

**Dorchester United Church**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter April 26, 2026**  
**Worship Leader: Catherine Tovell**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing  
AZMON. Music by Carl G. Glaser

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation**

**Land Acknowledgement:**

It is important that we take a moment to think about the land we are located on. While we are the current stewards of this land, it was not always so. We recognize that for thousands of years before the London Township Treaty, Treaty 6, of 1796, there were already peoples here who were stewards of the land. The Anishnabewaki, the Attawandaronk, the Mississauga, and others. And before there were people, the land was. As Christians of European heritage and Indigenous peoples alike, we acknowledge that the land which sustains us all, the land on which we live and move and have our being, belongs to God our Creator.

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

One: Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

**All: Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.<sup>1</sup>**

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship**

**Call to Worship**

M: God calls us to leave our burdens and worries aside and enter this time of prayer and praise.

**P: We come ready to receive direction for our lives.**

M: Christ shares this time with us as one of us.

**P: We welcome the stranger among us for we know that it is in the stranger that we will find the Christ among us. .**

M: The Holy Spirit urges us onward to share our wisdom, our faith, our honesty with all we will encounter on life's road.

**All: Let us worship God.**

**Hymn: "Come O Fount of Every Blessing" VU #559**

Words: Robert Robinson 1758, alt. © 1993 The Pilgrim Press.

Music: John Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II.

Words: The Pilgrim Press. Music: Public Domain

- 1**     **Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
          tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing  
          call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
          sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
          mount of God's unfailing love.**
- 2**     **Here I pause in my sojourning,  
          giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
          God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
          wandering from the fold of God,  
came to rescue me from danger,  
          precious presence, precious blood.**
- 3**     **O, to grace how great a debt  
          or daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
          bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
          wander from the love I've known:  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,  
          seal it for your very own.**

**Opening Prayer:**

Almighty God, whose son Jesus Christ has taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters  
we do also for him,  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as he was the servant of all,  
who gave up his life and died for us,  
but is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Hymn: *From the new Hymn Book To be sung with the congregation***

**Where the green will rise again.  
Bud and blossom in the breaking,  
earth will smile and ease her aching.  
brought of flood, through sun or rain,  
So the green will rise again.**

**Water, river, clear again,  
when with skill and science blending,  
health returns from our be-friending;  
when we watch and nurture then,  
there the green will rise again.**

**Hands and minds with vision plain,  
people with a sense of wonder,  
caring lives that do not squander,  
plant for future to sustain,  
so the green will rise again.**

**Where the green will rise again,  
when God's world knows peace and healing,  
common cause and common feeling,  
love will make us her domain,  
so the green will rise again.**

#### **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: Spirit Open My Heart**

**MV#79**

Words: Ruth Duck, 1994. Music: traditional melody, Ireland; arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997  
Words copyright © 1996 and arrangement copyright © 1997 The Pilgrim Press.

**Refrain:**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living,  
As you love, may I love,  
in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that kind and tender,  
Al my coldness and fear to your grace  
I now surrender.**

**Write your love upon my heart as my law,  
my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.**

**May I weep with those who weep,  
Share the joy of sister brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.**

**We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings**

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 150 VU #874**

**Refrain: Praise to the Lord, hallelujah!  
Everybody praise the Lord.**

Praise God in the holy temple!  
Praise God for mighty deeds!  
Praise God for bountiful mercies,  
Praise God who meets all our needs! **R**

Praise God with sound of trumpet!  
Praise God with lute and harp!  
Praise God with timbrel and dancing!  
Praise God wherever you are! **R**

Praise God with holy cymbals!  
Praise God with strings and with pipes!  
Praise God with clash of cymbals!  
Praise God with all your might! **R**

**Scripture: Acts 2: 42-47**

**Sermon: "Living Together:**

**Hymn: "Deep in Our Hearts"**

**MV #154**

Words: John Oldham, 1995  
Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1996  
Words copyright © 1995 by John Wesley Oldham.  
Music copyright © 1996 by Ron Klusmeier

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;  
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;  
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,  
justice and peace in harmony.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;  
deep in our hearts there is a common theme  
deep in our hearts there is a common current,  
flowing to freedom like a stream.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **We Respond To God's Grace**

### **Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

**Extravagant God, like the woman who anointed Jesus' feet, you lavish us with love and acceptance and ask only that we love and accept others; our neighbours, even our enemies. In offering our gifts, we express our commitment to your way. In offering our gifts, we seek to bring justice, hope and true peace to all peoples. Our tithes and offerings will be received.**

### **Offertory Hymn: "Said Judas to Mary" VU 129 vs. 5**

Words and Music: Sydney Carter, 1964.  
Words and Music © 1964, 1969 Hope Publishing Co., Stainer & Bell Ltd.  
OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

**"The poor of the world are my body," he said,  
"to the end of the world they shall be;  
the bread and the blankets you give to the poor  
you'll know you have given to me," he said,  
"you'll know you have given to me."**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, bless and transform all that we offer: our faltering steps, our brokenness, our hope, our risking, our hearts, that your covenant may be written on our hearts and that we may be a blessed and transformed people of your covenant. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Hymn " Draw the Circle Wide" MV #145**

Words and music: Gordon Light, 1994;  
arrangement: Michael Bloss, 1998; French translation: Denise Soulodre, 2006  
Words and music copyright © 1994 Common Cup Company,

**Draw the circle wide.  
Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side,  
Draw the circle wide.**

**God the stillpoint of the circle,  
Round whom all creation turns;  
Nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms.**

**Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
Let our loving know no borders,  
Faithful to God's call.**

**Let our dreams we dream be larger,  
Than we've ever dreamed before;  
Let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door.**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

As you go forth from this place,  
may you continue walking with Christ in love and service,  
taking with you all that we have learned and shared.  
May our memories be springs of water when we are thirsty,  
rays of light when we are in darkness,  
and reason for rejoicing always.  
May God bless and keep us all, this day and always.  
Amen.

**Sung Response: VU 961 "Let us, O God, Depart In Peace"**  
George Whelpton, in the Public Domain.

**Let us, O God, depart in peace,  
who in your name are gathered here.  
Disclose the brightness of your face,  
and be forever near.**

**Postlude:** The Heavens Declare. (Psalm XIX) By Benedetto Marcello. 1686-1739

---