

Sunday September 21, 2025
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 20 – Creation Time 3

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: “BeThou My Vision” John Rutter

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's Spirit calls to our spirits,

inviting us to worship.

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

inviting us by love.

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

calling us by name, calling us to grow in faith,

calling us to be made new.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Amen.

Hymn VU 245 “Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet” Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth, 1975.
Words and Music © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.
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Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle sounding flute.
Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.
Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light.
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful song you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment, nothing let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

O God of mystery, we confess that, more than deep questions, we love easy answers; explaining away miracles, disarming the Good News, we domesticate your wild ways. As we grow into the life of your Spirit, teach us to love our questions; teach us to struggle with our faith; teach us to live with your holy mysteries; teach our hearts to be psalms, singing forth your praise; teach our minds to be proverbs, shining forth your wisdom; and teach our lives to be parables, showing forth your glory in every gesture and deed. 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.
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 312 "Praise with Joy the World's Creator" Words: The Iona Community, 1985. Music: John Goss, 1868.
Words © 1987 WGRG, The Iona Community, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
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Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless of both fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
friend and stranger, guest and host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:
foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Psalm 79 VU 793

Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

O God, the nations have entered your domain,
defiled your holy temple and laid Jerusalem in ruins.

**They have left your servants' bodies for scavenging birds,
the flesh of your faithful ones for wild beasts.**

**Their blood was shed like water around Jerusalem,
with none to bury them.**

We have become the taunt of our neighbours,
mocked and scorned by those around us.

How long, O God? Will you be angry forever?

Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?

Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

Pour out your rage on the nations that do not acknowledge you,
on the realms that will not call on your name;

for they have devoured Jacob and desolated Israel's home.

Do not hold the sins of past generations against us;

**let your compassion come swiftly to meet us,
for we are sunk very low.**

Help us, O God our Saviour, for the glory of your name.

Deliver us and forgive our sin, for the honour of your name.

Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

Scripture: Luke 16:1-13 The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

*The lectionary readings for this week are: **Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1; 1 Timothy 2:1-7***

Sermon: "The Shrewding of the Tame"

Hymn MV 135 "Called by Earth and Sky" Words and Music: © 2005 Pat Mayberry.

Arrangement: © 2005 Margaret Stubington. OneLicense.net A620168

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas,
 deep ocean's dream, waters of healing,
 rivers of rain, the wash of love again.
 Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
 This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
 called by earth and sky.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
 wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit,
 blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.
 Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
 This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
 called by earth and sky.

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
 vast fragile land. Seeds of our wakening,
 rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.
 Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
 This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
 called by earth and sky.

Precious the fire that lights our way,
 bright dawning day. Fire of passion,
 sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.
 Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
 This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
 called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.

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 God's way of love and justice and peace. Our tithes and our offerings are just one tangible sign of our commitment to following God's way. 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.
 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

Holy One, accept the ordinary things we offer, our time, our money, our lives, and use them to transform hunger, loneliness, and despair into hope, abundance, and joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

We thank you, compassionate God, that you hear the prayers of our hearts.

We pray for:

Your church, that it may be freed from apathy or its focus on institutional survival,
that it may return to its calling to transform the world;
for the people of the world, especially the peoples of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay, that all
may learn to live in peace and in support of one another;
all who rejoice at a baby's new birth;
all who mourn when the circle is incomplete,
when a friend or loved one has died, especially the friends and family of Jim Elliott and Ken Pole;
all who are lonely, ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment,
we pray especially for Annette, Arnold, Barb, Butch, Rob, and their loved ones and caregivers
and those known only in the silence of our own hearts....

all who are grateful when their work meets with success;
all who suffer because no work is to be found;
all who are bored, not having enough to do;
all who are tired, having too much to do;
all who are surrounded by the love of family and friends;

Thank you for hearing us in every situation of life. Help us to support one another always; rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with those who weep. We want to be joined together as members of the body of Christ, loving one another and serving the world. Like Jesus, we want to respond to each human being who crosses our path with sensitivity and compassion. This we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray,

**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 626 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus" Words: Horatius Bonar, 1846.

Music: English and Irish traditional melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

Words and Music in the Public Domain.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go into the world to live out your ministry.
Go not only as peaceable as doves,
but also as wise as serpents, and as cunning as foxes.

**May the grace of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit go with us,
this day and always.
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” Inspired by Sibelius’ “Romance”, Virginia Harmony, Arr. Faye Lopez

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

Moving Forward in Song! Come join a hymn sing celebrating 100 years of great hymns, and introducing the new hymn resource, “Then Let Us Sing” Sunday, October 5, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Wesley-Knox United Church, 91 Askin St., London.

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Lectionary Readings:

September 28, Sixteenth after Pentecost, Proper 21, Creation Time 4

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31