

Sunday September 28, 2025
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 21 – Creation Time 4

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: “Softly and Tenderly” Words and Music by Will L. Thompson. Arr. by Phillip 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 come, independent, rugged individuals;

Seeking to be reminded that we are one in community.

We come, homo sapiens, the pinnacle of creation, we say;

Seeking to be reminded

that we are only one part of the web of life.

We come, children who are broken, afraid, lost;

seeking a way back to your heart.

We come to remember, to be upheld, even to be challenged.

We come to worship you, O God,

Our beginning and our end.

Hymn VU 412 “This Is the Day” Words: v. 1 unknown; vv. 2, 3 R. Gerald Hobbs, 1987, 1995.

Music: Fijian folk melody, arr. Darryl Nixon, 1987. Words (v. 1) and Music in the Public Domain.

Words (vv. 2 & 3) and Arrangement © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People. OneLicense.net A620168

This is the day, this is the day

that our God has made, that our God has made;

we will rejoice, we will rejoice,

and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that our God has made,

we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

Open to us, open to us

your gates, O God, your gates, O God;

we will go in, we will go in,

to your holy place, to your holy place.

Open to us your gates, O God,

we will go in to your holy place.

Open to us, open to us your gates, O God.

You are our God, you are our God,
 we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
 we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
 for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
 You are our God, we will praise your name,
 we will give thanks for your faithfulness.
 You are our God, you are our God, we will praise your name.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, at your word the cosmos swirled into being, light shone, land appeared, and life exploded in myriad intricate forms. That was then. Now, creatures are going extinct; the climate is becoming inhospitable to life; the pillars of our society are crumbling; intolerance, division, hatred, terrorism and war run rampant; and young couples are choosing childlessness because they despair of the future. It all seems so..... hopeless. And You? You continue to speak to us of your intense love and concern for all of creation. You continue to speak of a better way. You urge us to buy hope's fields. Unstop our ears that we may, once again, hear of Your love, of Your way, of Your hopes and dreams for tomorrow. Your love is not dead. Your way is not dead. Hope is not dead. Help us to see and to choose hope. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "Holy Is Your Name" Music by Don Besig. Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price.

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 223 “Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing” Words: R.B.Y. Scott, 1938.

Music: Welsh folk song, arr. John Roberts (Henllan) in Caniadau y Cyssegr 183.

Words © 1988 Emmanuel College, Used with permission. Music in the Public Domain.

Eternal, unchanging, we sing to your praise:
your mercies are endless, and righteous your ways;
your servants proclaim the renown of your name
who rules over all and is ever the same.

Again we rejoice in the world you have made,
your mighty creation in beauty arrayed,
we thank you for life, and we praise you for joy,
for love and for hope that no power can destroy.

We praise you for Jesus, our Master and Lord,
the might of his Spirit, the truth of his word,
his comfort in sorrow, his patience in pain,
the faith sure and steadfast that Jesus shall reign.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God’s Blessings

Psalm 91 VU 807

**“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.”**

You who dwell in the shelter of your God,
who abide in God’s shadow for life,
say to your God: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under God’s wings your refuge, God’s faithfulness your shield.

**“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.”**

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

For to the angels is given a command to guard you in all your ways;
**upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

**“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.”**

“Because they have set their love upon me I will deliver them,
I will uphold them because they know my name.

When they call to me I will answer,

I will be with them in trouble;

I will rescue and bring them to honour.

**With long life I will satisfy them,
 and show them my saving power.”**

**“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
 bear you on the breath of dawn,
 make you to shine like the sun,
 and hold you in the palm of my hand.”**

Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Jeremiah Buys a Field During the Siege

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’” Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, “Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.” Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the silver to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the silver on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase containing the terms and conditions and the open copy, and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.”

The lectionary readings for this week are: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Sermon: “Fear or Hope?”

Hymn VU 699 “Live into Hope” Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1976.

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber, Westminster John Knox Press.

Music: Thomas Williams’ Psalmody Evangelica, Vol 2, 1789;

harmonized by Lowell Mason. Music in the Public Domain.

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Live into hope of captives freed,
 of sight regained, the end of greed.

The oppressed shall be the first to see
 the year of God’s own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

We are called to be the church. We are called to love one another.

We are called to reach out in faith and in hope.

We respond to that call with our lives, with our time and our skills, with our tithes and offerings that the kingdom of God would be made manifest here and around the world.

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 and bless all that we offer. Use it to create hope for those who are living in despair; healing for those living in brokenness; and joy for those living in fear. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy and Gracious God, Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness. Inspire it's creativity in building your kingdom of hope for all people. Encourage it's risk taking for the sake of your eternal realm. Break down the barriers that divide, that united in your truth and love, all people may sit together at one table, and live in peace.

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 and protect them in time of upheaval and disaster, that all may enter the kingdom that cannot be shaken. This week we pray for the people of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru.

God of Comfort, stand with those who mourn; reassure them that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall separate them from your love. Especially we pray for the friends and family of Ken Pole.

Merciful God, You bear the pain of the world. Look with compassion on those who are sick; cheer them by your word, and bring healing as a sign of your grace. Especially we pray for Annette, Arnold, Barb, Butch, Barb and Wally, Jack, Mary, Rob, and their loved ones and their caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

We gather all of these prayers and lift them up to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, the Christ, 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 288 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923.

Music: William M. Runyan, 1923; desc. Joachim Segger, 1995.

Words and Music © 1923, renewal 1951;

Descant © 1995 Hope Publishing Company.

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Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –
great is thy faithfulness ever to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
 Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided –
 great is thy faithfulness ever to me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –
 wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.
 Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided –
 great is thy faithfulness ever to me!

Commissioning and Benediction

God sends us from this place with a word of hope
for us to share with all whom we meet.

Jesus sends us from this place with a word of life abundant
for us to build with all whom we meet.

The Spirit sends us from this place with a word of justice
for us to strive for, for every person, and for all creation.

May it be so.

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: “Rejoice, the Lord is King” John Darwall. Arr. Cindy Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 5: Next Sunday is Worldwide Communion Sunday. For those joining virtually, please ensure you have your juice/wine and bread at the ready.

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 7, 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:

October 5, Seventeenth after Pentecost, Proper 22, Creation Time 5, Worldwide Communion Sunday
Lamentations 1:1-6; Lamentations 3:19-26 OR Psalm 137; 1 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10