

**Dorchester United Church
Sunday, May 17, 2026**

We Gather In God's Presence

Acknowledgement of the Land

We gather today as people connected through many stories, cultures, and journeys, on lands that have long been places of relationship, community, and care. We acknowledge that the land beneath us, the waters that sustain us, and the air we share are sacred gifts of God's creation—woven together with all living beings in relationships of mutual care and responsibility.

As we come into worship, we recognize that for countless generations, Indigenous Peoples have cared for these lands with wisdom, resilience, and deep spiritual relationship. We honour the enduring presence, voices, and leadership of Indigenous communities today.

We acknowledge the ongoing impacts of colonialism and racism, and we recognize that reconciliation requires more than words. As people of faith, we are called into right relationship—with God, with one another, and with all creation. We are called to listen deeply, walk humbly, seek justice, and live with compassion and accountability.

In this moment, we ground ourselves in the sacredness of creation and in our shared belonging to one human family.

May this awareness guide us as we remember that we are one, and that all are our relations.

Prelude “Holy, Holy, Holy” Music by John B. Dykes, Arranged by Phil Keveren

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

One: Come, people of God —

not because we have all the answers, but because Love has been made known among us.

All: We gather to worship the One revealed in compassion, justice, and grace.

One: Jesus prayed that we would live in unity and truth, bearing hope into a hurting world.

All: May our lives make God's love known.

One: Come together: to bring your joy and your sorrow, your questions and your hope.

All: For in this community, the Holy One is still being made known.

Hymn

We Are One

VU 402

Words: Doreen Lankshear-Smith.

Music: Jeeva Sam. Arrangement: David Kai.

CCLI

- 1 We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing,
as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.
- 2 We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.
- 3 We are one as we feast,
as we feast, peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine
there's a sense of love divine.
We are one as we come,
as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace
as we meet at table in this place.
- 4 We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.

Opening Prayer (In unison)

God, you touch our lives with mystery and hope. We come to this place today, ready to see your power working through us. Help us to be open to your Word, and to answer your call among us. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Anthem **“Words of Chief Seattle”**

Amy Stephen

A New Creed VU 918

(Congregation stands and repeat together)

**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 **This is God’s Wondrous World VU 296**
Public Domain

1 This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
 all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
 of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
 the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
 in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
 that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
 Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading Psalm 68, VU page 787.

Scripture John 17:1-11

Sermon *As We Are One*

Hymn **In Loving Partnership We Come** **VU 603**

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1 In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.

2 We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.

- 3 Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love.
- 4 In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

As the Easter season draws to a close this Sunday, we remain held in the love and life of the risen Christ. In Jesus' prayer that "they may be one," we are reminded that God calls us into a community rooted in compassion, justice, belonging, and hope. God's grace continues to move among us and through all creation, drawing us toward deeper connection with one another and with the world God loves. In gratitude for these gifts, we offer our tithes and offerings.

Offertory Hymn In Gratitude and Humble Trust VU 544 sung to VU 625

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself for us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

Prayer of Dedication

(In unison)

Holy and ever-present God,
we offer these gifts with grateful hearts,
trusting in the transforming love revealed in Christ.
Bless these offerings and bless our lives,
so that together we may participate in your work of healing, justice, reconciliation, and peace.
By your Spirit, unite our diverse gifts and voices
to serve the flourishing of your creation and the well-being of all people.
In the way of Jesus, who prayed that we may be one, we pray. Amen.

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

God of all Generations,

(The prayer continues...)

**...Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
move with us into the days ahead.
Teach us to live as one human family,
honouring the sacred worth of every person.
Shape us into a community of grace and justice,
bearing witness to the inclusive love we know in Jesus,
who taught us to pray together:**

**Our Creator, 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.**

Closing Hymn Draw the Circle Wide MV 145

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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 in God's call.

Let the 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

Go now as witnesses to the risen Christ,
called into unity, compassion, and courageous love.
Where there is division, may you bring understanding.
Where there is despair, may you carry hope.
Where there is exclusion, may you embody welcome.

Trust that the Holy Spirit goes with you,
guiding and sustaining you each day.
And may the God who calls us into oneness
fill you with wisdom, joy, and peace,
so that your life may reflect the love of Christ in the world.
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 "Bretheren We Have Met For Worship"

William Moore Arranged by Melody Bober