

Sunday November 16, 2025
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 28

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Gavotte in Minor" J.S. Bach.

Pianist: Daniel Huai

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 gather today to give thanks to God;

In times of difficulty and uncertainty, God is with us.

Surely God is our salvation;

In God's strength and might we place our trust.

Sing praises to the Lord;

Let us shout aloud and sing for joy, for God is in our midst!

Hymn VU 389 "God is Here" Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1978. Music: William P. Rowlands, ca. 1905.

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God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, you grasp chaos and shake it into a new heaven, brimming with light, and into a new earth, filled with life. Grasp our lives and shake them, creating in us new hearts and new energy to serve our sisters and brothers, that together we may find the waters of life in the deep wells of salvation. Amen.

Anthem: "Jesus Saviour, I am Thine" composed by Anthony Young. Arr. by H.Lane Wilson.

Sacred text by Norm Abbott 2024.

Soprano, Nancy Quinn

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 388 “Spirit Dancing” Words: Walter Farquharson, 1989. Music: Lori Erhardt, 1988; Arr. Kenneth Gray, 1990.
Words © 1989 Walter Farquharson. Music © 1989 Lori Erhardt. Arrangement © 1990 Kenneth Gray.
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Spirit dancing on the waters,
sun reflecting song of grace
calling life to all the creatures,
giving life to human race.

Spirit dancing on the waters,
naming moment they should part,
giving freedom to the peoples,
signed for all in dancer’s art.

Spirit dancing on the waters,
paradox of womb and grave,
welcome now the Word child’s coming,
no one prisoner, no one slave.

Spirit dancing on the waters,
can the dance by cross be stilled?
Earth be shaken! Dead awaken!
What was emptied shall be filled.

Spirit dancing on the waters,
give your people their new birth,
healing, loving one another
in community with earth.

Spirit dancing on the waters,
we would come and dance with you
‘til our world is filled with music
and in Christ all things are new.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God’s Blessings

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 12:1a-6 VU 880

Proclaim God’s marvelous deeds to all the nations.

I will praise you, O God,

**for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away, and you comforted me.**

Surely God is my salvation.

I will trust and not be afraid,

**for you, God, are my strength and might;
you show yourself my saviour.**

Proclaim God’s marvelous deeds to all the nations.

With joy we draw water from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks and call on God's name.

Make known God's deeds among the nations;

proclaim that God's name is exalted.

Sing praises to God, whose work is glorious;

let it be known in all the earth.

Shout for joy, you who dwell in Zion,

for the Holy One of Israel is majestic among you.

Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Scripture: Luke 21:5-19 The Destruction of the Temple Foretold / Signs and Persecutions

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

The other lectionary readings for this week are: Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

Sermon: "God is here, there, and everywhere."

Hymn VU 278 "In the Quiet Curve of Evening" Words and Music: Julie Howard, 1993. Arr. Vera Lyons, 1993.
Words, Music, and Arrangement © Juliana Howard.
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In the quiet curve of evening,
in the sinking of the days,
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.
In the lapses of my breathing,
in the space between my ways,
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

In the rests between the phrases,
 in the cracks between the stars,
 in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.
 In the melding down of endings,
 in the cooling of the sun,
 in the solstice of the winter, you are there.
 You are there, you are there, you are there.

In the mystery of my hungers,
 in the silence of my rooms,
 in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.
 In the empty cave of grieving,
 in the desert of my dreams,
 in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.
 You are there, you are there, you are there.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

If our lives, our love, our gifts are not shared with others, the words we offer in prayer and praise are hollow. Our tithes and our additional offerings are an important part of our praise and worship. 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

Receive what we offer, Holy God, and bless it in the work of that kingdom which values the people we ridicule, lifts up those we have stepped over, and brings hope and healing to all. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Eternal and Holy God, we do not pray that we may change you,
 we pray that you may change us, shape us in the image of our prayers.
 For every breath we take, for every beat of our hearts,
 for every sensation of our bodies, we give you thanks, O God.
 For the ear that listens, for the hand that caresses,
 for the arms that reach out in love, we give you thanks, O God.

For relief from pain, for the tears of shared sorrow,
 for the laughter of shared joy, we give you thanks, O God.
 For the freedom to choose, for the ability to love,
 for the power of hope, we give you thanks, O God.
 For the presence you reveal to us, for the courage you offer us,
 for the rest you assure us will be ours, we give you thanks, O God.
 For listening to our concerns for our world, your church,
 your creation, we give you thanks, O God.
 For the peoples of the world we pray, especially this week we think of the people of Aotearoa New Zealand,
 and Australia.
 For giving strength and comfort to those who are mourning, especially the friends and family of Cal
 Kinghorn.
 For giving healing and wholeness and comfort to those who are suffering, ill or dying, awaiting medical
 intervention or recovering from treatment, we give you thanks, O God. We pray especially for Butch
 and his/their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in the name of our 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,

**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 691 "Though Ancient Walls" Words: Walter Farquharson, 1974. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1974, arr. 1975.

Words © 1974 Walter Farquharson. Music © 1974, Arrangement © 1975 Ron Klusmeier.

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Though ancient walls may still stand proud
 and racial strife be fact,
 though boundaries may be lines of hate,
 proclaim God's saving act!
 Walls that divide are broken down;
 Christ is our unity!
 Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
 Christ is our liberty!

When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack.

Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!

The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
for self and world made new.
Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!

The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim;
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name.
Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!

This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery!

Commissioning and Benediction

May God's Spirit fall afresh upon this congregation,

Making us bold to live out gospel hope;

To walk the way of justice, healing and peace,

This day and in all the days to come.

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: “Giga in G major” Elisabetta de Gambarini 1731-1765.

Pianist: Daniel Huai

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Central Board meets Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Dorchester United Church is making Frozen Beef or Turkey pies. Pies are \$5.50 each. To place your order, email dorchesterUC@gmail.com or call 519-268-3154 with your name, phone number, and order, or use the sign-up sheet in the downstairs hall. Pickup will be Saturday, November 29 at the church from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

St. Peter's Anglican Church, Dorchester is holding their annual Online Silent Auction to benefit community outreach from noon November 15 to November 19 at 7:00 p.m. To view items and bid, go to www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064784468405

St. Peter's Anglican Church, Dorchester is holding their annual Spaghetti Supper on November 18, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. A freewill offering will be accepted.

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, November 18, and January 27. A freewill offering will be received.

Rowntree Memorial United Church (156 Elliott St at Cheapside) is holding their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Baked Goods, Jams and Jellies, Crafts, Books and More, Christmas Treasures, and a Toonie Table.

First-St. Andrew's United Church (350 Queens Ave.) is holding an Eclectic Christmas Market on Saturday, November 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Artists and Artisans, Baking and Deli, Vintage Jewellery, Fibre Art, French Café and more.

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.

Rowntree United Church presents The Forest City Singers in The Sounds of Christmas on Friday, December 5 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each. Children 12 and under are free. Tickets are available at the door, or call 519-432-8075.

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:

Sunday, November 23, Reign of Christ Sunday, Proper 29

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43