

**Sunday October 26, 2025
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 25**

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven" Matt Hyzer, Tune Lauda Anima by John Goss (1888-1880)

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 here to worship God, to speak to God of our hopes and dreams,
our regrets and fears, hoping God will draw near.

**We seek proof of God's presence with us,
proof that we have found favour with God,
and, finally, proof that we matter, that we are loved by our Creator.**

That is why our forebears built this place of worship.

**That is why we come here each week, to this cleft in the rock,
hoping to catch a glimpse of the glory of God.**

Let us worship the Lord our God!

Hymn VU 395 "Come In, Come In and Sit Down" Words and Music: James K. Manley, 1984.

Arrangement: Darryl Nixon, 1987. Words and Music © 1984 James K. Manley.

Arrangement © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People.

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Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.

You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family.

Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.

God is with us in this place,
like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family.

Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine,
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family.

Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.

There's rest for the weary and health for us all,
there's a yoke that is easy and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family.

Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy and Gracious God, we come before you this day to give you thanks. We give thanks for this congregation, for our forebears who started this congregation, and for your blessings on this congregation throughout its 169 years of work and worship. As we reflect on the current realities facing this congregation, we wonder. We wonder if we've become too complacent. We wonder if we've become too comfortable. We wonder if we've become stuck in a rut. We wonder, 'Is this what our forebears envisioned when they started this congregation?' Fill us anew with your Holy Spirit. Help us honour our forebears by renewing their vision. Help us to seize each moment, each opportunity to strive for Your kingdom, where all are blessed by You. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Anthem: "This is My Story, This is My Song" Words: Nancy Price and Don Besig. Music: Don Besig.

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 213 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" Words: Charles Wesley. Music: John Darwall.
Words and Music in the Public Domain.

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your risen Lord adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say rejoice!

Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love,
when he had purged our sins, he took a seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say rejoice!

God's kingdom cannot fail; Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ, the judge shall come
to glorify the saints for their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 65

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion.

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be performed.

**You give heed to prayer;
to you all mortals shall come.**

The burden of our sins is too great for us,
but you will purge them away.

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion.

Blessed are the people you choose
and bring to dwell in your courts.

**We shall be filled with the blessings of your house,
your holy temple.**

With awesome deeds you answer our prayers for deliverance,
O God our saviour –

**You that are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the far-off seas.**

By your strength you make fast the mountains,
and gird yourself round with power.

You still the raging of the seas,
**and the roaring of the waves,
the tumult of the peoples.**

Those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds
are awed by your wonders;
the gateways of both morning and evening shout for joy.

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion.

You visit the earth and water it,
you make it very fruitful.

The waters of heaven brim over their banks,
providing us with grain, for so you have prepared the land,
drenching its furrows, settling its ridges,
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

You crown the year with goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

The pastures of the wilderness abound with grass,
and the hills are girded with joy.

The fields are clothed with sheep;
**the valleys are decked with wheat,
so that they shout and sing for joy.**

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion.

Scripture: Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad,
and rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given the early rain^[a] for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years
 that the swarming locust has eaten,
 the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
 my great army that I sent against you.
 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied
 and praise the name of the Lord your God,
 who has dealt wondrously with you.
 And my people shall never again be put to shame.
 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
 and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
 And my people shall never again be put to shame.
 Then afterward
 I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
 your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
 your old men shall dream dreams,
 and your young men shall see visions.
 Even on the male and female slaves,
 in those days I will pour out my spirit.
 I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall
 be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then
 everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there
 shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom
 the Lord calls.

The other lectionary readings for this week are: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

Sermon: "Godstory"

Hymn VU 347 "Retell What Christ's Great Love Has Done" Words: Jeffrey Rowthorn, 1986.

Music: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861. Words © 1987 Shadyside Presbyterian Church.
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Retell what Christ's great love has done,
 how crib and cross the victory won:
 God's call obeyed, temptations faced,
 the good news preached, then death embraced.
 Let us who share his Easter light
 sing praise to God, our chief delight.

Recall the covenant of grace
 in which you freely find your place:
 with water washed, at table fed,
 in Christ alive, to self now dead.
 Then with your lives, by day and night,
 sing praise to God, your chief delight.

Review the tapestry of saints,
that canvas which the Spirit paints:
a prophet scorned, a teacher famed,
a host unknown and unacclaimed,
yet one and all who fought the fight
sing praise to God, their chief delight.

Rehearse the chorus of the heart,
let all earth's hopes and fears take part:
the shouts of youth, the cries of age,
the prisoner's groans, the victims' rage.
And may each voice which seeks the right
sing praise to God, its chief delight.

Rejoice at what Christ yet will do,
intent on making all things new:
the hungry filled, the peaceful blessed,
the wounded healed, each heart at rest.
Then sing, till faith gives way to sight,
in praise of God, our chief delight.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

The call of Christ is clear; to be a people of faith who support one another with commitment and love. Our commitment is shown by the way we minister with and to others, our love is made real as we share the mission of Christ as a church community. Let us support that ministry and that mission through 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

We are inspired, O God, by those who live their faith with integrity and enthusiasm. We are blessed with people who give, not out of their guilt, but out of their faith. We are blessed with people who serve, not out of their reluctance, but out of their exuberance. We present these gifts, pleased to be part of your mission, and excited to share with those around us. They are a sign of our gratitude for your abiding presence in our lives. Use these gifts and us, we pray, to make your eternal realm of justice and peace a reality on earth as in heaven. In Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy and Gracious God,

Thank you for 169 years of worship, ministry, and community here at Dorchester United Church. We have praised you, served this community, and supported one another in good times and difficult times, and for that we are eternally grateful. Be with us and grant us the grace and wisdom and courage we need as we walk into an unknown future.

Empower your church throughout the world in its life and witness. Inspire its creativity in building your kingdom of hope for all people. Encourage its 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, 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. Watch over those who are victims of warfare and terrorism, especially the people of Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Nigeria, Cameroon, Yemen, Somalia, Haiti, and elsewhere in the world where there is violence practiced by one against another. This week we also pray for the people of the Caribbean.

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 Gavin DeClark.

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, Butch, Barb and Wally, Milo, 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 331 “The Church’s One Foundation” Words: Samuel John Stone, 1866;
 adapt. Lawrence Hull Stookey, 1983. Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864.
 Words and Music in the Public Domain.
 Adaptation © 1983 The United Methodist Publishing House.
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The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
 we are his new creation by water and the Word;
 from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be
 his living servant people, by his own death set free.

Called forth from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth;
 one charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 One holy name professing and at one table fed,
 to one hope always pressing, by Christ’s own Spirit led.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
 by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
 yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?”
 But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
 we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
 till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
 and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.
 Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
 like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Commissioning and Benediction *based on Ephesians 3:20*

As we leave this time of worship, let us give thanks and glory to God.

**Glory to God, whose power, working in us,
 can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**

**Glory to God from generation to generation,
 in the church, and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever.**

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus, the Anointed One,
 the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
 go with us, this day and always.

Amen.

Sung Grace: “Holy Spirit”

Postlude: “O Store Gud (O Great God)” Inspired by Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto #2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spiritual Formation group meets Wednesday, October 29th at 11:45 a.m.

Worship Committee meets Wednesday, November 5 at 1 p.m.

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.

The Rose Birrell Santa Shoppe Bazaar will be held Saturday, November 1, 10 am – 1 pm at Siloam United Church (1240 Fanshawe Park Road East)

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.

Ark Aid Mission has launched the HOLIDAY BIG GIVE. They have challenged the community, faith and otherwise, to raise \$500,000 to fund 10,000 more days of safe rest, food, and other essentials. For more information, go to www.holidaybiggive.ca or contact paula@arkaidmission.ca

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Lectionary Readings:

Saturday, November 1, All Saints Day

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

Sunday, November 2, Twenty-first after Pentecost, Proper 26

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10