

**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, January 23, 2022**



**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](mailto:graceunitedportdover@gmail.com)**

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

**Ministers: All People of the Community of Faith**

**Woodhouse Organist: Pat Tiller**

**Grace Pianist:**

**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)**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

#### **We Gather to Worship**

#### **Land Acknowledgement**

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Joke** – This is actually a true story. When there are children at a funeral, I tell them a story about “waterbugs and dragonflies”. In the telling of it, I move my arms up and down. When the funeral is in the church, I wear my gown. One father shared with me after the service that his son told him that he liked the story that the wizard told.

#### **The Bible is Opened and Christ Candle Lit**

#### **Call to Worship**

We are gathered together, because we want to worship God,  
**to give thanks to God for God’s presence in good and bad times,**

to confess to God those moments we have been unfaithful,  
**to listen for God’s word in our lives and our life together,**

to lift up those concerns close to our hearts.

**We are gathered together to be the Body of Christ.**

May God find a welcome home among us.

***Frances Flook, Emo/Devlin P.C., Emo, Ont.***

#### **Hymn – VU #402 We Are One**

We are one as we come,  
as we come, joyful to be here,  
in the praise on our lips  
there's a sense that God is near.  
We are one as we sing,  
as we seek, we are found;  
and we come needful of God's grace  
as we meet, together in this place.

We are one as we share,  
as we share brokenness and fear,  
in the touch of a hand  
there's a sense that God is here.

We are one as we care,  
as we heal, we are healed;  
and we share warmth in God's embrace  
as we pray together in this place.

We are one as we feast,  
as we feast, peace becomes the sign;  
in the bread and the wine  
there's a sense of love divine.

We are one as we come,  
as we feed, we are fed;  
and we feel God's refreshing grace  
as we meet at table in this place.

We are one as we hear,  
as we hear, heart and hand unite;  
in the word we receive  
there's a sense that God is light.

We are one as we leave,  
as we love, we are loved;  
and we seek justice in God's ways  
as we move together from this place.

### **Opening Prayer**

Holding in our hearts Christians throughout the world, we offer this prayer:

Gracious God, as fear tightens its grip on some, while others ignore all advice about caring for one another, as we fight an enemy that we cannot always recognize, open us to the needs

of others, even when, especially when, those others have a different way of life, a different creed, or different politics. Help us to understand the whole world as the community you ask us to love. May we receive the help we need from your Spirit to overcome barriers and embrace a common humanity for the healing of your beloved world. Amen.

*Beth W Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask.*

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

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

#### **Hymn - VU #315 Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

## Prayer for Illumination

Prepare our hearts, O Lord, to accept your word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Scripture:

#### Psalm 19

"The heavens declare the glory of God,  
**and the firmament showeth his handiwork..."**

The whole earth is God's textbook.

From the edges of the atmosphere to the core of the planet,  
the wonders of the world expand our understanding.

**Rocks have no words, nor do cells have syllables,  
yet their messages can be read anywhere.**

Even the fiery stars, racing through space,  
yield their secrets to those whose minds  
are open to the mysteries of God's universe.

An underlying harmony,

**A delicate equilibrium built on the value of every thing,**

Binds together past, present, and future.

**There are no exceptions.**

No one is above the universal law of interdependence.

**Nothing stands alone.**

Life dies and becomes new life.

**Spirit and flesh are one.**

My life is inextricably linked to yours.

**And our common survival is tied to the trees and insects.**

This is the beginning of wisdom.

**It is better than wealth, more valuable than possessions.**

Awareness of it will change you forever.

**But we are too often deaf;**

We close our ears to the voices of the winds and waves,

**To the insights of the rocks and the plants.**

God keep us from thinking we know it all –

An assembly of facts does not equal truth.

Human minds cannot encompass eternity.

**Keep us always open to wonder, to beauty, and to mystery,  
oh greatest of mysteries.**

## **1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

### **Unity and Diversity in the Body**

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all

apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

### **Luke 4:14-21**

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

<sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

### **Message**

Hymn VU #602 **Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind  
is like to that above.

Before our Maker's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,  
each other's burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

This glorious hope revives  
our courage on the way;  
that we shall live in perfect love  
in God's eternal day.

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

#### **Offering**

#### **Chorus – VU# 549 For All Your Goodness God**

For all your goodness, God, we give you thanks.  
Thanks for the food we eat, and for the friends we meet;  
for each new day we greet, we give you thanks.

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

Creator God, accept these gifts with our love and gratitude for  
all you give us. Guided by your Spirit, may we do your will to  
further the work of Jesus, that of compassion and justice in our  
world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Carol Frost, Minnedosa U.C., Minnedosa, Man.*

#### **Minute for Mission—Three Hours in Prison**

Last summer before COVID, I spent three memorable hours in prison. I  
had not been arrested.

That July morning, colleagues from one of our partners,  
the KARAPATAN alliance in the Philippines, picked me up at my hotel  
for a two-hour drive out of Quezon city. With our Mission and Service  
partners the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and the  
National Council of Churches in the Philippines, the United Church has  
long been engaged in human rights advocacy in the country and in  
mitigating the effects of mining, especially on the Indigenous  
peoples of the mineral-rich Mindanao region.

The driver stopped to pick up a mother with her son, daughter-in-law,



and two grandchildren, who were also heading in the same direction. When we reached our destination, rigorous security checks required each of us to present two government-issued identity documents, and we were screened for metals. After an hour, we were admitted to a faded green building with high walls—where we went through the same process all over again. Another hour later we were allowed inside.

To my shock, the daughter-in-law of the woman we gave a ride to was not allowed to enter even after being cleared through the first security entrance. It broke my heart because the young woman and her 8- and 10-year-old children had come to visit her husband, their father, who is one of the political prisoners. The name of the political

prisoner is Eddie Cruz and there has been an international campaign for his and other prisoners' release(opens in a new tab).



When the prisoners heard that the family of Eddie Cruz were not allowed access, two of their leaders went to plead with the security guards. After a 40-minute negotiation, they allowed the 10-year-old boy to come

in, but not his sister and his mother. The young woman could not see her husband; the daughter could not see her dad. He had been away from home for five years, and they had managed to see him only three times.

As an international visitor from a church organization, I was allowed to go right up to the fourth floor, which was reserved for political prisoners. I went to visit 15 of the 400 political prisoners being held by

the government of the Philippines. Their only crime: political dissent. In order to justify their long detentions without trial, they have all been charged with non-bailable offences. The charges sounded like a litany as each prisoner took turns to introduce themselves: illegal possession of firearms and explosives, kidnapping, murder, kidnapping with intent to murder, arson with rebellion and incitement.

They are considered high-risk criminals and held in a facility with illegal drug lords, actual terrorists from Abu Sayyaf. After protesting that they should not be lumped together with actual high-risk prisoners, the political prisoners were given their own cell. I listened to their stories. Almost all of them were first kidnapped by the police and kept blindfolded, beaten, and driven far away from their home towns. They said as an ice breaker they had a special song to present accompanied by guitar. They sung for me in Tagalog. "You can arrest and confine my body, but you will not arrest my spirit and ideas of justice. Freedom and justice will one day reign."

These political prisoners range from opposition grassroots organizers, peasant farmers, human rights activists, and ordinary rural farmers who were members of peasants' land rights movement. Though the experience was draining, toward the end of my visit their positive energy inspired me to continue my contributions toward peace and the struggle for justice in the world.

While in prison many political prisoners spend their time doing handicrafts, including beadwork and painting. The prison is congested. Most of the prisoners face health challenges such as managing diabetes and high blood pressure. One woman had died recently of hypertension. Only one doctor is available for about seven thousand detainees.

Prisoners are not brought to court because of being termed as high-risk detainees. There is a very slow pace of justice; many detainees spend years before they are charged and before they would appear before a judge. Some has been detained so far away from their homes that it is very difficult for their family members to visit them.

I was presented with the gifts of a beaded rose and pen holder. I was told a pen was one of the most important items in prison, as prisoners use one to write down their thoughts. They found that exercise

cathartic; it helped release their frustration and anger.

Through the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada, our partners are providing legal aid and support to the families of these prisoners. I offered to pray with them before leaving, and oh, what joy at the suggestion of a prayer. You should have heard a strong and resounding amen at the end. They sang again, our bodies may be broken but our spirits will not be broken. Their message to the world: pray for us and join the campaign for our release as political prisoners.

—Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu is The United Church of Canada's Program Coordinator for Southern Africa and South East Asia.

## **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 #567 Will You Come and Follow Me**

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go

where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

### **Blessing and Sending Forth**

May the God of all directions, the God of day and night, be with you today and for all time. Go out now to do the will of the Creator, in the Way of the Son, with the constant presence of the Great Spirit. Amen.

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

### **Closing of Bible and Extinguishing of Candle**

#### **Go Now In Peace**

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do

Go now in love, and show you believe; Reach out to others, so all the world can see

God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

Amen, Amen, Amen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We acknowledge our Creator and the world around us and our place within it. We acknowledge the many nations who call this land home. We acknowledge the Indigenous and non-Indigenous brothers and sisters who walked this land in the past and those who walk it today, this, the traditional and treaty lands of the Anishinaabek (Ahnish-in-nah-bek), Neutral, and Haudenosaunee (Ho-deh-no-show-nee) peoples.

### Let's Celebrate



#### Pastoral Charge Birthdays



**Peggy Reddy      January 23**

**Diana Mackenzie      January 28**

### Woodhouse United Church

Resumes in-person Worship Services

January 30, 2022

Watch the website for updates for Grace United Church

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank you to those who have continued regular donations via mail or Canada Helps.**



### **We need your continued support**

In this difficult time, we do really need to have some help with our ongoing costs and we realize that times are tough for people and not all of us can afford to donate. However, if you do have the desire and capacity, we would really like to encourage you to make regular donations.

### **Here are 4 ways to make a donation:**

Your offering can be mailed to our address on the front of the bulletin. Please make a cheque out to either Woodhouse United Church or Grace United Church and note your envelope number. You can also mail Woodhouse cheques to Paul Malcomson, 65 Crestlynn Crescent, Simcoe, N3Y 4Y4

If you wish to donate cash to Grace, please call the Treasurer, Brian Jamieson at (519) 583-2216. To donate cash to Woodhouse please call the Treasurer, Paul Malcomson at (519) 428-2827.

Joining the Pre-Approved Remittance Plan (PAR) at Grace is very simple, and we would welcome anyone who wishes to join. Please contact Marilyn Dixon at (519) 429-3971 if you wish to join PAR or want to revise your current level of contributions.

Go to our homepage and click the "Donate Online" button. Please indicate Grace or Woodhouse in the comment section. An immediate receipt will be issued by Canadahelps.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OFFICE IS OPERATING REMOTELY**

Office Hours Monday-Thursday

9:00 am-11:30 am

Feel free to call and leave a message or send an email at any time and we will respond during office hours.

519-583-0342

graceunitedportdover@gmail.com

**For Pastoral Care, please contact**

**Rev. Kathryn Vance**

**519-717-7426**

**kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca**

### **Announcement reminder**

Please submit announcements by end of day Tuesday for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. Thank you!

### ***Stewardship Seconds***

**January 23, Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Each of us brings different gifts to God's service. All are blessings from God; all are necessary.