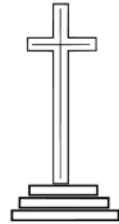


**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, August 22, 2021**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
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Port Dover, ON N0A 1N0  
Church Office: 519-583-0342**

**Email: [graceunitedportdover@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca)**

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

August 22 2021

## 13th Sunday after Pentecost

### We Gather to Worship

#### Land Acknowledgement

#### Welcome and Announcements

**Joke** – What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?

A maybe

#### Christ Candle

### Call to Worship

Come, people of God, children of the Most High, come. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander together with all malice, and be kind to one another and tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you. Come and worship. Come in fellowship. Come and love God and one another.

*George Allan, Chatham, Ont.*

### 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.

### **Opening Prayer**

Glorious and Loving God, like opening the doors of our sanctuary, we now open our hearts, minds, and souls to your guiding Spirit. Like the wind blowing and guiding a dandelion seed, we ask that your Spirit-wind guide us down the path you have chosen for us, the path laid out when we follow in the footsteps of your son, who sacrificed himself so we may have eternal life. We pray that we may always welcome your presence, not only into this time of worship but in our every moment of every day. We pray this in the name of your son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*Sally Tuffin, St. Paul's U.C., Prescott, Ont.*

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

Time for the Young at Heart – How does a map remind you of God?

### **Hymn - VU #598 When Pain of the World SH Disc 5 #16**

When pain of the world surrounds us  
with darkness and despair,  
when searching just confounds us  
with false hopes everywhere,  
when lives are starved for meaning  
and destiny is bare,  
we are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's healing flow through us.

We see with fear and trembling  
our aching world in need,  
confessing to each other  
our wastefulness and greed.

May we with steadfast caring  
the hungry children feed.  
We are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's justice flow through us.

The church is a holy vessel  
the living waters fill  
to nourish all its people,  
God's purpose to fulfill.  
May we with humble courage  
be open to God's will.  
We are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's spirit flow through us.

We praise you for our journey  
and your abundant grace,  
your saving word that guided  
a struggling human race.  
O God, with all creation,  
your future we embrace.  
We are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's changes flow through us.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

God of fresh starts and new beginnings, God of hope and promise,  
flesh and spirit entwined  
to become one with you through Jesus Christ:  
As heaven and earth connect, so, too, may we, through responding  
to your word.  
Increase our depth of understanding as we receive the words of  
scripture this day. God of eternal life, teach us to keep on the path of  
righteous living,  
which so many have travelled before. Amen.

*Roxanne Williams, Gaetz Memorial U.C., Red Deer, Alta.*

**Scripture    Psalm 84   A passionate lover   (James Taylor, Everyday Psalms)**

I love you God

**My heart races when I am in your presence;**

my blood pulses with joy when I think of you.

**You never turn anything away from you.**

You encourage swallows to nest under your eaves  
and worms to tunnel in your earth.

**Each creature plays its part in your universal symphony.**

Whatever strength we have, we get from you.

**Refreshed and renewed, we rise eager for each new day,  
and find that every road leads us to you.**

In apartment blocks and office towers,  
high-rise filing cabinets filled with despair, you comfort us;

**When narrow minds turn into cold shoulders,  
you renew us.**

When we cannot cope, you carry us.

**You see us, you know us, you look into our hearts.**

You lift us up when our knees melt with weariness;

**You hear our prayers.**

You stand beside us, even when we cannot recognize you.

**So we call on you, of God of Gods.**

Creator of the universe, hear the plea of your creation.

**Take me as your lover.**

I would rather be dirt swept before your broom  
than a polished brass plaque in anyone else's boardroom.

**An hour in your company is more stimulating  
than a day at Disneyland.**

You are like the sun that burns away the morning fog;  
**you are as fresh as the air after a spring shower;**  
deceit and deception have no part in your personality.

**You are the kind of God I want to live with.**

## **Ephesians 6:10-20 New International Version**

### **The Armor of God**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

## **John 6:56-69 New International Version**

<sup>56</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> 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. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

### **Many Disciples Desert Jesus**

<sup>60</sup> On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

<sup>61</sup> Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup> The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them."

<sup>66</sup> From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

<sup>67</sup> "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words

of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

## **Anthem Stand On The Rock SH Disc 4 #14**

### **Message**

The people of Ephesus would be quite familiar with the equipment that a soldier wears. There were lots of them around at that time. So Paul’s analogy of the armor of God would have been very easy for them to understand. The belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, and feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace... all elements of the armor of God.

The condition of the feet is very important to a soldier. It is said that the Roman army gave particular attention to the shoes of its soldiers, recognizing that they could not fight with sore feet. They also symbolize a readiness to go wherever one is needed. For the Christian, it is for the cause of peace.

While the soldier’s equipment is designed to fight physically, the armor of God is for combatting the evils that exist in the many systems in our world.

Oppressive governments, unfair labour policies, racist practices, gender inequities, religious conflict, economic polarization...we need to put on the armor of God and work to defeat these systems.

I am a white, educated, Canadian Christian. As such, I enjoy a lot of perks and privileges. About the only thing that would afford me slightly more advantage is if I were male. But I don’t think that, in Canada, it is as significant an advantage as it once was.

I often reflect upon how fortunate I am. Globally it is better, as a female, to reside in Canada than in many other countries. Nationally, I would be considered middle-class. That’s a comfortable place to be. I don’t have to worry about food or housing or transportation. I don’t have to worry about employment. While there are many in our country that have much more financial security than I, there are probably just as many, or more, that don’t have enough income to meet their basic needs of food and housing let alone enjoy any “extras”. Provincially, I live in a beautiful part of our world. I don’t have to live in the slums. I can look out and see fresh water, strong trees, picturesque gardens, abundant fields, sturdy homes. I have heat in the winter and cool in the summer.

I am also free to worship in a church of the denomination of my choosing. I am

free to express my opinion openly. I am free to further my education. Not all people in the world have it this good. Not all people in Canada have it this good. Not all people in Ontario have it this good. Not all people in Norfolk County have it this good.

It is these and other inequities that cause anger. Indeed, we should be angered. But it is what is often done with that anger that creates problems in our world. The anger begets violence. Paul calls for us to fight the evils peacefully. Peace with justice. What a wonderful world that would be.

We have seen several times in history, and are experiencing since March 2020, the results of disease that passes from one person to another just by getting close to them. A pandemic. What if it wasn't disease, but peace, that was spreading all over the world? Our screening questions could be: Have you recently become more tolerant? Are you experiencing any symptoms of anti-racism? Do you find yourself reaching out to the poor and the sick? Have you been in contact with anyone who shows signs of Christian values? Do you feel Christ living in you?

If everyone throughout the world who professes to be Christian were to live as Paul instructed, I'm sure Christianity would become contagious. But even if it didn't, there are enough of us to make the world a better place. And it starts with us. You and me. Everyone of you. When we make our world a better place, we touch others, many of whom will pay it forward. That's how we can help it spread.

One last thing about our Ephesians reading today – Paul instructs us to pray constantly. Pray for the Lord's people everywhere. He also asks the people to pray for him in his work. We need to do the same. When you hear of someone peacefully working for change, pray for them in their work. You can even write letters of support. There have been some shocking events in the last couple of years that prompted mass demonstrations. Unfortunately, mass demonstrations are usually accompanied with outbreaks of violence. Even more unfortunate is that it is the violence that gets attention and action, not the greater presence of peaceful protest. Try as I may, I have no solution to suggest for that one. Paul's seems to be the only one. Pray. When you hear of a protest, pray that it be peaceful. When you hear someone speaking for justice, pray that those in power will listen and respond favorably. People with power are not eager to give it up. In fact many will go to great lengths to hang on to it. Pray. Pray for those working for justice. Pray that the powerful will



recognize and end any injustices. Pray for yourself that you will be able to recognize injustice despite its often subtle camouflages. Pray for yourself that you will take the time to learn who “has” and who “has not” in our community and our world. Pray for yourself that you will take the interest in our history that have positioned so many of us in places of perks and privilege while forcing so many others to the margins.

And finally I ask you to pray for me that I will learn the words that will motivate those whom I meet with more power, to use that power justly. Amen.

**Hymn - VU #691 Though Ancient Walls SH Disc 5 #5**

Though ancient walls may still stand proud  
and racial strife be fact,  
though boundaries may be lines of hate,  
proclaim God's saving act!

**Walls that divide are broken down;  
Christ is our unity!  
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;  
Christ is our liberty!**

When vested power stands firm entrenched  
and breaks another's back,  
when waste and want live side by side,  
it's Gospel that we lack.

**Walls that divide are broken down;  
Christ is our unity!  
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;  
Christ is our liberty!**

The truth we seek in varied scheme,  
the life that we pursue,  
unites us in a common quest  
for self and world made new.

**Walls that divide are broken down;  
Christ is our unity!  
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;  
Christ is our liberty!**

The church divided seeks that grace,  
that newness we proclaim;  
a unity of serving love  
that lives praise to God's name!

**Walls that divide are broken down;  
Christ is our unity!  
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;  
Christ is our liberty!**

This broken world seeks lasting health  
and vital unity.  
God's people by God's Word renewed,  
cast off all slavery!

**Walls that divide are broken down;  
Christ is our unity!  
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;  
Christ is our liberty!**

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

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

Hesitant and fearful, still we offer ourselves and our gifts, O God.  
Bless the giving,  
that it may mould us as your disciples.  
Bless the gifts as tools by which you work in the world.  
Bless our call to follow in faith,  
that we may lift high Christ's love for a hurting and divided  
world. Amen.

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

#### **Minute for Mission**

##### **Millions of Latin Americans Face Extreme Poverty and Hunger**

There's no such thing as quarantine if you live in close quarters and can't feed your family.

Latin America is the new epicentre of the coronavirus. By the middle of May, its daily cases of coronavirus eclipsed both the United States and Europe.

Some countries in Latin America are harder hit than others; Brazil's COVID-19 death toll has overtaken Italy's and now exceeds 51,000.

If wild economic inequality and fledgling public health systems throughout Latin America stoked the coronavirus flame, regressive regimes in some countries are fanning it.

"In Brazil, the president [Jair Bolsonaro] continues to deny scientific evidence and ignore the advice of specialists, including his own Minister of Health," says Carlos Rauda, ACT Alliance's Regional Representative in Latin America and the Caribbean. "He tends to minimize the importance and lethality of the virus, which has led Brazil to become the second most affected country, behind the USA."



*United Church program coordinator Jim Hodgson with children in Los Altos, Bolivia  
Credit: Jim Hodgson/The United Church of Canada*

Even if public safety measures were recommended, some of the most impoverished places wouldn't be able to survive them. For example, over half of the workers in Latin America don't have stable employment. Instead, they scratch out a living doing informal work like shining shoes or selling food on the streets. Millions of people live in crowded barrios and favelas.

There's no such thing as quarantine if you live in close quarters and can't feed your family.

Since 2000, Jim Hodgson has served as the United Church's program coordinator for partnerships in Latin

America and the Caribbean. He describes the impact of gifts to Mission & Service in these hard-hit regions:

"Partners count on gifts to Mission & Service and to emergency appeals like the global appeal that we are now inviting people to support," says Hodgson, describing the impact on peoples' lives. "On the ground, our support means that people can share a meal from a cafeteria in Colombia, or drink safe water from community wells in Nicaragua, or receive a small loan to improve a family-owned small business in Guatemala. Lives can be saved because of the action of human rights defenders in Colombia or peace-makers in El Salvador," says Hodgson, who encourages Canadians who can take action to do so now.

"The COVID pandemic has forced many aid organizations around the world to make adjustments as their income from the public or government is

reduced,” he continues, adding the pandemic has caused high levels of unemployment around the world. Governments have had to shift priorities even as aid organizations warn of increased hunger in the wake of COVID. In Latin America, an estimated 83.4 million people may slide into extreme poverty and hunger this year.

“We know many families in Canada are similarly affected, but we hope that those of us who are fortunate to still have a regular income may dig a bit more deeply to share with people elsewhere,” says Hodgson.

*Reach out to the world’s most vulnerable people. [Make a gift today.](#) Your support saves lives across the globe. Thank you.*

## **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 #87 I Am the Light of the World SH Disc 2 #14**

**'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!'  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds have found  
their way home,

the work of Christmas is begun:

**'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with warmth  
and good food,  
to feel the earth below, the sky above!

**'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

To free the prisoner from all chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see God's children everywhere!

**'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

To bring hope to every task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in an old person's heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth!

**'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

### **Benediction and Commissioning**

Go now with the guidance and the grace of God.  
Let your life portray God's word in human form.

**We will show by touch and word  
devotion to God, to the earth,  
and to all life that comes to birth. Amen.**

*Robin Wardlaw, Glen Rhodes U.C., Toronto, Ont.*