

**Sunday September 27, 2026**

**Dorchester United Church**

**Patsy Switzer, LLWL**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Introduction:**

**Acknowledgement of the Land (not in unison)**

This land is our Creators. For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on and cared for this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. As we come into worship, we recognize that Dorchester United Church is located on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg, the Attawandaronk, and the Mississauga. The community of Dorchester is represented by the London Township Treaty of 1796.

As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work toward justice and reconciliation as together we care for God's creation and for one another.

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship**

**Prelude: "Allegro in E minor, Seixas"      Daniel-Zizhuo Huai – Guest soloist**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

**One: Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.**

**All: We walk in the Light of Christ. Birthdays, Celebrations,  
and Life and Work of the Congregation:**

**Gathering Hymn      "'God, Reveal Your Presence"      VU 391**

Words: Gerhard Tersteegen,  
translated by Frederick William Foster and John Miller, William Mercer.  
Music: Joachim Neander.  
Public Domain

**1      God, reveal your presence: as we now adore you  
         and with awe appear before you.  
Here in this your temple: all within keep silence,  
         gather now with deepest reverence.  
You alone God we own,  
you, our God and Saviour: praise your name for ever.**

- 2     God, reveal your presence: hear the harps resounding;  
         see the crowds the throne surrounding.  
     'Holy, holy, holy!' Hear the hymn ascending,  
         angels, saints, their voices blending.  
     Bow your ear to us here;  
     hearken, O Lord Jesus, to our humble praises.**
- 3     O great Fount of blessing, purify my spirit,  
         trusting only in your merit;  
     like the holy angels gathered all before you,  
         may I ceaselessly adore you.  
     Let your will ever still  
     rule your church terrestrial, as the hosts celestial.**

**Call to Worship – Psalm 9: 1-2**

I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart;  
     I will tell of all Your wonders.  
     I will be glad and rejoice in You  
     I will sing praise to Your name,  
         O Most High.

**Opening Prayer (together)**

**Heavenly Father, as the sun rises, we thank You for Your daily grace and mercy.  
Help us recognize You in all things, giving us wisdom to make good choices and a  
desire to seek You first. Fill us with Your peace, which guards our hearts and  
minds, and thank You that Your presence goes with us, making Your joy our  
strength. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.**

**Ministry of Music:     "Streams of River Yang. Huang."     Daniel-Zizhuo Huai.**

**Hymn:     "Jesus, Stand Among Us"     VU 396**

Words (v 1 and 2), Music; Public Domain.  
Words (v 3): Lydia Pedersen. CCLI.

- 1     Jesus, stand among us  
     in your risen power;  
     let this time of worship  
     be a hallowed hour.**

- 2     Breathe the Holy Spirit  
      into every heart;  
      bid the fears and sorrows  
      from each soul depart.**
- 3     Lead our hearts to wisdom  
      till our doubting cease,  
      and to all assembled  
      speak your word of peace.**

**The Apostles 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.**

**We Listen for God's Word**

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 78: 1-7, 12-16**

**VU pg. 792**

Give heed to my teaching, O my people,  
turn your ears to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth in a parable;**

**I will reveal the hidden meaning of things in the past.**

What we have heard and known,  
what our parents have told us,  
we will not hide from their grandchildren,

**but declare to the next generation**

**the testimony that you gave to Jacob**

**and the law you appointed in Israel,**

**which you commanded them to teach their children,**

that the next generation might know them,

children yet unborn, and these in turn should arise, and tell their children,

**that they should put their trust in you,**

**and not forget your great deeds,**

**but keep all your commandments.**

**Refrain: We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.**

**Part Two (12-16)**

Marvellous things you did in the sight of our ancestors,  
in the land of Egypt, in the plain of Zoan.

**You divided the sea and let them go through,**

**and made the waters stand up like a wall.**

By day you led with a cloud,

and all the night long with a beacon of fire.

**You split rocks in the wilderness,**

**and gave drink in plenty as from the great deep.**

You brought streams out of the rock,

**and made water run down like rivers.**

**Refrain: We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.**

**Scripture:**        **Exodus 17: 1-7**  
                      **Philippians 2: 1-13**  
                      **Matthew 21: 23-32**

### **Response to the Word**

One: The Living Word of God in scripture.

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

**Hymn        "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"        VU 344**

Words: John Newton. Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle.  
Public Domain.

- 1        How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
         in a believer's ear!  
         It soothes the sorrows, heals the wounds,  
         and drives away all fear.**
- 2        It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
         and calms the troubled breast;  
         'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
         and to the weary, rest.**
- 3        Dear Name! the rock on which I build,  
         my shield and hiding-place,  
         my never-failing treasury, filled  
         with boundless stores of grace.**
- 4        Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,  
         my Prophet, Priest, and King,  
         my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
         accept the praise I bring.**
- 5        The effort of my heart is weak,  
         and cold my warmest thought;  
         but when I see you whom I seek,  
         I'll praise you as I ought.**

**Message:**

**We Respond To God's Grace**

**Offering Invitation**

**Offertory Hymn: "Grant Us, God, the Grace" VU 540**

Words: anonymous. Music: attributed to Christian F. Witt, Psalmodia Sacra,  
adapted by Henry John Gauntlett.  
Public Domain.

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**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 "God Be with You till W Meet Again" VU 423**

Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams.  
Public Domain

**1 God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.**

**2 God be with you till we meet again;**

unseen wings protecting hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

- 3 God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you;  
God be with you till we meet again.
- 4 God be with you till we meet again;  
keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
smite death's threatening wave before you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

**Extinguishing the Christ Candle**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Sung Response: "May the Blessing of Go be Upon You" VU 429**

*Words: R. Gordon Nodwell. Music: William H.M. Wright.*

*N/A*

**May the blessing of God be upon you.  
May God's love light all your way.  
May the grace of Christ enfold you  
and peace around you stay.  
May the Spirit of God dwell within you.  
May you live in joy each day.**

**Postlude: "Crown Him With Many Crowns"**

*Music by Casar Molan, arranged by Philip Keveren.*

May God Bless You All.