

**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, August 29, 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 29 2021

14th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Joke – A couple of church announcements actually printed in bulletins:
Thursday at 5:00pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become little mothers, please see the pastor in his study.
Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Christ Candle

Call to Worship

We gather now to worship God: Kind Creator, Compassionate Friend, Ever-present Spirit.

We gather, longing to encounter God, to experience the divine presence in the singing, in the sharing, in the receiving, in the touch of a welcoming hand, in the smile on a familiar face.

God's promise is to meet us here and to go with us as we journey onward, helping us to be faithful disciples of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, here in this holy place and to the ends of the earth.

With love and gratitude, let us worship God.

Phil Hobbs, while at Frankford-Batawa P.C., Frankford, Ont.

Hymn - VU # 232 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You SH Disc 3 #7

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.

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.

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.

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.

Opening Prayer

Extravagant God, as followers of the Way,
we gather this day to celebrate your love
in our world and in our lives.

We gather this day to rejoice
with our worshipping community
the endless possibilities you dream for us.

We gather this day to experience something new
in the old, old stories.

We gather this day to simply be with you.

Open our senses, Loving God,
so that we may experience you extravagantly
and know you more deeply. Amen.

Sheryl McLeod, Admaston P.C., Admaston, Ont.

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart – How does stained glass remind you of God?

Hymn - VU #310 God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty SH Disc 2 #7

God, who touches earth with beauty,
make my heart anew;
with your Spirit recreate me
pure, and strong, and true.

Like your springs and running waters,
make me crystal pure;
like your rocks of towering grandeur,
make me strong and sure.

Like your dancing waves in sunlight,
make me glad and free;
like the straightness of the pine trees
let me upright be.

Like the arching of the heavens
lift my thoughts above;
turn my dreams to noble action,
ministries of love.

Like the birds that soar while singing,
give my heart a song;
may the music of thanksgiving
echo clear and strong.

God, who touches earth with beauty,
make my heart anew;
keep me ever by your Spirit
pure, and strong, and true.

Prayer for Illumination

Wisdom of God, come to us now as we listen to the words of scripture. These words, written so long ago, have guided your people for generations. We pray that you will enlighten us so that they can guide us too. Amen.

Scripture Psalm 45 1-17 Advice for a new adventure (James Taylor, Everyday Psalms)

You are my dearest friend;
You are the brother I never had.

I trust you
Your instincts are sound;
Your life is above reproach.

So stand tall and step out confidently.
You know what you stand for; you know what's right;
Have the courage to take a stand;
Defend your values vigorously,
Your words will penetrate to the heart of the issue;
Your actions will expose the pretenses of your critics.

Because you refused to be swayed by opinion polls,
Because you maintained your integrity,
You will find favour with both God and humans.

But beware,
The beautiful people and the media personalities
Will compete to call themselves your friends.

**Do not be seduced by their charms;
do not forget who you are.**

People in high places will flatter you;
They will ask for your advice.

How can you resist?

The wealthy will want to shower you with gifts.

How can you refuse?

The camp followers will cling to you;
With perfect teeth and plastic virtue they will try to seduce you.

How can you ignore them?

Hold tight to your principles
When you enter the world of the rich and famous,
The powerful and the ruthless.

**Keep your childlike innocence,
And all you meet will become your children;**

you will be a beloved grandfather to all.

Then you will richly deserve your reputation.

And people everywhere will recognize your wisdom.

James 1:17-27 New International Version

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what

it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 New International Version

7 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

²¹ For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit,

lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

Anthem MV #138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines SH Disc 3 #17

Message

At first reading it would seem that there is some disagreement in today's readings. We hear James saying that if you don't do what the word says, your religion is worthless. Yet, years before he had written that, Jesus had rejected the Pharisees criticism of his disciples not abiding by the tradition of washing their hands before eating, as they would have been taught. The difference is the source of the instruction. James is telling people to follow the *word*, which is Jesus. Jesus quotes the prophet, Isaiah, when he challenges the weight of human traditions. Jesus goes on to say that “Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them”. James, however, cautions people not to become polluted by the world. I stand with James on this.

Jesus lists a lot more evils than James. And he says that they come from the inside and defile a person. I ask, “How did these evil thoughts get in a person in the first place?” Think about it. Every baby that is born is a clean slate. They form thoughts and behaviors based upon what they are exposed to. What they see, what they hear, what they experience - it all becomes food for their thoughts and examples for them to follow. I heard a 7-year-old playing with some other children and she said, “pay attention, people.” She didn't come up with that on her own. She heard it somewhere. Probably her teacher. Another time I heard an 11-year-old ask a question and when she didn't get an answer right away she said, “Answer the damn question!” She didn't come up with that on her own either. She must have heard it somewhere. James is right. We can get polluted by the world.

Good and evil are both learned. We teach our children our values by what we say and what we do. If what we say and what we do are not in sync, it confuses the child. “Do as I say, not as I do.” is not an effective

tool. There is a poem by Dorothy Nolte entitled “Children Learn What They Live” that goes like this:

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

That poem is a great start on thinking about what children learn from our words and actions. In addition to the things Ms. Nolte named there are the things like greed, bigotry, deceit, violence, theft. They learn from us, and they learn from the various forms of media. We need to engage in lots of conversations with children in order to know what they are learning elsewhere so that we can correct any negative messages that they are getting. Also, if we teach them strong values they will learn how to reject the unhealthy and immoral messages themselves. So how do we decide what is healthy and what is unhealthy? It all comes back to relationships. If it hurts anybody else, it is wrong. If it is harmful to the earth, it is wrong. If it is something you would want to hide from God, it is wrong. Now I know that everything is not that black and white. But that’s the starting point in decision making. I know most of your children are already adults and even parents themselves. But remember, your grandchildren are learning from you, too. I speak from

experience. There are many good life lessons I learned from my grandmothers as I was growing up.

But, before you share, be sure to screen your own traditions. Does anyone get hurt if this does or does not happen? Who benefits? At what cost? Who or what loses? If your counsel builds healthy relationship with God, others, or the earth, give it. It is a valuable gift to give.

As Christ taught us, we, in turn, must teach others...especially the next generations. It is our part in establishing God's kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Hymn - VU #603 In Loving Partnership SH Disc 2 #17

In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.

We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.
Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love.

In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

We Respond to God's Word

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

As we have been loved, we offer love to others.

As we have been fed, we offer food to others.

As we have received your blessings beyond measure, O God, we also generously share with one another and with your world.

Bless our offerings and the ministries they support. Amen.

Minute for Mission

Refugee Camps Brace for the Virus

Palestinian refugees living in the Al Husn refugee camp, 80 km north of Amman, Jordan, are under lockdown because of COVID-19.

Forty thousand registered Palestinian refugees and 3,000 Syrian refugees live in the camp, one of six so-called “emergency” camps originally set up in 1968 for people who fled the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the 1967 Arab–Israeli war.

Today, there is one health centre with a single doctor on staff in the Al Husn camp, and nearly half of the refugees living there don’t have health insurance. Accessing food, which is always a challenge, is extremely difficult now.

The Al Husn camp, like many of the world’s largest refugee camps, is bracing for the virus. In refugee camps, overcrowding, limited access to sanitation and food, as well as already weakened health conditions means that people are more likely to get sick.



Abeer, a volunteer at the Al Husn refugee camp in Jordan, harvests vegetables for those in need.

Credit: DSPR Jordan

From the nearby Za’atari refugee camp, Mohammad Tahir, an external relations officer for the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) says he is most concerned for the children: “A large portion of the population are children, and it’s hard to make them understand the need for isolation

and extra handwashing. My real concern is that this is a very crowded environment, so if we do have cases it will be very hard to contain.”

At Al Husn, Fares Swais, the Executive Director of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) Jordan is determined to do what he can to help. “We are trying to reach people in need while we can,” he says.

In 2019, the United Church's Mission & Service helped Swais and the DSPR build two greenhouses in the camp to teach women to grow vegetables and provide food to take to market. Now, the greenhouses overflow with vegetables. "Schools, families, medical centres, and other institutions inside the camp started ordering from our kitchen, providing employment," says Swais.

While social isolation protocols shut down a lot of activity, within a week, the organization, adhering to social distancing protocols, still distributed more than 150 vegetable parcels to the poorest households inside the camp. Also, sugar, flour, and canned food from the organization's kitchen were given to those who needed it most. "This was the first response to COVID-19 in the Al Husn camp. We are very proud of our committees and volunteers, who are creative and ready to help the most vulnerable. We are going to continue to do what we can. In the weeks to come and when some normalcy is restored, we anticipate more need to relieve the poorest households in our different refugee camps," predicts Swais.

Your gifts through **Mission & Service** mean that people living in refugee camps can receive support in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic through organizations like the DSPR. 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 #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

God send you from here in the power of love.

God keep you filled with the Holy Spirit.

God build in you the reign of Christ.

Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, Ont.

The last of the.....

Outdoor Summer Services

WOODHOUSE UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, August 29 at 10am

If weather is inclement,
services will move indoors.

BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR

STANDARD COVID PROTOCOLS APPLY

