

**Sunday October 19, 2025
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 24**

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: “

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 (based on Jeremiah 31:27-34)

Here God engraves God's promises on our hearts.

We gather, seeking to be transformed by God's grace.

Here God fills our souls to overflowing with compassion.

We gather, seeking to learn to be God's agents of justice in our world.

Here God breathes the Word of life into our lives.

We gather to offer ceaseless praise for God's ceaseless caring.

Hymn VU 253 “Sing Your Joy” Words and Music: David Haas, 1987.

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Sing your joy, proclaim God's glory!

Rise and sing, the morning has come!

Bless our God and praise all creation;

song of the earth, and light from heaven:

God is alive! Hallelujah!

All the earth is filled with rejoicing,

light and life, the wonder of God!

Christ has triumphed! Risen for ever!

Joy of our hearts, and hope of our dreaming:

God is alive! Hallelujah!

May we learn to become your kingdom,

may we be your kindness and truth!

Love is our calling, gift of your presence;

children of God, and spirit of Jesus:

God is alive! Hallelujah!

Light our way, O God of the living,

may we learn to see with new eyes!

Jesus the Lord, our power and promise;

light for the blind and food for the hungry:

God is alive! Hallelujah!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Through Holy Scripture, God of Life, you give us words to reform *us*,
yet we are intent on changing others.

Through the life and teachings of Jesus you offered words to transform our lives,
yet we focus much of our energy on conforming to the culture in which we live.

Through the urging of the Holy Spirit you breathe words to lead us into new life,
yet we clutch our old habits close to our chests.

Guide our wandering feet back to your Way of working for justice for all. Strengthen our faithfulness,
equipping us with compassion and grace. Engrave a new covenant – *your* hopes, *your* dreams, *your*
vision, *your* peace – upon our hearts that they might beat as one with yours.

This we pray in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus, the Messiah. Amen.

Ministry of Music: Hymn Sing

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 499 "O Christ, the Word Incarnate" Words: William Walsham How, 1867, alt; v 2 rev. R Gerald Hobbs, 1987.
Music: Meiningisches Gesangbuch, 1693; arr. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847.
Words © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People. Music in the Public Domain

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We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:97-104 VU 840

Teach me, O God, the perfect way of your divine commands.

O how I love your law! It is my study all day long.

**Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies;
for it is always with me.**

I have gained more insight than all my teachers,
for your instruction is my study.

**I have more understanding than the aged,
for I keep your commandments.**

Teach me, O God, the perfect way of your divine commands.

I have held my feet back from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.

**I have not swerved from your judgements,
for you, yourself, have taught me.**

How sweet is your word on my tongue,
sweeter than honey in my mouth!

**Through your commandments I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.**

Teach me, O God, the perfect way of your divine commands.

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34 A New Covenant

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The other lectionary readings for this week are: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Sermon: “Impenetrable?”

Hymn VU 644 “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry” Words and Music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.
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I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

As a sign of God's continuing faithfulness to us, God blesses us with every good thing.
As a sign of our faithfulness to God and God's dreams for this world, we offer our tithes
and offerings.

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

Like your words, O God, the tangible gifts with which we are blessed are not to be hoarded or hidden away for rainy days. Rather we offer them so they might bring healing, hope, grace, and peace to all around us. May it be so. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for all your mercies:

for your goodness that has created us,

your grace that has sustained us,

your wisdom that has challenged us,

your patience that has borne with us,

and your love that has redeemed us.

Help us to love you and all your children, and to be thankful for all your gifts, by serving you and delighting to do your will.

We pray for your church:

for its continuing usefulness as a channel of grace and hope,

for its rescue from bureaucracy and stagnation,

for its witness to unity and justice,

for its commitment to hospitality and compassion.

We pray for the people of the world:

for all in need by reason of famine, flood or earthquake,

for all who are refugees, internally displaced people, or political prisoners,

this week we pray especially for the people of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

We pray for all who mourn a loss, especially we think of the friends and family of Gavin DeClark.

We pray for those who are ill or dying, those awaiting treatment or recovering from medical intervention, especially for Annette, Barb and Wally, Butch, Milo, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All these things we pray 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 633 “Bless Now, O God, the Journey” Words: Sylvia Dunstan, 1989. Music: Basil Harwood, 1898
Words © 1991 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
Music © MCPS Dr. Basil Harwood Royalties c/o Christopher Harwood.
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Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, they way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

Commissioning and Benediction

In this time and place, God has transformed us into disciples.

We go, sharing God’s promises with all whom we meet.

In this time and place, God has called us to be agents of God’s justice.

We go, sharing God’s compassion with all whom we meet.

In this time and place, God has breathed new life into us.

We go, sharing hope and new life with the world.

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus 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.
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: “

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Nathaniel Dett Chorale will be in concert at First - St. Andrew's United Church (350 Queens Ave, London) on Sunday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are: Advance \$35, at the Door \$40, Students \$15. For tickets, go to:

www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-nathaniel-dett-chorale-tickets-1755261156369?aff=oddtcreator

The Royal Canadian College of Organists present their **Annual Carol Festival** on Sunday, November 30 at 4:00 p.m. at Metropolitan United Church (468 Wellington St., London). A freewill offering will be collected.

All Things Nativity – December 7th, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. We plan to showcase scenes of the Nativity again this year. If you have a Nativity set, painting, stained glass, tapestry, or any other representation of the Nativity please deliver it to the church by November 30th. Consider including a paragraph indicating the history or origin of your Nativity. Please include your name and contact information so we can return it. Admission is a donation to the local Food Bank.

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Lectionary Readings:

October 26, Twentieth after Pentecost, Proper 25

Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14