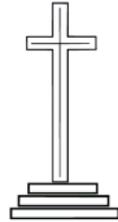


**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, August 15, 2021**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Box 814, 18 Chapman St. West,
Port Dover, ON N0A 1N0
Church Office: 519-583-0342**

Email: graceunitedportdover@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.graceunitedportdover.org>

Ministers: All People of the Community of Faith

Woodhouse Organist: Pat Tiller

Grace Pianist: Cheryl Copeman

Office Administrator: Jackie Misner-Hilton

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Frank Walker, OM

Licensed Lay Worship Leader: Heather King

Volunteer Associate Minister: Rev. Sheena Riley-Marini

Pastoral Charge Minister: Rev. Kathryn Vance, DM

Cell: 519-717-7426 or kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca

Office Hours 9:00 am – 11:30 am (Mon. – Thurs)

August 15 2021

12th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Joke – Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle’s picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. “The flight to Egypt,” was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, “That must be Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. But who is the fourth person?” “Oh, that’s Pontius – the pilot!”

Christ Candle

Memorial Candle Lighting

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|----|------|
| Peter Fowler | Barrett | August | 21 | 2019 |
| Dee | Brown | August | 28 | 2019 |
| Grant | Dougherty | August | 21 | 2017 |
| Catherine Mary | Judd | August | 31 | 2019 |
| Elsie Irene | Lawrence | August | 27 | 2019 |
| Ora Albert | Mason | August | 22 | 2018 |
| Arthur Grenville | Robertson | August | 30 | 2017 |
| Marguerite Isabel | Underhill | August | 25 | 2017 |
| Marie Hazel | Wear | August | 29 | 2017 |

Although death has separated us physically,

faith and love have bound us eternally.

Though we cannot see you,

we know you are here.

Though we cannot touch you

we feel the warmth of your smile

as we continue our own journeys.

As you were, you will always be,

treasured forever in our memory.

Call to Worship

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

We come to learn from God.

God's works are faithful and just; God's precepts are trustworthy.

We come to give thanks to God.

God has sent us redemption and commanded a covenant to last forever.

We come to seek mercy from God.

Holy and awesome is God's name.

We come to give God praise.

Jean Leckie, Brampton, Ont.

Hymn – VU #218 We Praise You, O God SH Disc 5 #10

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Opening Prayer

O God, who gives us Jesus, who is Bread from heaven, fill us with
the nourishment of faith—
faith that is both thought and deed.

When we feel lost and alone and abandoned, mix us together as
essential ingredients in your recipe of communion.

When we feel punched down by life, continue to raise us up with
the Spirit's yeast.

When we finally feel complete and whole and ready, break us into
pieces so that we may feed an aching world.

Thus, we come, O Christ,
to gather, to witness, and to follow. Amen.

Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont.

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart – How do the Olympics make you think of God?

Hymn - MV #12 Come, Touch Our Hearts SH Disc 1 #16

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom,
come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve,
steady now our nerve,
come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,
our minds, our strength, our all,
come touch us with your grace.

Prayer for Illumination

We are listening, God; listening for your word for us today. You have guided our ancestors for two thousand years. Sometimes they understood what you were saying; sometimes they didn't. Help us, we pray. Help us hear your word. We are listening, God. We are listening. Amen.

Scripture PSALM 111 The Weaver

Where should I praise God?

Among God's people of course!

For God does great things.

God's handiwork is beautiful; it will not rot or fade.

Those who can see God's artistry will study it.

They will recognize God's reality in their lives.

And God will remember them, for God is gracious and kind.

God looks after her friends; she keeps her promises.

She does not flaunt her skill

But demonstrates it in countless daily ways;

She constantly shares her power with her people,

God weaves our threads together on the loom of life;

Like a seamless garment are God's standards.

The works of God's hands will last;

Whatever God does is done well.

God teaches her people well;

She has made a commitment to us.

Good keeps her promises,

And expects us to keep our promises too.

A healthy respect for God is the beginning of wisdom;

Wisdom will lead to a better relationship with God.

Let us praise God every day.

Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and

songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6:51-58

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

⁵³ Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”

Anthem This Little Light of Mine SH Disc 5 #4

Message

Our gospel reading today continues to talk about bread. Three weeks ago we heard about the feeding of the five thousand. The past 2 weeks Jesus has been talking about the Bread of Life and how it is different from the bread from the loaves and the manna that the Israelites, their ancestors, received in the desert. Those forms of nourishment were for the physical body only and therefore had no lasting value. You can feed the body but it eventually dies anyway. The Jewish belief was that the ancestors in the desert also died spiritually. Jesus’ “eternal life” refers to our spirits and he says that if we eat his body and drink his blood we will have eternal life. In fact, in verse 54 he says, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood *has* eternal life”. He does not say “*will have*”; he says “*has*”. It is not a promise of things to come but an immediate transformation.

Let me digress for a few minutes here to talk about the context of this event. Jesus is in Capernaum where he and his family are known. So, when he identifies himself as the Son of Man and God as his Father, many think he is being arrogant since, after all, they know his father Joseph, the carpenter. Next, the concept of eating his flesh and drinking his blood was totally against Jewish law. They were not to eat any flesh that was not approved by their authorities and they were not to ingest any blood. Period. In fact, to touch blood would make them ritually unclean. That is why the priest in the story of the good Samaritan crossed to the other side of the road.

Also, it wasn't long before Passover when, in keeping with their tradition, a lamb would be served at the Passover meal. You may remember that, in John 1:29, John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the "Lamb of God". In the other three gospels we hear about Jesus' Passover meal with his disciples and the words he used as he shared the bread and the wine with him. The gospel of John doesn't have that Last Supper scene but today's verses offer a message very similar.

Eat Jesus' flesh; drink his blood. Sounded cannibalistic to the people then and, if not understood symbolically, sounds cannibalistic today. In fact, the word that Jesus used for "eat" in this passage means "munch", like an animal munching on their feed. So to munch on Jesus body. The image was and is abhorrent. Obviously Jesus was not talking literal eating and drinking. So what did he mean? And is there a different image that would give the same message?

To have Jesus in us. That's what it's about. In my opinion that constitutes more than *following* Jesus. It is being one with Jesus. It should make it easy to answer the question, "What would Jesus do?" In a lesser way, it's like getting married. You become one with another. Decisions you make include the opinion of your partner. And so on. Now the thing about marriage is that it also depends on the commitment of your partner to the relationship. With Jesus, you can count on an eternal commitment. Another image I have is that of a diabetic. Forget for a moment that diabetes is a disease and think of the

other things about it. It is part of who the person is – like Christianity. It makes no distinctions between gender, age, or race – like Christianity. The diabetic must seriously pay attention to what they take in, whether it is avoiding certain things or being diligent about the things they must do – like a Christian. If I were to get a blood transfusion, that blood would continue to circulate in my body for life. It would become part of who I am. It wouldn't be limited to my arm, my leg, or my brain. It would be part of the complete me, undiscernible and inseparable from my own blood that was there first. Jesus wants us to have that same relationship with him.

Now, of course, in Jesus' day marriages were mostly arranged, diabetes had not been discovered, nor had the ability to perform blood transfusions. So Jesus could not draw on any of those images. But it really doesn't matter because Jesus was just offering an image of the physical to express the spiritual. And quite honestly, I can't think of any other image that he could have used.

So today's reading is talking about the same thing as the communion we celebrate remembering Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper. In Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus holds the bread and says, "this is my body." In Luke, he goes on to say, "do this in remembrance of me." In all three he says that the wine is his blood of the new covenant.

All four gospels use the body and blood image. We do the same for our communion service. So how does our communion service achieve what Jesus was saying? Well, there are some who think that as the minister or priest says the "words of institution" over the bread and wine (or grape juice), that it actually becomes, literally, the body and blood of Christ. That is, the elements are transformed. Others think that the elements are a purely symbolic way to remember Jesus. No transformation takes place. Yet others, including myself, believe that transformation happens on the part of the believer. We believe that it's bread and juice when it is put on the table; it is bread and juice after I say the special words over it; it is bread and juice when it crosses the lips. For the one not necessarily seeking unity with Christ, they have

participated in a nice little church ritual. For the believer wanting to grow their union and relationship with Christ, transformation happens. The elements are not transformed; the believer is transformed. What it boils down to is that food and drink are essential for physical life. Christ is essential for spiritual life. One way that we can become one with Christ is through communion. I believe that a healthy spiritual life will inform justice, kindness, morality, integrity, and truthfulness. And as the gospel writer said, whoever is one with Christ has eternal life. Amen.

Hymn - VU #236 Now Thank We All Our God SH Disc 3 #18

Now thank we all our God, with heart,
and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

We Respond to God's Word

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Bread of Life, you are constant nourishment for our hungry souls. Bless these offerings, that they become sustenance for our famished, yearning, and longing bodies, minds, and spirits. May we, with these gifts, continue to live the story of amazing grace. Amen.

Laura Turnbull, Penticton, B.C.

Minute for Mission

Peacemaking as Covid:

Travel bans present challenges to those seeking to heal old wounds.

Gifts to Mission & Service support peace and reconciliation processes across the globe. In Japan and Korea, the church's peace-making efforts have never been more critical as COVID-19 heightens tensions.

According to South Korea, Japan has not formally acknowledged the reportedly state-sanctioned massacre of thousands of Koreans in Japan after a 1923 earthquake, nor the suffering of Korean "comfort women" forced into sexual slavery during World War II. The scars of trauma continue to strain relationships between the two countries.

The relationship between Japan and Korea was at an all-time low before COVID-19 struck, but travel bans have driven an even deeper wedge between neighbours. While travel restrictions seem like necessary precautions, they presented challenges to partners seeking to heal wounds rooted in the 1910–1945 Japanese colonial period and its brutal occupation of the Korean peninsula.

So in July this year, representatives from 16 civil society and religious organizations from South Korea and Japan respectively—including Mission & Service partners—gathered online to promote participation and solidarity in peace-making, launching the Korea-Japan Reconciliation and Peace Platform. At the launching ceremony held online simultaneously in Seoul and Tokyo, the alliance outlined the goals of the platform: to promote correct understanding of the two countries' shared history and move toward right relations by healing the wounds of victims. Among other things, the alliance committed to work together to realize a nuclear-free Northeast Asia and promote a

common vision for peace among the Asia Pacific regional community. A key focus is to develop young leadership in both countries through human rights and peace education.

Patti Talbot, the United Church's team leader for Northeast Asia partnerships, explains that the denomination's involvement today is a continuation of the faithful, peace-making work that our missionaries have long supported.

"Canadian missionaries related to the United Church have served, lived, died, and are buried in what is now North Korea as well as what is now South Korea. United Church missionaries served in Korea during the Japanese occupation, the Korean war, and the immediate aftermath," says Talbot. "The yearning of Mission & Service partners for peace is shared by United Church people and by many, many Canadians who are connected to the region through family, friends, and church relationships as well as commerce, education, arts, culture, and more."



Groups from South Korea and Japan form the Korea-Japan Reconciliation and Peace Platform. Representatives pictured here discuss peace-making strategies.

Credit: National Council of Churches in Korea

Your gifts through Mission & Service support vital peace processes across the globe. Thank you for helping to build a better world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern

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
forever and ever. Amen.

We Take Christ's Message Into the World

Hymn - VU #380 She Comes Sailing On the Wind SH Disc 4 #9

**She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,
like a mother breathing life into her child. (to Verse 2)

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,
and then down the ages still she flew on.

**She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark,
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart. (to Verse 4)

Flying to the river, she waited circling high
above the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,
and she carried him away in her embrace.

**She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

**She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

Benediction and Commissioning

Go from this place today
filled with God's abundant love.

Go from this place today
filled with God's love in your heart.

Go now from this place
and share this abundance and love with others.

Go now from this place
and know that God is grateful
for each and every one of you.

Go from this place. Go with peace. Go with grace. Amen.

Julie Hutton, Minnedosa U.C., Minnedosa, Man.