

**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, June 6, 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)

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Joke – A man awakened in the hospital after an operation. It was dark in the room, all the curtains and blinds were drawn. “Nurse! Nurse!” shouted the man, “why is it so dark in here? I want to see outside.” “Now, now, sir, be patient,” she replied. “I drew the curtains because there’s a terrible fire in the building next door and I didn’t want you to think the operation was a failure.”

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.**

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Come into this electronically connected space—
from couch or office, from comfy recliners or favourite rocking
chairs, from kitchens or bedrooms. The risen Christ welcomes us
all.

**We come as we are—unshaven or well coifed,
dressed up or in jammies, eating brunch or brushing teeth.
Though separated by distance, we come as one.
Come to worship across the distance but united in faith.
We come to listen, to sing, to pray, and to rejoice.**

Come, then, as we join in prayer with our loving God:
**Loving God, as we worship together, may you forge among us
deeper relationships in creative ways, may you journey with
us as we learn to connect through technology, may you
breathe into our souls the hope of your good news, may you
teach us to thrive while staying home. Show us that your
might resides in our all, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

We Listen for God's Word

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

Hymn - VU #218 We Praise You, O God SH Disc 5 #10

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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 P.C., Admaston, Ont.

Scripture Psalm 138 Humble and lowly

This is your home, your turf, your territory.

I am so glad to be here

that I kiss the earth you walk on.

I fling myself into the dust,

the floor of your dwelling.

I extend my arms to embrace your earth.

But you lift me up from my lowly position.

You take me up as your guest.

You make me one of your family;

you even give me your name!

You take me under your wing.

When I cry out, you cover me;

I benefit from your strength.

Foxes may lord it over the chicken coop,

and squirrels over the sparrow's nest,

but no creatures challenge the eagle's rule.

As the eagle soars above the fieldmice,

so do you, Lord, rise above us mortals.

Daily duties keep us scurrying close to the earth.

But you watch over us from on high;

you can see danger long before it draws near.

Troubles grow around us like tall grass

but in the shadow of your outspread pinions,

predators scatter like minnows.

You watch over me,

because you have a place for me in your plans.

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

¹³ It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also

raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Awaiting the New Body

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Mark 3:20-35

Jesus Accused by His Family and by Teachers of the Law

²⁰ Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

²² And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

²³ So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

³⁰ He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

³¹ Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

³³ "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here

are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Anthem Just a Closer Walk With Thee SH Disc 3 #8

Message

We heard Peter read in the gospel verse 21 that his family said, "He is out of his mind." In verse 22 he says that the teachers of the law said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul!"

So here, in our gospel, Jesus is *healing* people and his family and the teachers say he's out of his mind and demonic. We have "faith healers" in our world today. I was asked recently if I believed one of them could actually heal. I confessed my skepticism but acknowledged that, just because it hadn't been my experience, it doesn't mean that it can't be true. I'm not alone in my skepticism. If you google "faith healers", you'll find I'm not alone in my skepticism. But Jesus' healing was different. He was not being paid for his healings and the disciples were not pre-screening those that came to only allow ones with certain diseases to access Jesus. But *our* skepticism is about whether or not these people **have** the power to heal, not what or **who the source** of such power is. For Jesus, it was the source of power that was being challenged. The teachers would not accept that Jesus was empowered with the Holy Spirit. And so they called his power satanic. However Jesus silences them with sound logic. If the source of the illnesses were Satan, why would Satan then give Jesus the power to cure them? That would be like Satan working against himself. As for whether or not the Holy Spirit works healing powers through the laying on of hands by so-called faith healers in today's world, I acknowledge that I do not have the experience or the expertise to affirm or discredit that phenomenon.

What about Jesus' family's assertion that he's out of his mind? We hear similar accusations today when someone converts to a faith tradition.

Perhaps an adult who has never gone to church finds Jesus and his or her family, if they are not practicing Christians, make fun of him or her. They even criticize and try to get the person to abandon the faith that they have found. So often that happens, doesn't it? ...what isn't understood is criticized.

Jesus' family would have heard the stories of Jesus ministry. This family that he grew up with. This family that probably couldn't understand what was going on any more than their friends and neighbours. So they went to get him. Maybe even to feed him since the crowd had prevented he and his disciples from being able to eat. They got there and, of course, they couldn't get into the house.

When he was told that his mother and brothers were there, Jesus' response? Here is my family. For any of you who are criticized for your faith...you're in good company. We are brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

There's a saying that goes, "you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family." Oh, but you *can* choose your church family. We have our brothers and sisters at Woodhouse and Grace. But, just like biological families, we have an extended family. We are part of the United Church of Canada. And actually, joining us in worship during this pandemic, are our brothers and sisters from Merritts and Sinclairville and even a sister in Newfoundland. Then there are all those Christians in other denominations. I sort of think of them as cousins.

Just like in biological families, we won't always agree with each other but, as brothers and sisters of Jesus, we must find ways to work together to do God's will. And just like in biological families where an ancestor may have done something terribly wrong, we, too, can be affected by the words or actions of our Christian family ancestors. A prime example is the Indian Residential School system. 130 schools were set up by Christians and churches ran them for the government. But the stories we hear do not sound like events that would have been exercises of God's will. Especially things like the recent discovery of the bodies of 215 children at the school near Kamloops. That school closed

in 1969 and the bodies are just now being discovered 52 years later. How do we respond to those kinds of atrocities? I think as a church and as a country we need to pray for divine guidance to help us and the indigenous peoples get through this and to heal. Reconciliation with our First Nations peoples needs to happen. That, though, is only one step of many. The residential school system was only one of the ways racism has manifest itself in our country and our world. We must remember that we are all God's children and look for opportunities to challenge racist words and actions.

Let's go back to Jesus' words: "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." Hmm, he didn't say "whoever goes to synagogue faithfully". He didn't say "whoever can recite the torah." He didn't say "whoever lives by the law." He said, "whoever does the will of God." As brothers and sisters of Christ, we need to be always discerning God's will. Will we make mistakes? Of course. Will we miss opportunities? Of course. We are, after all, human. No one is 100% good and no one is 100% bad. If we make a mistake, we turn to God for guidance to fix it. If we become aware of an injustice, we are to do whatever we can to right the wrong. And we count on our Christian brothers and sisters to do the same.

Finally, you may ask, "What is the will of God?" In the words of the prophet, Micah, in chapter 6, verse 8, "to seek justice, and love kindness (some translations say mercy), and walk humbly with God." In the words of Kathryn Vance it is "to do what keeps you in right relationship with God, each other, and creation." Creation, of course, includes all of humankind. I believe that's what it's like to live in the kingdom of heaven, to be a brother or sister of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn - MV #178 Who Is My Mother SH Disc 5 #18

Who is my mother, who is my brother?

All those who gather round Jesus Christ:

Spirit blown people born from the gospel

sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Differently abled, differently labelled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.

Love will relate us colour or status
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings
all are accepted round Jesus Christ.

Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

We Respond to God's Word

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Take what we offer this morning, O God:

Take our caring for our neighbours from a distance; take our
phone calls, texts, and social media greetings with our families;
take our action of staying home and physical distancing; take all
we offer this morning in word, in action, and in donation,
blessing us and our giving in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Minute for Mission

Keeping up Morale in Recovery

Cleaning. Disinfecting. Social Distancing. Protocols if someone falls ill.
Online 12-step meetings. Overnight, the normal flow of life has
changed at the [Jellinek Society's \(opens in a new tab\)](#) Recovery House in
Edmonton, a Mission & Service-supported 17-bed residence for men in
the early stages of the addiction recovery process. Ed Fox, Jellinek
Society's Executive Director, is more concerned about those struggling
with addiction living outside the residence than those living under its

roof.

“The guys who live here are in a safe place with lots of support. They know they are good. Morale is good. It’s the guys living outside of here who drop in for support and meetings that I’m most concerned



about; the guys who are out of a job, depressed, and feel that life is going to go down the tubes. These guys would come here for meetings and support and can’t now,” says Fox, adding that he is trying to keep in contact with them.

Fox predicts that COVID-19 is going to escalate

alcoholism, drug abuse, and domestic abuse. He expresses mixed feelings about the government’s decision to name liquor stores an essential service, although he thinks that is the right decision.

“I realize that alcohol brings on certain negative behaviours.

However, I don’t want to see guys have to dry out when the family is at home. There’s harm reduction in that decision. On the other side of the coin, there’s going to be more of a negative impact because when addicts are bored, they use more. I think we are going to see a spike in overdoses and deaths.”

Still, Fox says it’s important to be positive. He encourages the men living in the house and those on the outside to find aspects of life to be grateful for.

“I’ve been attending 12-step meetings for 30 years. I’ll be 60 in July. I’ve seen a lot in that time. I sound like a broken record with the guys, but we need to focus on gratitude and the promises. Many of us have been through worse. I tell them that we’ll get through this. We’ll lean on each other. We’ll come out stronger.”

Your gifts through Mission & Service mean that those struggling with addictions get the support they need when they need it most through recovery centres like the Jellinek Society. 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 #605 Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold SH Disc 3

Jesus, teacher, brave and bold,
let us serve you, young and old.
Let us faith-filled workers be,
all around, your wisdom see.
Let us play and dance and sing,
your goodness find in everything.

Jesus, friend, so strong and true,
show us good, brave work to do.
Show us those who need a friend,
all things broken help us mend.
Free our minds and stretch our care,
teach us to serve you everywhere.

Benediction and Commissioning

Go forth today bathed in the warmth of the love of God and aware of the relationship God wants to have with you. In the days ahead, may you be blessed with worship, joy, and connection, and find time each day to rest at the feet of Jesus. Amen.