

**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, January 2, 2022**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
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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)

January 2 2022

2nd Sunday after Christmas

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Joke – Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, “Don’t be scared, you’ll get your quilt.” Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning’s Sunday school lesson was about. He said, “Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming.”

The Bible is Opened and Christ Candle Lit

Call to Worship

A new day, a new week, the beginning of a new year, and we have come to worship.

May hearts be open to all the wonders God would have us experience, in this time and when we go out from this place to serve in the world.

Come, let us worship God.

Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont..

Hymn – VU #81 **As With Gladness Men of Old**

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore your splendour see.

As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger bed,
 there to bend the knee before
 Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with eager pace
ever seek your throne of grace.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger crude and bare,
 so may we with holy joy,
 pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
 and, when earthly things are past,
 bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
none shall need created light;
 you its light, its joy, its crown,
 you its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
hallelujah to our King.

Opening Prayer

Be with us, God, as we set out on the journey of a new year.
Like those who have travelled through uncharted territories in
the past, give us the courage to face new challenges. Like those
who have known the uncertainty of what lies ahead, give us the

confidence to know that you are there to guide us. Like those who have assumed they had all of the answers even before the questions were asked, give us the humility to be surprised by your presence and open to being upheld by your people everywhere.

(a time of silent reflection)

Give us the strength we need, the sensitivity others need from us, and the wisdom to respond in ways that nurture all of creation. This we pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Bill Steadman, Goulais River U.C., Goulais River, Ont.

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart – How does New Year's Day remind you of God?

Hymn - VU #296 This Is God's Wondrous World

This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
 all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.

This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
 of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
 the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
 in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world:

O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Prayer for Illumination

O Love Incarnate, Word of Truth, be with us all as we meditate on
your word for us today.
Help us to receive it, and live it out in our lives.
In the name of the radiant Christ child, we pray. Amen.

Phyllis Flemming, Grace U.C., Thornbury, Ont.

Scripture: Psalm 147:12-20

God does things differently,

**By the wisdom of this world,
an unborn child has no value.**

It has no name; it is not yet a person.

**Yet while it is still in the womb,
it somersaults with joy.**

It's mother's eyes shine with hope;

her breasts swell in preparation for the milk of life.

To the mother, the unborn child within matters
more than any international agreement.

She wraps it in her own body.

God carries us in her womb.

With her own lifeblood, God feeds us.

Like mother preparing a nursery for her newborn,
God readies the earth to receive us.

Winter gives way to spring;

frozen hearts thaw;

tightly buttoned spirits open to warmth.

That is God's way:

out of darkness comes light;

out of ice, water;

out of pain and struggle, new life.

That is how God gives birth.

Others may not recognize this mystery.

But to us God has revealed the miracle.

Our cry of weakness is a cry of triumph;

our thirst invites us to lie close to the heart of God
and drink our fill.

God does things differently. Thank God.

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ This is what the LORD says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations.
Make your praises heard, and say, ‘LORD, save your people, the
remnant of Israel.’

⁸ See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them
from the ends of the earth.

Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and
women in labor; a great throng will return.

⁹ They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back.
I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they
will not stumble,
because I am Israel’s father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

¹⁰ “Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant
coastlands:

‘He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock
like a shepherd.’

¹¹ For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of
those stronger than they.

¹² They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;
they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—

the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and
herds.

They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more.

¹³ Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as
well.

I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and
joy instead of sorrow.

¹⁴ I will satisfy the priests with abundance,
and my people will be filled with my bounty,” declares the LORD.

John 1:10-18

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Anthem

Message

The law was given through Moses.

Most of the 613 laws in the Old Testament are found in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) so most of them are from Moses. All sorts of laws about what you must do and what you are not to do. The people viewed these laws strictly. They believed that if you broke any, you must provide a "sin offering" to appease God. Their understanding of human relationship with God was all about abiding by the laws. God was about laws.

Then along came Jesus... the Word made flesh. God was "the Word". Now God came to the people as a human being. Jesus was about God's grace and truth. Those who would listen and believe learned so much about God. They learned that God was about so much more than laws. The truth is that God desires loving relationships that incorporate compassion, forgiveness, kindness, justice, humbleness.

I suspect that in the Jewish faith, some of those laws have been repealed over the centuries. I know that that is the case in the Christian tradition. For example, 1 Corinthians 14, verse 34, says “Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says.”

or 1 Timothy 2 verses 9 and 10 “I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.” Those two were from the Bible but there are innumerable “laws” that different denominations have instituted in the last two millennium and then repealed many. Remember the days when we were not allowed to do ANY work on Sunday? Jesus didn’t say this. In fact he argued against the critics of his disciples who picked grain to eat on the sabbath. But even though the bible does not say that Jesus “forbade” working on Sundays, most of the Christian community made that a rule. I can remember my grandmother even preparing most of the Sunday dinner on Saturday. For most denominations, it is no longer an issue. People are encouraged to take Sabbath time, but it no longer must be on Sunday.

All sorts of “laws” or “rules” exist judging who is or is not a good Christian. Most of them have to do with sex or money. The United Church would not ordain people “regardless of sexual orientation” until 1988. Some denominations insist on tithing. I think that, gradually, these arbitrary rules are being corrected. I know that in the United Church they are. We have developed a practice of looking at things with the question, “Who is being excluded here?” I don’t think that there are any denominations who haven’t had past practices of exclusion. Some still do. But one or two hundred years is nothing in God’s time and so, hopefully, those who still close their doors to some will ultimately open them. When I read the words of Jesus, that’s the message I receive anyway.

Grace and truth through Jesus Christ. That's what John says. How wonderful it is to know that God's grace is available to everyone. We don't have to earn it or buy it with sacrifices. All we have to do to feel it is believe. And the truth is that God has only two laws: love God with all our being and love our neighbours as ourselves.

Yes, we need to have all sorts of laws to live together as a harmonious community. For example, I doubt that when Jesus lived there was any need for speed limits or the many other rules of the road. Nor would they have needed emission control laws. No best before or contents labels on food. No minimum wage. No telecommunication laws. Theirs was a different society with a need for their own set of rules. And I'm sure that they had some that were ridiculous just as we have. How do God's two laws include man's laws? If you think about our laws and respect the ones that exist to protect the well-being of all, it is loving your neighbour.

Moses' 613 laws may have been good for his time but, as we just celebrated last week, God came in the person of Jesus and we were given the greatest laws. Laws of love. With Jesus, we also received grace and truth.

During the coming season of Epiphany may the Spirit shine a light for us to see just who Jesus was and is in the history of our world and how we are called to follow him in ways of love and justice. Amen.

Hymn MV #161 **I Have Called You By Your Name**

I have called you by your name, you are mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;

read it written in my people, help them grow.

Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,

offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;

feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.

Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,

hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;

I have given you my Spirit as a sign.

With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;

go and tell my precious people they are mine.

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

We do this every Sunday, Gracious God: ask for your blessing for what we give.

As we begin this new year, open us to lean more fully into your blessing, a blessing not just for what we offer back to you but a blessing that permeates the entirety of our souls, our living.

Such a blessing is powerful, life changing, transformative.

As we are blessed, so may we bless.

May the Spirit's power motivate us to follow the Way of Jesus in all we do. Blessed in our following, may we transform the world.

Amen.

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

Minute for Mission

Taking to the Streets to Deliver Meals & Care

"If COVID continues, where will we eat?"

This question tops the list of questions that Grant McKenzie, the communication director at Our Place Society, is fielding these days. Thanks to your gifts through Mission & Service, the answer continues to be "Right here."

At Our Place in Victoria, BC, three square meals are delivered each day, rain or shine. The chefs are coming up with creative, one-bowl meal options and are taking to the streets themselves to ensure people don't go hungry. Custodial teams are doubling efforts to keep the shelter safe. Paramedics have been added to the outreach team and are offering much-needed medical care. Sleeping bags and emergency supplies are being distributed to those who need them most.

This is just one example of how, by giving through **Mission & Service**, you are sharing the light of Christ with those who are most vulnerable in Canada and around the world.

As the pandemic continues, more and more people need our help. In 2019, a quarter of the global population experienced hunger or did not have access to nutritious food. Think about that: That's one in four people! And now the UN predicts that, because of the pandemic, that number could rise by 12–19 percent.

Your Mission & Service gifts support people who rely on foodbanks, shelters, and emergency relief at home and abroad. Now, more than ever, those of us who have enough to share need to do what we can to help. "In this strange and difficult time, my heart breaks with sorrow at the vulnerable people struggling to survive with yet another obstacle in their path, but my heart also swells with pride at the people who are stepping up to help," says McKenzie.

By giving through **Mission & Service**, you are stepping up to help. *If you already give to Mission & Service, please know that your care is making a difference coast to coast to coast and around the world when it is needed most. If you haven't given, please make a gift through our shared **Mission & Service** this Christmas.*

Thank you for shining Christ's light through Mission & Service this Christmas!

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 #684 **Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,

and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Blessing and Sending Forth

May the coming year be one of increased riches of grace—
experiencing God's voice more clearly,
knowing God's heart more deeply,
resting in God's love more fully,
trusting God's care more completely,
following God's pathway more peacefully,
understanding God's presence more intimately,
blessed by God's goodness more abundantly. Amen.

Carman McClelland, North Bramalea U.C., Brampton, 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

Gloria D'hondt **January 3**

Gordon Blake **January 5**

Jim Tiller Jr **January 6**

Joanne Gamble **January 7**

Pamela McEwen **January 8**

“ Attention Port Dover Grace United Church and Woodhouse United Church. It's that time again to update the Church directory! Members of both Churches please start taking pictures of events happening in your Churches over the next few months. As soon as it is safe to move forward we will be getting in touch with everyone about photo times.”

Thank you and Blessings
Marg Walker and Lisa Jo Malcomson

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 OPEN

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 2, Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Let God's grace and gifts flow freely: from God to us,
from us to others.