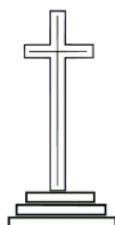


**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, August 8, 2021**



**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 8 2021

11th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Joke – A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. “How do you know what to say?” he asked. “Why, God tells me,” his father answered. “Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?”

Christ Candle

Call to Worship

When we come to this place,
what are we looking for?

When we gather together,
what do we hope to find?

Community?

Caring?

Christ?

When we come to this place,
what are we bringing?

When we gather together,
what do we hope to offer?

Our loves?

Our lives?

Ourselves?

Whatever you're looking for,
whatever you bring, know this:
this is God's home,
you are God's beloved,
and you are welcome here.

Let us worship God!

Richard Bott, Dunbar Ryerson P.C., Vancouver, B.C.

Hymn – VU #624 Give To Us Laughter SH Disc 2 #3

Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.

Why do we worry that we will lose face?
Why act like king for the whole human race?
Often in family, and often with friend,
laughing at pride causes anguish to end.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings most healing relief.
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joys of your presence among us increase.

Opening Prayer

Great and loving God,
in the beauty of this summer day
may we see your creating spirit
inviting us to share the goodness of life.
You have given us the gift of Sabbath rest
and ask us to notice your goodness all around us,
to share in the celebration of your word
creating and recreating
with each story and in each prayer.
Today may we meet you in our shared wisdom
and longing for understanding
that leads us in the Way of Christ.
Keep us from the deluge of distractions
that lead us on a wild goose chase
when we come seeking you.

Wendy MacLean, Christ U.C., Lyn, Ont.

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart – How does a bar-b-que remind you of God?

Hymn - VU #2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus SH Disc 1 #15

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Prayer for Illumination

We are listening God. Listening for your eternal Word that enlightens each generation. Today it is our turn to hear your life-giving message for us. We are listening. Amen.

Scripture Psalm 130 The pit

From the bottom of a deep black pit, God, I scream at you.

The walls rise above my head, shutting out the sun.

Can you hear me, God?

I can't get out by my own efforts.

I've tried and tried.

I climb part way out,

and then slide back again to the bottom.

Without your help, I'm sunk forever.

Don't judge me – forgive me!

Free me from my secret faults.

Give me another chance!

I shall lie down here in the depths of the pit and wait.

You are my only hope.

I shall wait for your response.

I know I will not be disappointed.

Put your hope in the Lord.

You will not be disappointed either.

God can free us from our failures,

and save us from our successes.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 New International Version

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **5** ¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 6:35, 41-51 New International Version

³⁵ 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.

⁴¹ At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

⁴³ "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. ⁴⁴ "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. 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."

Anthem Blessed Are Those Who Are Called to the Table SH Disc 1 #8

Message

I'd like to speak to the Ephesians reading this morning. It's not just talking about how we should treat *each* other; the instructions are for how we treat *all* others. Being a member of the United Church is not belonging to a social club. Nor is being Christian. It's a way of life, a way of being.

Some accept the opening line that Ephesians was a letter written by Paul to the people of Ephesus. Others dispute that and say that it was written after Paul. Whatever the case, it has very explicit instructions.

First it addresses lying. When you lie to someone you are giving them

permission to lie to you and we know that a healthy relationship cannot be built on lies.

Next, he speaks of anger. Anger is one of the four primary emotions of mad, sad, glad, and scared. It takes a concerted effort to get over anger. We must make that effort. Active anger is the source of so much pain and violence in our world. The author of this letter does not say, “Don’t get angry.” That wouldn’t be realistic. As I said, it’s one of the primary emotions. He says *don’t let the sun go down* on your anger. I think anger can kill relationships. When you are angry with someone, it is hard to carry on a conversation with them or even share space with them. Your anger comes out in your tone of voice, your word choices and your body language. And your anger hurts you as much as the other person, sometimes more. It preoccupies your thoughts. It can affect your whole day. We’re not talking about “righteous anger” here. Righteous anger is when you see something morally wrong and get angry. That can be a good thing. That anger can move you to action that makes a difference. Like the death of George Floyd for example. The continental outrage at his unnecessary death resulted in the police officer being held accountable. Or our response to the anti-Islamic groups. The murder of Muslims cannot be accepted. Yes, get angry about these types of injustices. Then do something about it. But don’t let your anger consume you. Don’t let the sun go down on it. Approach the situation with a calm and clear head. Stealing is next on the list. We all know the 8th commandment: thou shalt not steal. Again, stealing breaks down relationship.

Unwholesome talk is another no-no. How hard it is on a person to have done their best, only to hear about whatever didn’t meet another’s expectations. Instead of criticizing another, raise them up with your words. Even when you must correct someone, it can be done in a way that does not put them down. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God simply means don’t make God sad. Your words and actions should reflect the goodness of God.

This next sentence is the last of the instructions for behaviours to avoid. “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.” These are all things that eat away at you and break down relationships. If we follow the old saying of, “if you don’t have anything good to say, don’t say anything.”, that’s a beginning. But not expressing those hostile thoughts and feelings is only part of it. What are we to do with them when we get them? How do we get rid of them as the author instructs?

The first step is *wanting* to think or feel differently. So, before we pray for God to help us to feel calm, benevolent, forgiving, etc., we often have to pray for God to help us *to want* to replace the negative thoughts and feelings with positive ones. And that's easier said than done. When we have been offended, hurt, cheated, or wronged in some other way, we may feel justified in our bitterness or rage. We may want retaliation. But retaliation does nothing for the relationship. There's another old saying, "two wrongs don't make a right." No, we have to *want* to make things right. It doesn't matter whose fault the dispute was. Often it's a combination. But we need to want to restore the relationship. Then, we can ask for God's help in that part too. Sometimes a change in our own thinking and, if necessary, forgiveness in our own mind is all that's needed. If a person doesn't know that we were upset, then we don't need to mention it. We just need to get over it. However, sometimes things need to be worked out.

We must not become upset if the other person doesn't accept our overtures at first. They may need to process it. Or maybe they are not enlightened enough to realize how important reconciliation is. Non-practising Christians might never have heard this teaching. But you have heard it. And you must do your best to follow it. Then let it go. When you've done your best, that's all you can do. Don't let it preoccupy you.

Sometimes we think we are over something and then the negative thoughts surface again. Again, pray to want to forgive and forget. Remember: forgiveness does not necessarily mean that you condone something. You forgive the person. Just as in the Lord's Prayer we say, "...forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us..." Depending on the extent of your hurt or anger, you may need to forgive every day for awhile. But don't let the sun go down on your negative emotion. Put it down, at least for overnight. If you pick it up the next day, so be it. But put it down at night, praying that you will want to feel differently. Eventually you will indeed feel differently. God will be sure to help you with it.

Yes, Paul's advice was sound. And remember, he wasn't giving instruction in just how to treat other Christians. He was giving instructions in how to treat others, period. That was the way of Jesus. It must be our way too. Amen.

Hymn - VU #401 Worship The Lord SH Disc 5 #19

**Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!**

Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one!

**Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!**

Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one!

**Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!**

Called to be partners with God in creation,
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,
worship and work must be one!

**Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!**

Bringing the bread and the wine to the table,
asking that we may be led and enabled,
truly united to build new communities,

worship and work must be one!

**Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!**

We Respond to God's Word

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Let these gifts, O God, spread your wisdom
through the teachings of Jesus
and your love through the help we give
to each other, our community, and the wider world. Amen.

Karen Boivin, City View U.C., Nepean, Ont.

Minute for Mission

Arwas Story Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lCDCww8sno>

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 #438 The Day Thou Gavest, God Has Ended SH Disc 4 #18

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended;
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank thee that thy church unsleeping,

while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

Benediction and Commissioning

Return to the world in which we live,
giving thanks to God for your many blessings,
and sharing those blessings with your neighbour,
all for the love of God. Amen.

George Allan, Chatham, Ont.