

Sunday September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

We Gather In God's Presence

Welcome

One: Boozhoo (pronounced *boo-zhoo*). Aanii (pronounced *Ah-nee*).
Shekoli (pronounced *Shay-go-lee*). Kwe Kwe (pronounced *Gway Gway*).
Welcome in the name of Christ.

**All: Welcome to this place of worship,
located on land represented by the London Township Treaty of 1796.
These are the traditional territories of the Anishnabewaki,
the Attawandaronk, the Mississauga, and others.**

One: Welcome to this space where God invites us to find sanctuary,
bring ourselves just as we are,
and learn to follow Jesus
as we care for God's creation and for one another.

**All: We gather today to share in song, Word and prayer,
and to celebrate the diversity of God's human family.**

One: In this space, regardless of age, ability, identity, orientation,
ethnicity, or background,
everyone is welcome.

All: We are all welcome here.

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Prelude: "The Song of the Tree of Life"

Nancy Quinn

by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Unto him that overcometh
shall be given the Tree of Life
which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

On either side of the river groweth the Tree of Life,
the Leaves of the Tree are for thy healing.

In the midst of that fair City flows
the river of Water of Life, clear as crystal.

Who so will, let him take of the Water of Life freely.
Whoso drinketh of this water shall never thirst.
Take thou the Leaves of the Tree of Life.
So shalt thou enter in through the Gates of the City.

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

All: We walk in the Light of Christ.

Gathering Hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" VU 232

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- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
 God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
 opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
 drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
 fill us with the light of day.

- 2 All your works with joy surround you,
 earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
 centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
 sound their praise eternally.

- 3 You are giving and forgiving,
 ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
 ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
 let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
 lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Call to Worship:

One: Joyful, Joyful, it is God that we adore. We come to worship the One who hears our songs and welcomes our prayers.

All: We come to be open to God and open to one another as we experience God's presence in this place.

One: May our worship be filled with our joy and our sorrow, our hopes and our longings. May we bring our very selves before God. It is God's love that is reigning over us.

All: May we find renewal and strength in worshipping together today.

Gathering Prayer

Ministry of Music: "God Shall Wipe Away All Tears" Nancy Quinn

By F. Flaxington Harker based on Revelations 21

The Lord is exalted,
He will dwell with men,
and they shall be His people.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes,
and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes,
and God, and God, and God shall wipe all tears from their eyes,
all tears from their eyes.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more;
neither shall the sunlight on them nor any heat;
For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them,
and shall lead them unto living fountains of water:

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more;
neither shall the sunlight on them, nor any heat.
And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes,
and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

And God, and God, and God shall wipe all tears
from their eyes, all tears from their eyes.

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.

Learning With All God's Children

Hymn: "They Will Know We Are Christians"

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians, by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians, by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each man's dignity, and save each man's pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians, by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians, by our love.

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture: Mathew 18:15-20

Response to the Word

One: The Living Word of God in scripture.

All: May the Word live among us and within us.

Sermon: "Right in the Middle"

Hymn: "Love Is the Touch" MV 89

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Love is the touch of intangible joy;
Love is the force that no fear can destroy;
Love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
Love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
Love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
Love is the will to be whole once again;
Love is the trust of a friend on the road;
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
Love is the kingdom their will has begun;
Love is the path which the saints all have trod;
God is where love is, for love is of God.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Offertory Hymn: VU 544 (tune 625) In Gratitude and Humble Trust

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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

Prayers of God's People & 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.**

Closing Hymn: "Make Me a Channel" VU 684

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- 1 Make me a channel of your peace:
 where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
 where there is injury, your healing power,
 and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

- 2 Make me a channel of your peace:
 where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
 where there is darkness, only light;
 and where there's sadness, ever joy.
 O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
 so much to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love with all my soul.

- 3 Make me a channel of your peace.
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 in giving to all that we receive,
 and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Response: "Go Now in Peace" (sing x 3) VU 964

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**Go now in peace,
go now in peace,
May the love of God
surround you everywhere,
Everywhere you may go.**

Postlude: "The Lord Bless and Keep You"

John Rutter