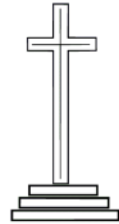


**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, July 25, 2021**



**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)**

July 25 2021

## 9th Sunday after Pentecost

### We Gather to Worship

#### Land Acknowledgement

#### Welcome and Announcements

**Joke** – The light turned yellow, just in front of him.

He did the right thing and stopped at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman behind him was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer.

The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door.

She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, giving the guy in front of you the finger and cursing at him.

I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' licence plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally ..... I assumed you had stolen the car."

#### Christ Candle

#### Call to Worship

The long, beautiful days of summer beckon us to worship.

**In the beauty of this day, we gather to praise God and unite our hearts in prayer.**

Draw close to the words of eternal life.

**In faith, we proclaim, "Christ is the Holy One of God."**

In faith, let us worship God.

*Laura Turnbull, Penticton, B.C.*

## **Hymn – VU #173 Thine Is the Glory SH Disc 5 #1**

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting.

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

## **Opening Prayer**

Holy One, in your heart, there is room for all  
and a welcome that is deep, wide, and rich.  
You join us together in your love.  
You feed us with teachings  
of kindness, respect, and justice.  
You heal us and make us whole.  
As we gather today,  
we give thanks  
that these gifts of welcome and warmth await us.  
We would fill ourselves with these gifts  
that we might take them and share them  
with everyone we meet.

Bless us in this time together,  
and send us out to be a blessing.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Bob Root & Co., Peterborough, Ont.*

### We Listen for God's Word

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

### Hymn - VU #382 Breathe On Me, Breath of God SH Disc 1 #10

Breathe on me, breath of God:  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine,  
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.  
Breathe on me, breath of God:  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Compassionate One, open our hearts, our lives, and our senses to  
revelations both old and new, for we are seeking newness in the  
message that is as old as you. Amen.

*Jim McKean, St. Paul's U.C., Orillia, Ont.*

**Scripture Psalm 14 The gamble of faith**

Only fools say, "There is no God."

**They only fool themselves.**

Their actions reveal their delusion;

**whatever they do turns out badly.**

There is a God, who knows what they are doing.

**God loves those who seek justice, show mercy,  
and walk humbly with their maker.**

But those who turn their backs on God will lose their way;

**they stumble over their own shadows.**

Can't they see what fools they're making of themselves?

**They crunch down people's dreams like popcorn;**

they grow fat on others' famine.

**They deny the reality of God.**

When they discover their error,

they will dissolve into putrid puddles.

**They have challenged God and they cannot win.**

But we must trust our God;

**we have nothing else to rely on.**

God, save us from those who prey upon us.

**Topple the proud from their pedestals,  
and let us trust each other again.**

Then all your people will be glad.

**Ephesians 3:14-21 New International Version**

**A Prayer for the Ephesians**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,

according to his power that is at work within us,<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

## **John 6:1-21 New International Version**

### **Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

**6** Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias),<sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick.<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples.<sup>4</sup> The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"<sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

<sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,<sup>9</sup> "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).<sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

<sup>12</sup> When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."<sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

<sup>14</sup> After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."<sup>15</sup> Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

### **Jesus Walks on the Water**

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,<sup>17</sup> where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them.<sup>18</sup> A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.<sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened.<sup>20</sup> But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."<sup>21</sup> Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

## **Anthem Leaning on the Everlasting Arms SH Disc 3 #9**

### **Message**

There's a lot of power talked about in today's scripture: Jesus using his power to feed 5,000 men (and presumably any women and children who were there) with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish; Jesus walking on water; Paul talks about power through the Spirit.

I invite you to resist getting hung up on the mechanics of the miracles Jesus performed. It's not like trying to figure out how a magician performs his tricks. The miracles we hear about from the gospel writers are shared with us to relate a deeper meaning. So the number of loaves and fishes are not the point. What John is telling us is that if we share what we have, even if it doesn't seem like much, it can be instrumental in achieving a miracle. Take food banks for example. When John van Hengel started the first food bank in the mid-1960's, I'm sure he had no idea that, by 2020, 40 million people in 44 countries, would benefit from his initial outreach project. 34% of that 40,000,000 are children.

When Millard and Linda Fuller helped build their first partnership house in Georgia in 1969, I'm sure they didn't imagine that by 2013 Habitat for Humanity would operate in over 70 countries and have built, rehabilitated or repaired over 800,000 homes.

Food and shelter. The two primary needs that people have. I think that, with small beginnings and big faith, these two organizations used their power to perform miracles. They have followed Jesus' example of sharing what modest resources they had. By encouraging others to do so as well those in need of food and affordable housing have support and hope.

There have been and are lots of people who use their power for good. There are several stories on the internet of ordinary people who managed to accomplish extraordinary deeds – miracles. And, of course, there are those that never become famous. Famous or not, those, I believe, are ones who use their power through the Spirit that Paul wrote about: "power, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,"

Then there are those who use their power for evil or selfish acts – con artists, dictators, racist leaders, oppressive authoritarians, etc. Paul prays for them "to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that [they] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Somewhere between these two groups are those who are apathetic. They try

not to see the needs around them and, when they do, they are disinterested or convince themselves that it's not their problem or that they can't make a difference anyway and on and on. They are wrong. They, too, are included in Paul's prayer "to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that [they] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

I believe that the secret to "all the fullness of God" is first fruits. When budgeting your time or money, put God first and do not shortchange Him. If you have budgeted time for worship, for prayer, for participation in church or organization that serves the needs of others, don't skip it for what might seem like a better offer. Make that time and energy non-negotiable. The same with your money. When you prepare your budget, decide the minimum you are going to give to the church and/or other charities. Then stick to it. If something unforeseen comes up, adjust other expenses, not your commitment to God's work. I assure you, you cannot outgive God. Like the disciples in the boat, you must have faith.

I've mentioned people you probably don't know so I'd like to offer two examples of people you probably *do* know – Elva Broker and John Wells. I haven't lived in the area long enough to know everything they were involved in but I think I knew them well enough to say that they were "first fruits" Christians. Elva was very involved with the church and UCW and the Hospital and its nursing home in Simcoe. She gave tirelessly of her time. She also offered of her treasure to the church, other charities, and even individuals in need. Those of you who knew her, know that her giving did not impede her lifestyle at all. And when I think of Elva, I think of her smile. She really seemed to have joy in her life. She used her power to make a difference and, in return, experienced the width, length, height, and depth of Christ's love.

The same for John Wells. He offered his time and talent and his treasure, not for his own renown, but to serve the community, using his power to address the needs of others. He attended church faithfully even in the latter stages of his cancer. John's commitment, like Elva's, did not compromise his family or secular life.

So, for anyone who's worried that committing to God first will, in some way, detract from a joy-filled life, I assure you, it will not. Your faith will get you through the storms and you will land safely on the other side. As I said, you cannot outgive God. The more you fulfill your time and treasure commitments, in other words the more you use your power for God's work, the more you will feel God's presence in your life. It doesn't get better than that.

One last time I want to quote Paul's prayer: <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious



riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Amen.

**Hymn - VU #703 In the Bulb There Is a Flower SH Disc 2 #18**

In the bulb there is a flower,  
    in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
    butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
    there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
    something God alone can see.  
There's a song in every silence,  
    seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness,  
    bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
    what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
    something God alone can see.  
In our end is our beginning;  
    in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
    in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
    at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
    something God alone can see.

## We Respond to God's Word

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

Lord, you have called us to join you as co-workers and co-heirs of the kingdom. We take this opportunity to demonstrate our allegiance to you.

We proclaim you Lord of All. You are Lord of our families, our finances, and our future.

May we give our gifts with a heart of thanksgiving.

We dedicate these gifts to ensuring the kingdom of God brings hope and healing to our world. Amen.

*Tabitha Carey, Dorchester U.C., Dorchester, Ont.*

### **Minute for Mission**

#### **Coronavirus Hits Women the Hardest**

The only break from physical and verbal abuse Jane\* usually gets is when her husband leaves home at 7 a.m. for work. Each morning Jane is relieved when the door closes behind him, and in the afternoon she shores herself up for his return. Now, under lockdown, what Jane describes as “torment” is never-ending.

“I would count down the minutes until he left,” she says. “Now, he’s here all the time. I constantly walk on eggshells. I honestly don’t know how much longer I can take it.”

Jane isn’t alone.

Under lockdown, women around the world are forced to stay in unsafe homes with abusive partners or parents.



*Credit: Ulrike Mai from Pixabay*

Closures of social service agencies means that services for survivors of gender-based violence are harder to access. In some parts of the world, violence against women is perpetrated by security agencies enforcing lockdowns. In a recently published statement, “Gender, Faith and COVID-19” ACT Alliance, a coalition of 135 churches and church organizations across the

world that includes The United Church of Canada, says women and girls are the hardest hit by the virus. The organization calls on all governments to assess the gender-based impact of the pandemic so they can develop strategies to respond.

The role of women in caregiving is one of the many serious issues ACT raises. Across the globe, the majority of healthcare workers and caregivers are women, making them most susceptible to COVID-19.

“The ‘domestic’ workforce, where women make up 70%, are more likely to be part of the frontline response. We advocate to our governments for coordinated responses that are sensitive to the needs of women and girls, where unpaid caregivers and community health workers are provided with adequate training, equipment, and livelihood support to respond effectively and keep themselves and their families safe,” the report reads. “She-cession” is the new term for the gender-based economic downturn precipitated by the virus. In many cases, the pandemic intensifies existing problems.

In a blog post, “**Gendered Impacts of Coronavirus**” the Canadian Women’s Foundation reports that, in Canada, women carry more unpaid housework and caregiving responsibilities than men, including child and elder care. With school closures, women have to take on even more caregiving. Since women in general already earn less than men and are more likely to have part-time or precarious jobs, the current work interruptions have a greater impact on them.

Aware of the global impact of the COVID-19 virus on women, ACT Alliance encourages governments to not only respond to the immediate needs of women and girls but also to plan for the future: “Governments must plan and resource [their] response for the long term as the impacts will continue long after we have tackled the virus.”

Your gifts through [Mission & Service](#) provide much-needed advocacy and support through coalitions like ACT Alliance. Thank you!

*\*Jane’s name has been changed to protect her identity.*

**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 #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!**

- 1 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!**

Now in response to the life you are giving,  
help us, O Father, to offer our living,  
seeking a just and a healing society,  
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!**

### **Benediction and Commissioning**

In the midst of a world filled with clamour and boasting, may our faithful presence be for others a quiet moment filled with the love of God that reveals the good news of the kingdom of God to those who are searching for hope.  
Amen.

*Sandy Ferguson, Strathearn U.C., Edmonton, Alta.*