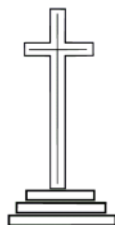


**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, July 11, 2021**



**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](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)**

## 7th Sunday after Pentecost

### We Gather to Worship

#### Land Acknowledgement

#### Welcome and Announcements

**Reader**     **Lisa Jo Malcomson**

**Joke** – You can be sure that America is no longer a Christian nation when the children ask their parents why all those churches have plus signs on top of them...and their parents don't know!

#### Christ Candle

#### Call to Worship

If you are carrying the stresses and strains of living in a complex world, if you feel at times like God has abandoned you,  
find the heartbeat of God in our gathering within divine mystery.

If you are puzzled by the choices your neighbours or family members make, if you are wondering how to make your own choices with so many options,  
come and discover the voice of Christ speaking to our hearts of wholeness.

Come to commune with God within us, God beyond us, and God among us, reaching into restorative relationship with the Holy One in prayer:

Powerful Spirit, who breathes us into freedom and insight, guide us on the Way of Jesus that we find zeal for faithfulness; enflame our trust in you that we become proclaimers of good news; and strengthen us for the challenge of your call and the price of loving.

We come to worship.

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

## **Hymn – MV #156 Dance With the Spirit SH Disc 1 #18**

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
move with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

## **Opening Prayer**

Creating, Loving God,  
in Christ, you show us a way to heal and to shape a new day,  
and you entrust us with the gifts of faith:  
forgiveness, compassion, trust, and love.  
In the changing seasons, in the changing world,  
your love is constant.  
May our witness and prayer sustain and support goodness,  
justice, and peace  
in our worship and work,  
enough for this day and for all the generations who follow us.  
Amen.

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

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

**Time for the Young at Heart** – How does a bowl of sugar make you think of God?

## Hymn - VU #559 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing SH Disc 1 #14

Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing  
call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God,  
came to rescue me from danger,  
precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt  
or daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known:  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,  
seal it for your very own.

### Prayer for Illumination

Wisdom of God, we turn to scripture to feed and inform our faith. We listen and sometimes we don't understand what you are saying to us. But other times you speak clearly, giving us a message for our time in this world. You give us guidance, helping us to live out the faith that we proclaim. Grant that we may hear your word for us now. Amen.

**Scripture Psalm 24 James Taylor, Everyday Psalms  
Earth-rise**

Turning and turning, our pale globe  
burns bright in the blackness of eternity.

The Earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it –  
all life embodied in thee only home we know.

God created life in the oceans,  
and nourishes it with nutrients from the mountains.

Trace the course of a river to its source;  
stand among the mountains and marvel.

Who would dare defile this paradise?

God sees through our deceit and pretense;  
we cannot claim innocence when we have dirty hands.

We can only approach God with clean hands and pure hearts.  
Then we will see a smile on the face of God;  
then God's wisdom will be evident in the world.

So seek the Lord in high and holy places.

Let the vast valleys throw open their arms,  
let the summits stand tall in pride,  
for this is the body of our God!

With all the glory of the universe to choose from,  
with all of creation quivering in expectation,  
the Lord of life picked this planet as home.

So throw open your valleys, oh earth!  
Spread wide your plains to welcome the Lord!  
For the Lord of all creation lives here.

**Ephesians 1:3-14 New International Version  
Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has  
blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in

Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

### **Mark 6:14-29 New International Version**

#### **John the Baptist Beheaded**

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard about this, for Jesus’ name had become well known. Some were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.”

<sup>15</sup> Others said, “He is Elijah.”

And still others claimed, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago.”

<sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard this, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!”

<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, whom he had married. <sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” <sup>19</sup> So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, <sup>20</sup> because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

<sup>21</sup> Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, “Ask me for anything you want, and I’ll give it to you.” <sup>23</sup> And he promised her with an oath, “Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.”

<sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?”  
“The head of John the Baptist,” she answered.

<sup>25</sup> At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

<sup>26</sup> The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> On hearing of this, John’s disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

## **Anthem Yvonne and Earl Morris**

### **Message**

Our gospel reading takes place right after Mark has told us about Jesus sending out his 12 disciples to teach and to heal (the scripture we heard last week). Herod wasn't Jewish, but he had already had experiences with one that he considered a Jewish holy man, John the Baptist. We heard today how he went against his own judgement and had John executed. Now there was this other man, this Jesus fellow, that people were saying was a prophet, or Elijah, or even John the Baptist come back to life. How troublesome that must have been for him. To have on his conscience what he knew was an unjust act and now he must have felt haunted by it.

John had made a profound impression on Herod.

I have some questions and some sample answers.

Who or what in your faith journey has made a profound impression on you?

Perhaps it was a Sunday School teacher or your Confirmation classes, maybe one of the ministers over the years, maybe times of prayer.

When I was 13 we had an old Metro truck that kept breaking down and one day my mom had to use it to get some pigs to auction so we would have money for groceries. It was before seatbelts, so I was sitting on the engine cover and I prayed the whole trip there for God to keep that truck running. Well, we made it. The truck did not break down. I genuinely believed that God had answered my prayer. A couple of months later I was hanging some clothes on the line and there was something else that I wanted God to help with. But I realized that I hadn't thanked him for the last time. So I started my prayer with, "Thanks for keeping the truck running..." My faith has matured and my theology has changed over the years, so I'm probably inclined to agree with those who would call it a coincidence, but to the 13-year-old in me, that was God caring enough about us to make sure we got to the auction on time.



Maybe, like Herod, you just sensed God's presence at some time.

When did you feel God's presence in the midst of joy or sorrow?

In 2010 I was feeling very sad about something and I went to 5 Oaks for a couple of days to pray and reflect. I was walking the labyrinth and God sang to me. "Here I am; I have never left you. Take my hand; let me be your guide. Have no fear; I'm always with you. I'll never leave your side." God gave me the strength that I needed.

What have been the challenges, the times when you questioned your faith? What brought you through?

I never questioned the existence of God but there were some times when I was younger that I questioned if God really cared. I believe that it was going back to church that got me through. That assurance each week that God does really care. The stories of Jesus and his concern for the oppressed.

How does your faith bring you fulfillment in life?

This I can't articulate. I suppose in some ways it helps that I was away from church for a few years when I was younger. It gives me something to compare to. The feeling is so different.

If it weren't for the Covid restrictions, I would invite you to turn to the person next to you and tell them about a special moment in your faith journey. But some of those who are watching the service on YouTube are watching it alone as are some who get the printed copy and those who are attending the service at Woodhouse are having to sit too far apart. So I invite you to do some reflecting on it. Too often we just take it all for granted and forget those special moments. Maybe, if you are one who journals, you could write about a special moment or about some of the questions.

Let us pray: God, we thank you for revealing your love to us through Jesus Christ. Thank you for always being with us. Thank you for your grace. Amen.

## **Hymn - VU #296 This Is God's Wondrous World SH Disc 5 #2**

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!

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

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

God of all people and God of all places, we present these offerings, that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries, that each of us may be a part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.

**Ronald Black**, Northminster Memorial U.C., Flin Flon, Man.

## **Minute for Mission**

Turning Hard Work into Hope Every Day: Margaret's Story (Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01bV5fYgFDQ>

Your Generosity Matters

## **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 #602 Blest Be the Tie That Binds SH Disc 1 #9**

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.

## **Benediction and Commissioning**

God loves you. God provides for you.

God-in-Three-Persons knows you.

May the love of our Creator, the Holy Spirit, and the risen Christ, be with you now, all week, and in all ways. Go in peace, faith, and love. Amen.

***Sandra Litt, St. James U.C., Waterdown, Ont.***