

**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, June 13, 2021**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
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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

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

June 13, 2021

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Joke – (This joke is really for our church treasurers.)

A former treasurer of Harvard once told me that he had two golden rules for managing the Harvard portfolio:

Never consult the economics department.

Never consult the business school.

Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Welcome to all who have joined us at Woodhouse and Grace by livestream. We are delighted to be able to worship with you and stay connected in this way. For together, we are the church!

What we sing and say and pray is very important to our relationship with God. Our Triune God is here, among us, within us, between us.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to enter into God's presence.

Marie McNally, Shiloh-Inwood U.C., Inwood, Ont.

Hymn – VU #222 Come, Let Us Sing SH Disc 1 #13

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.

Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.

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 ice cream make you think of
God?*

Hymn - VU #357 Tell Me the Stories of Jesus SH Disc 4 #17

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee!
And how the Master, ready and kind,
chided the billows and hushed the wind.

Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas! Jesus is king!

Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;
and of the cross where my Saviour for me was slain.
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

Prayer for Illumination

Living God,
as we listen to these old, old texts, inspired by you,
may we listen with inquisitive minds and compassionate
hearts.

May your words of wisdom speak to us in unexpected ways
and unexpected places in our lives in today's world. May your
wisdom move, illuminate, deepen, inspire, and motivate us to
act in your world, of which we are part. Amen.

Sheryl McLeod, Admaston, Ont.

Scripture Psalm 20 For a child leaving home

God bless you, my child.

As you set out into the world, God go with you;
every step of every day, God watch over you.

When you're feeling low, may God send you
a shoulder to cry upon,
a friendly hand to help you up.

When you're feeling good,
may your laughter echo in the heavens.
Whatever you do, may it be acceptable in God's sight.

May God hear the deepest yearnings of your heart
and help those buds of hope blossom into reality.

May the word we hear of you always be good.

Then we will know

that you knew God while you were growing up,
and that God still belongs in your new life.

May you remember how to pray,

for God will not desert those who stay in touch.

Some of your new friends will put their faith in money,

others in power, and some in fast cars.

Put your faith only in the Lord our God.

Those who put their faith in false gods will stumble and fall.

But you will not be afraid of the light;

you can stand straight and tall.

Lord, into your hands we commit our child.

Take her under your wing,

for our sakes, and for yours.

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

The Ministry of Reconciliation

¹¹Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹²We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.

Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

Mark 4:26-34

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Anthem There Is Your Heart SH Disc 4 #20

Message

Jesus and his parables! He didn’t often tell people what to do. He told them parables and they would have to think about them, looking for his meaning. The two parables today use seeds as examples. Given that he was speaking to a primarily agrarian audience, it’s reasonable to expect that they would be able to form a mental image of his example. They had the experience of planting the seed and, when it has grown and matured, harvesting the produce. So, what was his point? And the mustard seed? What point was he making with that?

The first thing is that it is God that makes things happen. We may plant the seed but it is God, not us, who transforms the seed into a plant. It is God who makes it grow. It is God who brings it to maturity, providing

the food we need.

The same for the mustard seed. It is God who works to turn that little seed into a large bush. A mustard seed bush, or tree as it is sometimes called, grows about 10 feet in its first season. It continues to grow to about 20 feet and can be as wide as it is tall. Quite an accomplishment from a tiny seed.

So, as I said, it is God who performs these miracles, not us.

The next point that is being made is that we must have patience. We have to wait for God to do what God is going to do. If you drive on the roads out of town you will notice that the fields have been planted.

Now it's up to God. We can watch as plants grow but the farmers have to wait for harvest time. We have to wait to buy the produce in its season.

And the same goes for the kingdom of God. We pray in the Lord's prayer each week, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We plant seeds of God's love and Christ's message, but we have to wait for God to make those seeds grow. And waiting is not something we are particularly good at. Some might say, "We've already waited 2,000 years for the Parousia (second coming of Christ, end of the world). When is it going to happen?", but I don't think 2,000 years is long in God's time. We need to just keep planting seeds.

Hope is another thing that can be gleaned from these parables. When seeds were sown, all that could be done was to hope God would send enough rain and sun for them to grow. It is easy for Christian workers to get discouraged because they can't see any immediate results from their work. But your work is planting seeds. God will take it from there. The mustard seed is a good lesson in potential. You never know when the smallest word or action can grow into something big. That can work both ways...positive or negative. So let's sow positive seeds. A couple of examples from the past 50 years...

Terry Fox, a Christian, started his run on April 12, 1980 to raise awareness and money for cancer research. Do you think he had any idea that 41 years later Canadians would still be running to continue his mission?

The seeds of Church Out Serving were planted in 2008. They

have grown and presently have 8 projects on the go to address the needs of Family Matters, Building Community, and Overcoming Poverty in the Simcoe and surrounding area. They work with 16 organizations plus churches to offer relief for these areas of need.

The first Food Bank was established in Canada in 1987. There are now more than 500 of them.

Your idea, though, does not need to be something big like these; it can be a very small word, deed, or program. God may make it grow. You just never know ahead of time.

Another thing about seeds is that they must die to one way of being in order to live in another way. That was true of Jesus as well. That was another clue in the parable of the seeds. He would die and rise again. This could be said of our world. Greed, abuse of power, discrimination in all its forms, poverty, violence... our world must die to these things for it to be raised as the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is here. Just as the seed becomes a small plant, there are many places where God's will spreads and is growing, such as those examples I gave you before. But just as the transformation of the seed happens in secret, so does the growth of the kingdom. We can't see God moving in the hearts of others; we just see the fruits of their living. Some things only last a season...until harvest. Others continue to grow, year after year. We plant the seeds. God makes them grow.

I know that sometimes it's discouraging. We think that our efforts really didn't make a difference. But the same thing could be said about Jesus' ministry. For 3 years he and his disciples travelled around preaching, teaching, and healing. And yet society didn't change, there was no mass repentance, and no mass movement to his ways. Remember how few people were there for his trial and crucifixion. And yet, after his resurrection, the church grew and grew.

I can't emphasize enough that it is God that makes change happen. Not us. But God uses us as helpers. God needs us to sow the seeds; God causes the transformation. We water and weed the garden; God creates the beautiful flowers.

I leave you with this question: What seeds could we be planting?

Hymn - MV #150 Spirit God, Be Our Breath SH Disc 4 #13

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...

Spirit God, be our song.

Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.

Comfort us. When we know you are near

we grow more certain, our vision is clear.

Patient God, calm our fear.

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.

Reaching out, joining hands as we share,

we seek your guidance through friendship and care.

Loving God, be our prayer.

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...

Spirit God, be our song.

We Respond to God's Word

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Ever-giving God, you lavish us with great abundance. Grace, comfort, and eternal life are priceless gifts. Empower us to herald that truth in word and action. May these offerings be only a small part of our commitment to your way of extravagant sharing.

Bless all they represent, as you sanctify us in your love. Amen.

Laura Turnbull, Penticton, B.C.

Minute for Mission

Rainbow Camp® provides campers with a safe space to be who they are without judgment.

Chris Southin was lounging in front of the television and Harry Stewart was in the kitchen when they got the call from the Governor General's office. Over the phone, the couple learned they had won an award from the Governor General recognizing "great Canadians for exceptional deeds that bring honour to our country." They received the honour for co-founding Rainbow Camp®, based in northern Ontario. Since 2012, the

camp has welcomed young people of all sexual identities.

“It was unbelievable. We didn’t even know we were nominated,” says Stewart. “We will receive the award in person when the pandemic lifts. I guess I’ll need to buy a suit,” he laughs.

From the beginning, Mission & Service has supported Welcome Friend Association, which runs Rainbow Camp®.

“Initially, we wanted to bridge the local LGBTQ community with area churches. We started the association, and then we launched the camp. We had no idea what we were doing at the time. Only one person on the board had camp experience, but we knew that young people would benefit,” says Southin.

Originally a one-week camp with 14 youths, Rainbow Camp® now serves up to 50 youth each week for four weeks. Expansion plans are in the works; over the next couple of years, Rainbow Camp® will pilot on the east and west coasts. “We’ve had an invitation to duplicate the Rainbow Camp® experience in Australia and in the UK too. It’s exciting!” says Stewart.

Above all, Rainbow Camp® provides campers with a safe space to be who they are without judgment.

“I’ll never forget our first year of camp. It was the second full day. A camper told us his mom had found a dress in his closet. He lied to her and said that it belonged to his girlfriend. He had brought the dress to camp and said he would like to wear it. High heels and sand don’t mix!” Stewart explains, laughing: “But the warmth, love, and compassion that the camper received from everyone at camp was amazing. We tell all of our staff ‘Your job is to make sure that each and every camper has the best possible time at Rainbow Camp®.’”

Southin and Stewart say they want the camp experience to be memorable, fun, soul-searching, and supportive. “We don’t want any camper to feel afraid to be who they are. I think that’s why so many now call it their home.”

Your generosity through Mission & Service supports safe, welcoming spaces like Rainbow Camp®. Thank you!

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 #820 Make a Joyful Noise SH Disc 3 #15

Make a Joyful noise all the earth.

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song.

Know that your God has made you.

Know it's to God we belong.

And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.

Worship your God with a song!

Make a Joyful noise all the earth.

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song.

Enter these gates, thanksgiving.

Enter these courts with praise.

Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.

Worship your God with a song!

**Make a Joyful noise all the earth.
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song.**

Ages through endless ages,
Seasons of endless years,
The love of our maker shall ever endure.
Worship your God with a song

**Make a Joyful noise all the earth.
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song.**

Benediction and Commissioning

Let us go from here, strengthened in our inner being by the Spirit of our living God; through this power, may we bring the message of God's kingdom to all we meet.

Fern Gibbard, for Okanagan Falls U.C., Okanagan Falls, B.C.