

**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, August 1, 2021**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
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**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**

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

August 1 2021

## 10th Sunday after Pentecost

### We Gather to Worship

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Jokes**

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo?  
One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter

Two windmills are standing in a wind farm.  
One asks, "What's your favorite kind of music?"  
The other says, "I'm a big metal fan."

Hear about the new restaurant called Karma?  
There's no menu - you get what you deserve

**Christ Candle**

### Call to Worship

May grace wash over you as you worship.

**May peace be experienced in all we hear, pray, and reflect on.**

May joy fill you so that you are enlightened by God's delight.

**May love radiate from every cell, conveying the amazing truth of God's goodness.**

In hope and gratitude, let us worship.

*Laura Turnbull, Penticton, B.C.*

### **Hymn – VU #664 What a Friend We Have in Jesus SH Disc 5 #13**

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.  
Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do our friends despise, forsake us?  
Are we tempted to despair?  
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,  
and we'll find new courage there.

### **Opening Prayer**

We give you thanks and praise, God Most Holy!  
For the beauty of the day,  
for those who love us,  
and for those whom we love, thank you!  
For the safety of this place,  
for the knowledge of your presence,  
and for the gift of your love, thank you!  
Bless us in this time together,  
that we might have  
open hearts,  
open spirits,  
and open lives.  
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

***Richard Bott, Vancouver, B.C.***

## **We Listen for God's Word**

Time for the Young at Heart – How does an anchor remind you of God?

### **Hymn - VU #651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah SH Disc 2 #8**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more,  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

God of all things, loving and caring, we come together today to listen for your wisdom on living together in harmony. At any age, making friends can be difficult at times and treating them well sometimes evades us. We ask for your help as we read your Word and listen for your Good News today. Amen.

*Kate Gregory, Belwood-Metz P.C., Belwood, Ont.*

## Scripture Psalm 51:1-12

### Spring cleaning for the soul (James Taylor, Everyday Psalms)

Scrub me clean, Lord.

**Rub me down gently;**

by your touch, show how much you love me;

**flush away my failures;**

sponge off the stains of constant compromise;

**help me clean up my act.**

You don't have to tell me –

I know too well what I have been doing.

**I know I have let you down;**

I have betrayed your trust in me.

You warned me;

**you have every right to be angry.**

Don't blame yourself because I blew it;

I was born this way.

**How can I help it? I'm only human.**

So wash out my mind, and rinse out my heart.

**New life starts on the inside, with knowing myself.**

Scrub my spirit clean, and swirl my soiled nature down the drain;

**let me step out fresh and sparkling.**

Mend my fractured spirits.

**Turn a blind eye to my faults,**

and cherish the scars where I have fallen down.

**A fresh start begins with a pure heart, oh God,**

**so let me share your spirit.**

I do not want to be cut off from you;

**I do not want to live without you.**

Take me back into your good graces.

**Help me, Lord, for I really want to please you.**

## Ephesians 4:1-16 New International Version

### Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

**4** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,  
he took many captives  
and gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

John 6:24-35 New International Version

<sup>24</sup> Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

Jesus the Bread of Life

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

<sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

<sup>30</sup> So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup> “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

## **Anthem   How Then Shall I Live   SH Disc 2 #12**

### **Message**

There are lettered short forms for so many things these days. If you know them it makes sending a message so much quicker. Letters like “LOL” for laugh out loud; the letter “U” followed by the letter “R” for you are; “NP” for no problem. Then there is “BFF”. That stands for best friends forever.

Think about your best friend. Would you continue to be their best friend if you broke your promises to them? Or how about if you yelled at them? What about if you didn’t call them for a long time or ignored their calls to you? Would you still consider yourselves BFFs? Do you think that they might give up on you? We can have lots of friends and some of them may be for life. But a *BEST* friend is the *one* friend above all others. And that can change over time. Maybe for the reasons I mentioned; maybe because one of you moves; maybe because your life paths take you in different directions; or any number of other reasons.

However, there is one person who promises to be your *best friend forever* and it is forever. That person is Jesus. No matter where you go or what you do, Jesus is there for you. Even if you haven’t been a good friend to him, he’s there waiting for you. And while, as humans, each of us can only have one *best* friend at a time, Jesus will be a best friend to all of us at the same time. Jesus does all that a best friend does and more. He listens to us. Whether we are glad, sad, mad, or scared, he listens. He comforts us. Whether it’s something we’ve done, or something done to us; whether we suffer from an illness or have been hit with a tragedy; whenever we’re in need of comfort, Jesus is there. He guides us. When we are in need of sage advice as to what path to take, Jesus will let us know which upholds the values of compassion, morality, and justice. Joy is always sweeter when it’s shared, and, as our best friend, Jesus is right there to be the first to share it with us. Sometimes a best friend must tell us that we are making a poor choice. Yep, Jesus does that, too. And, I think, the most wonderful thing is that Jesus is with us 24/7. On call, so to speak. All we have to do is talk to him; ask him to be part of whatever we are experiencing. And he’s there immediately. He doesn’t say, “Well, as soon

as I'm done this or that."

So why don't more people invite this best friend into their daily living? There are several reasons: fear of giving up control, fear of no longer being able to have fun, fear of feeling unworthy, fear of judgement. Those fears have deep roots in the Christian faith. But it's important to remember that all of those things are human impositions, not divine.

There is one thing that we do have to do to truly benefit from this friendship. We have to listen. Ever have someone ask for your advice and, when you try to give it to them, they come up with all sorts of excuses why they can't follow it? That happens to Jesus too. We pray about a question and then don't listen for an answer or refuse the answer we get. Sometimes we don't even go to him with a problem because we think that we won't like his solution. I think that we shortchange ourselves when we do that.

All of this influences our lives. There is technical life, that is where blood and oxygen circulate in our bodies. Then there is LIFE! That is where we can experience living in these bodies. We eat and drink and have relationships. We need food and beverage to sustain us physically. We need relationships to sustain us emotionally and spiritually. In verse 35 of the gospel reading this morning, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." Just as food is to the physical, Jesus is to the emotional and spiritual. Welcoming Jesus as our best friend opens us up to the deep joy of the unconditional love and grace of God and to spiritual heights of relationship with God and God's creation.

If these concepts tempt you to LOL, NP. UR still Jesus' BFF.

Amen.

### **Hymn - MV #154 Deep In Our Hearts SH Disc 1 #19**

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

Deep in our heart 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.

### **We Respond to God's Word**

#### **Offering & Prayer of Dedication**

The work of our hands and our hearts,  
our time and talents, our commitment,  
all these we offer to you, O God,  
in hope that they will be of benefit  
to the needs in our world.

Bless and multiply them to your use,  
we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

*George Allan, Chatham, Ont*

#### **Minute for Mission**

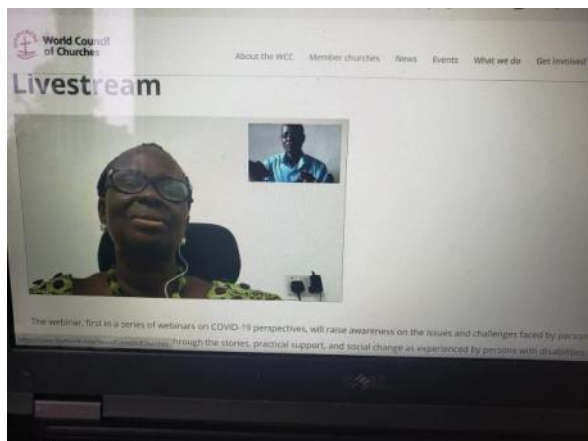
##### **Webinar Highlights COVID's Impact on People with Disabilities**

COVID-19 safety protocols can save lives but only for those who can access them. Staying home is an inconvenience for some, but it can be a nightmare for those who rely on a support network that can enter their home. Masks prevent the spread of the virus, but for those who need to read lips to communicate, masks can also present significant barriers.

These and other challenges that COVID-19 heightens for people around the world living with disabilities were highlighted in a recent, ground-breaking [webinar](#) hosted by the [Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network \(EDAN\)](#) of the World Council of Churches. The webinar is the first of a free, upcoming series of webinars through the [World Council of Churches](#) aimed at raising awareness of the issues and challenges faced by a variety of groups because of COVID-19.

Gertrude Fefoame, a leader in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, was one of the panelists discussing issues the pandemic presents around disability. "How can I as a visually impaired person wash my hands according to the description if I can't access it?" she asked webinar attendees, adding that social distancing

also makes finding support harder. “Many of us complete our daily life activities with personal support. This becomes a big problem during the pandemic as we are afraid of them and them of us. Our lives become difficult. Isolation results in lack of service and sometimes abuse by those locked down with us. Many of us have gone hungry both physically and spiritually.” Disruption in routines caused by social isolation can be difficult, especially for those with developmental disabilities. Routines often bring comfort and structure, and their disruption can be hard. Webinar panelist Helen Setyoputri is a pastor from Indonesia who parents a 10-year-old son with Down Syndrome. While the loss of routine has been difficult for her family, she is quick to say that faith helps her frame the obstacles. “I talk to my son about how the God of surprises is in the midst of change, and I emphasize imaginative presence in that we can’t meet others in person but we can be united in the soul,” Setyoputri says. During times when her son feels the absence of community most keenly, she focuses on attending to and nurturing nature. Setyoputri says stigma around disability is a constant hurdle. “In Indonesia, only 30 percent of children with a disability are enrolled in school.... Disabled people are associated with sin,” she says. But in the face of stigma, the Bible provides comfort and challenges stereotypes: “I emphasize that God loves all of us.”



*Gertrude Fefoame, who is visually impaired, explains how COVID-19 affects people with disabilities in a webinar hosted by the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network.*

Like Setyoputri, the Rev. John Naude, a priest and disability activist based in the UK, told webinar attendees that Christians should turn to the Bible to address stigma. “The church really needs to look biblically rather than just at the social message that the disability movement is trying to promote,” he says. Naude points out that from the outset of the Bible in the Book of Genesis, Christians are taught that all people are created in the image of God, disabled or not. While the pandemic exacerbates vulnerabilities, it also presents opportunities for leadership. “We can see through scripture loads of times how God uses people with disabilities to bring his message. There’s

Moses with his stammering. Jacob with his limp. Paul with a thorn in his flesh.... The church needs to see what disabled people can do to serve," he says, pointing out that people with disabilities can provide leadership and support during the pandemic: "Every member of the body of Christ is needed for the church to reach its full potential."

*Your gifts through Mission & Service support webinars that EDAN hosts and other disability networking, advocacy, and education work within and beyond the United Church. 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 #556 Would You Bless Our Homes and Families SH Disc 5 #20**

Would you bless our homes and families,  
Source of life who calls us here;  
in our world of stress and tension  
teach us love that conquers fear.  
Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles,  
love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding,  
let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures,  
sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking  
and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another  
and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured,  
with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family  
every one whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer,  
may we in your love remain;  
may the love we share in families  
be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries  
of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen  
spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles  
love's expressed in many ways.

### **Benediction and Commissioning**

May God of the unexpected,  
surprise us this week,  
with blessings where we thought  
there were only burdens,  
life where we saw only death.  
Then may we be the ones who offer life,  
surprising others with our generosity. Amen.

***Wanda Winfield, Blenheim U.C., Blenheim, Ont.***