

**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, July 18, 2021**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
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Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Frank Walker, OM

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Office Hours 9:00 am – 11:30 am (Mon. – Thurs)

July 18 2021

8th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Joke – Man hit with a golf ball: “I’ll sue you for 5 thousand dollars!”

Other golfer: “I said ‘fore’!”

Injured man: “I’ll take it!”

Christ Candle

Memorial Candle Lighting

Max William	Chambers	July	28	2020
Dorothy Marie	Fess	July	5	2016
Robert	Gallagher	July	7	2016
Jesse Jordan Michael	Luton	July	21	2016
Rebecca Maureen	McGee	July	30	2019
Mary Jane	Mummery	July	17	2016
Kenneth Allan	Simpson	July	18	2018
Betsy	Soles	July	27	2016

Although death has separated us physically,
faith and love have bound us eternally.

Though we cannot see you,
we know you are here.

Though we cannot touch you,
we feel the warmth of your smile
as we continue our own journeys.

As you were, you will always be,
treasured forever in our memory.

Call to Worship

Come, all, to this house of worship.

We come as members of God's household, to this house that has been built upon the foundation of the Indigenous Peoples of this territory,* the early Settlers, and our ancestors in family and faith.

With Christ as our cornerstone, this is our home.

Let us worship God.

Catherine Tovell, Kilworth U.C., London, Ont.

Hymn – VU #395 Come In, Come In and Sit Down SH Disc 1 #12

**Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.**

You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family.

**Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.**

God is with us in this place,
like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family.

**Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.**

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family.

**Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.**

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family.

**Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.**

Opening Prayer

Eternal One, we give thanks for past time,
**and for all that others have accomplished
in faithfulness to your call;**

for present time,
**and all that leads to lives
of dignity, meaning, and joy here;**

for future time,
**and all that calls us to confess
the sins of the past and work for reconciliation.**

Loving and Faithful Life-Giver, help us to sow seeds of joy and
meaning,
**and may there be good ground
in which your love can grow.**

Help us to recognize the seeds of goodness others are sowing,
**and to work alongside them
as the realm of justice spreads.**

Help us to be seeds of change and fertile soil
for the advent of your Spirit,

bringing about a world of warm and lasting welcome,
shared humanity,

sustainable visions of our common life, and solidarity as strong
as oak. Amen.

Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, Ont.

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart – How does a golf cart remind you of God?

Hymn - VU #603 In Loving Partnership We Come 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.

Prayer for Illumination

As we listen to the words passed down to us from our ancient ancestors,
O God, help us to hear what you are saying to us this day. Amen.

Scripture Psalm 89:20-37 Passing on the torch

"I have chosen my successor," says God
"I have chosen you.

You will take my place.

For years, I have taught you my vision;
now I want you to take it forward into the future.

“To avoid being controlled by bureaucrats,
to protect yourself against fast-talking promoters
and bottom-line economists,

you must ask yourself what I would do.

By keeping me always in mind,
our reputations will both grow.

What I have started, you will continue;
through you, my influence will spread.

I have been your launching pad –
Now it’s up to you to carry on.

I want to be proud of you.

As long as you pursue my vision, you will prosper.

“But if you wander off my way,

**if you lust after competitive advantage
and chase after quick profits,**

if you sell out to other gods and other goals,
then you will destroy yourself.

You will lose all credibility;

you will go ethically bankrupt.

“Even so, I will never turn against you.

I have taken you into my family;

you are a member of my household.

I have promised it; I do not lie”

Ephesians 2:11-22 New International Version

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

¹¹Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—

¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Mark 6:30-34 New International Version

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³ But

many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴ As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵ They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Anthem VU #556 Would You Bless Our Homes and Families SH Disc 5 #20

Message

Words are so interesting. Homonyms especially tweak my interest because you often have to read a bit beyond the word to know which meaning it has. Included in homonyms are homographs, words that are spelled the same and sound the same but have totally different meanings. Words like band and band, right and right, ring and ring. Then there's words that have different meanings added over time. Words like cool and bad. And then there are words that have different meanings in different contexts. For example, I was invited to dinner shortly after moving to Newfoundland. I called my host about 11:30 in the morning because I wasn't sure if I should arrive closer to 5 or to 6. She told me that I could come over right then. I had moved from Ontario where dinner was the evening meal to a context where dinner was the noon meal. And my brother-in-law from England has many words that mean something different to me. Things like when he's talking about a bonnet and a boot, he's referring to his car. Me, I'm

talking about a hat and footwear.

Then there are metaphors. They require a little more thought.

Paul said that his audience was no longer foreigners and strangers, but members of God's 'household'. Did the word, household, have a broader meaning there and then than it does here and now? Or was he speaking metaphorically? We have certainly heard the word 'household' a lot in the last 16 months or so. It has been used as part of the Covid-19 restrictions to very clearly mean those living under one roof. Living under one roof. That's most often family. Well, the family part fits...we talk about being the family of God...brothers and sisters in Christ.

Even in a family living under one roof, there are differences...different ways of dressing, different likes and dislikes, different interests, different opinions, different habits. But despite all these differences, they remain a family. And so it should be in the family of God. Differences must be accepted as part of the normal family dynamics.

In most households there are rules and usually a sharing of responsibilities. And so it is within the family of God. We have our rules: the 10 commandments and Jesus' additions on love and justice. We also have our responsibilities. Jesus was very clear about that and so was Paul. We are to share the Good News of Christ. We are to care for those who are unable to care for themselves, especially the children, the elderly, and the poor. We are to dedicate a portion of our time, talent, and treasure to God. That can take many forms. It is often easiest to do it through the activities and ministries of the church but many volunteer for other needed charities as well. So whether your skill is administration or some form of physical work, some of it needs to be offered. And, naturally, our church council or board is hopeful that you will offer it to or through the church. The same is true of time. As you offer your talent, you are giving of your time. Also, the time you spend in worship, praying, bible study, reading and researching global situations that need a Christian response...these are all ways that you are giving your time to the head of our household – God. And, of course, most of God's work requires funding. We each have

responsibility to offer money to support that work.

Back to the concept of household. I've mentioned that we are the family...the family of God. I've acknowledged that, like all families, we have our differences. I've covered the fact that households have rules and responsibilities that all are expected to abide. And so do we. But what about the part of the definition of household that says *living under one roof*? What are the characteristics of a roof?

Well, it must cover the whole household, offering each and every member shelter at all times. We might say it is the sun because we need the sun to live. Ahhh, but too much sun is harmful to all forms of life. We might say it is the moon because it keeps us in balance and offers some protection. But the moon cannot share itself with everyone at the same time.

I suggest that the one roof that the household of God lives under *is* God. God is accessible to every member 24/7. He covers us all. And God provides us shelter from the evils of the world. That's not to say evil won't happen. Sadly, it does. But the sheltering love of God keeps that evil from breaking our souls or breaking our resistance to temptation. The sheltering love of God helps us stay strong in the face of criticism. The sheltering love of God helps us to identify weaknesses in our structure. The sheltering love of God helps us survive the storms of life.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention another thing about households. Human households sometimes succumb to dysfunction. Conflicting personalities, an imbalance of responsibilities, selfish or self-centred behaviour are major ones that the members of the household are unable or unwilling to resolve. Those behaviours can be just as toxic for the church. We are called, as members of the household of God, to work together lovingly to correct things that break down relationships or impede the work of Christ locally or globally.

Words...again I say they are so interesting. And the bible has a variety of styles of putting them together. Analogies, metaphors, parables,

historical, anecdotal, and sometimes downright overly-wordy (or so it seems). Whatever you want to call the form that Paul used in his letter to the Ephesians, he was telling us that, because of Jesus, we must all be anti-racist and live in peace together under the shelter of God's love.

Amen.

Hymn - VU #606 *In Christ There Is No East or West* SH Disc 2 #16

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

We Respond to God's Word

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Holy Spirit,

we give thanks for all the blessings that have come our way.

We give thanks for blessings poured out and for the love that we have received. May these our gifts be a blessing for many and a love offering for all. Amen.

Jim McKean, Orillia, Ont.

Minute for Mission

Racial Justice

George Floyd died on May 25, 2020, after a police officer based in Minneapolis pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for over eight minutes. The footage of the brutal murder went viral, igniting racial tensions and deeply held grief.

In response, Michael Blair, Executive Minister for Church in Mission in the General Council Office, wrote from his heart about his experience as a black man on his personal Facebook page. This is an excerpt:

I need you to know that George Floyd's cry, "I can't breathe," is a daily reality for many of us black folks. It is important, yes, to be angry at the physical violence of a knee to the neck. And know that your silence at the systemic and unending racism that black folks experience daily is in itself an act of the knee to the neck...

I can't breathe, when you leave it to me to name the racism that is in your face yet you keep silent...

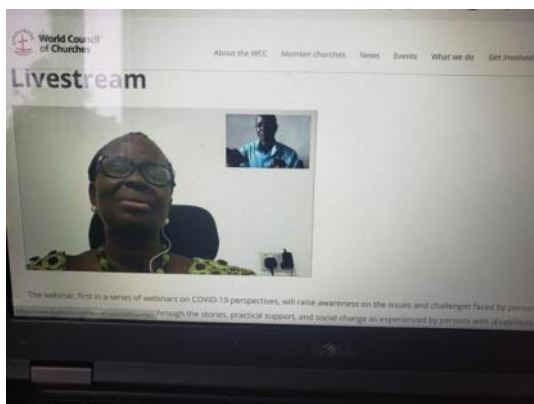
When you take the system as a given, and don't question assumptions or the way things are, and are silent...you leave me gasping and fighting for air...

I can't breathe when you want me to represent and you do not ask why there are so few people like me around...and you keep silent...

At the end of his post, Blair challenges readers: "If you are serious about taking steps to name anti-black racism and racial violence (not just the physical) then your starting point is a commitment to stay silent no more..."

Speaking up hinges on awareness.

In 2000, after the United Church formally adopted its anti-racism policy statement, That All May Be One, the denomination began to offer racial justice training; since 2006 the training has been mandatory for all United Church ministry personnel.



For over a decade, your gifts to Mission & Service have supported these racial justice workshops and training sessions. But the racial justice training now hosted by United In Learning isn't just for ministry personnel.

"The training is open to anyone. It helps us work through racial differences and have conversation about racial justice. It's \$45 per session, \$40 if you pay online," says Emo Yango, one of the United Church's program coordinators. Yango says that the death of George Floyd has provoked him to speak up. "I'm not of African descent but I feel I need to amplify the voice of African descent peoples. The pain that I hear is so much about the silence of their allies," says Yango.

In the days following Floyd's death, Yango helped draft a joint ecumenical letter signed by leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada, and The United Church of Canada in response to anti-Black racism. The letter acknowledges the reality of institutional racism, including within the church, and calls for its eradication. Practically, it advises readers to prayerfully consider joining public expressions of solidarity, and to read books and other materials on Black history and the reality of White privilege, among other things.

Moderator Richard Bott encourages United Church members to delve into the topic of racism both individually and through church structures. "If we don't look at this issue and realize we are part of the problem, we can't be part of the solution. This is the work of White members of the church, and the time has come to commit ourselves to this work, for everyone's sake," says Bott.

Your gifts through Mission & Service raise awareness by supporting crucial racial justice training. Consider taking the training and make a gift to transform lives through Mission & Service.

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 - MV #145 Draw the Circle Wide SH Disc 1 #20

**Draw the circle wide, Draw it wider still. Let this be our song,
no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms.

**Draw the circle wide, Draw it wider still. Let this be our song,
no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.

**Draw the circle wide, Draw it wider still. Let this be our song,
no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.

**Draw the circle wide, Draw it wider still. Let this be our song,
no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

Benediction and Commissioning

God blesses us in so many ways.

As God's beloved, we know God's love,
we follow Christ's way, and we are sustained by the Holy Spirit's
persistence.

Now go into the world extravagantly scattering God's seeds of
love. Amen.

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