#### **Psalm 14 VU 735**

**Dear God, who loves all humankind, forgive our foolish ways.**

The foolish have spoken in their heart,  
and said, "There is no God."

**They are corrupt, they do abominable things;  
there is no one who does what is good.**

God looks down from heaven upon us all,  
to see if any are wise and seek after God.

**But all have gone astray; all alike are corrupted;  
there is no one who does good; no, not one.**

**Dear God, who loves all humankind, forgive our foolish ways.**

Have they no knowledge, all those who do evil?

**They devour my people like so much bread,  
and do not pray to God.**

But see, they will tremble with fear,  
for God is on the side of the righteous.

**Do not mock the hope of the poor,  
for God is their refuge.**

O that deliverance for God's people would come forth from Zion!

**When God restores the fortunes of the people,  
then shall Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.**

**Dear God, who loves all humankind, forgive our foolish ways.**

**Scripture:** Luke 15:1-10 Parables of the Lost

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

*The lectionary readings for this week are: **Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; 1 Timothy 1:12-17***

**Hymn VU 360** “A Woman and a Coin – The Coin Is Lost” Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1990.

Music: Fred Kimball Graham, 1995. Words © 1991 Jaroslav J. Vajda.

Music © 1995 Fred Kimball Graham.

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**Sermon:** “Lost”

### **We Respond To God’s Grace**

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

Giving in a world that is more concerned with getting is a radical act. It is one of the simple spiritual practices Jesus calls us to, supporting our faith community and those marginalized by society by sharing our financial gifts in common. We give generously because God has given generously to us. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

**Offertory Hymn:** “Give Thanks” Henry Smith. Tune: © 1978 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music

Text: © 1978 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music OneLicense.net A620168

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”,

let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us!”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks. Give thanks.

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

God of all peoples and God of all places, we present these offerings, that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries, that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. For Jesus’ sake we give, in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

Faithful God, Empower your church throughout the world in its life and witness. Break down the barriers that divide that, united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit together at one table, and serve you in one common ministry.

Sovereign God, You hold both the history of the nations and the humble life of villages in your care. Preserve the people of every nation from tyrants, heal them of disease, and protect them in time of upheaval and disaster, that all may enter the kingdom that cannot be shaken. This week we pray especially for the people of Ghana and Nigeria.

Eternal God, Strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities so that the young may be educated, the elderly cared for, the hungry filled, the homeless housed, and the sick comforted and healed.

Merciful God, You bear the pain of the world. Look with compassion on those who mourn, especially we think of the friends and family of Alberta O'Neill and Jim Elliott. Reassure them that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall separate them from your love. Comfort all who are ill or dying, especially we think of Annette and Ken, Arnold, Barb, Butch, Barb and Wally, Rob, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts...

May they know the peace of your presence in their lives.

Loving God, You nurture and guide us all like a father and mother. We pray for the families of this congregation, and for all Christian families everywhere. Give them strength to honour you in their homes, and to love and serve each other. Help all who have been baptized in your name to live in peace and unity as sisters and brothers in the household of faith, and to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us how 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 271** “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” Words: Frederick William Faber, 1854.

Music: Johann Ludwig Steiner, 1723. Words and Music in the Public Domain.

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there’s a kindness in God’s justice  
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth’s sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth’s failings  
have such gracious judgement given.

There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that Christ has shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.

Troubled souls, why will you scatter  
like a crowd of frightened sheep?  
Foolish hearts, why will you wander  
from a love so true and deep?

For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

As God sought us out,  
**may we too seek out those in need in our community.**

As God waited patiently on us,  
**may we too be patient with our neighbours.**

As God has showered us with grace,  
**may we too shower everyone we meet with God’s grace.**

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit go with us,  
this week 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:** “Great is Thy Faithfulness” William Runyan. Arr. Cindy Berry

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dorchester UC** Board meets Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Spiritual Formation Group** meets Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

**ELUCO** Walk and Roll for Families takes place Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.scottwoods.ca)

**Organ Recital Series: From Buxheim to Bach** A series of four recitals will take place at Metropolitan United Church (London) at 12:15 p.m., followed by a light lunch at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, October 2, October 28, November 18, and January 27. A freewill offering will be received.

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## **Lectionary Readings:**

September 21, Fifteenth after Pentecost, Proper 20, Creation Time 3  
Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13