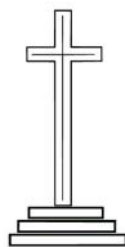


**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, May 16, 2021**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
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Port Dover, ON N0A 1N0
Church Office: 519-583-0342**

Email: 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

Pastoral Charge Minister: Rev. Kathryn Vance, DM

Cell: 519-717-7426 or kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca

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

May 16 2021

7th Sunday of Easter

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Reader – Lisa Jo Malcomson

Next week communion

Joke

God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
The most valuable antiques are old friends.
Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the year.
Man’s ears are not made to shut, but his mouth is.

Memorial Candle Lighting

Robert	Anstee	May	10	2016
Deborah Muriel	Bennett	May	25	2017
John Robert "Jack"	Dosser	May	2	2018
John Harry	Hankforth	May	14	2020
William Edward	Innes	May	27	2017
Robin Lynn	Pilgrim	May	6	2016
Faye	Tisdale	May	11	2017

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

Call to Worship

We gather in our new way.

Some with paper, others with computers.

Though this way is new, our purpose is time-honoured.

We gather to worship our Creator God.

Our worship will not be diminished by the challenges of Covid.

Nothing can curb our enthusiasm for our loving God.

Then let us worship now.

Hymn – VU #574 Come, Let Us Sing SH Disc 1 #13

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

Opening Prayer

Gracious and Holy God, greater than our most exalted conception of you and yet nearer and more intimate than our very breath, we thank you for this day and for the happy news of Easter which we continue to celebrate today and whose songs of joy we make our own.

Help us to know you for ourselves, and in those times when you seem most elusive, help us to trust the testimony of those whose knowledge of you far exceeds our own.

Keep us growing even in times of doubt, keep us hopeful especially when despair knocks at our door, and grant us the courage to follow the risen Christ, wherever he might lead us, whenever he might call to us. In his name, we pray. Amen.

Foster Freed, Trinity U.C., Nanaimo, B.C.

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart –

How does your favorite mug make you think of God?

Hymn – MV #157 I Am a Child of God SH Disc 2 #13

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.

I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,

I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.

I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,

I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.

I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,

I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,

I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

Prayer for Illumination

We turn to scripture for guidance, O God. Shine your light upon our readings today and help us learn their meaning for us in our time and place. Amen.

Scripture Psalm 1 The source of happiness

Happiness can't be captured.

**Like a wild bird or a bouncing ball,
it is always just beyond your grasp.**

It is not found in fads or fashions,

nor in climbing to the top of the heap.

Happiness comes from immersing yourself in God.

**Instead of struggling to stay on top,
yield yourself to the deep flow of God's universe.**

You will not drown.

You will be swept along by forces beyond your imagining.

Foam on the surface blows about;

driftwood piles up on sandbars;

people obsessed with themselves

end up as rotting debris on the rocks.

But the current rolls on.

To find happiness, let yourself be carried away
by something stronger than a social eddy.

1 John 5:9-13

⁹ We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. ¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 17:6-19

⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³ “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Anthem MV 174 Soil of God, You and I SH Disc 4 #12

Message

Today's scripture makes me a little sad when I remember that so many Christians were persecuted in the first centuries after Jesus' death, and, as we know, many of them killed. At the same time, I can be joyous, since the numbers of believers grew anyway, and the message of Christ could not be extinguished. And because those followers would not be silenced, we know Christ today.

As we celebrated the season of Easter, we heard Jesus' final instructions to his disciples. Next week we will celebrate Pentecost, the coming of

the Holy Spirit. But for today, we are reading part of a prayer of Jesus in the gospel of John. This was the prayer Jesus spoke just between the Last Supper and his betrayal and arrest. We hear Jesus' appeals to God. The part we are looking at is his prayers for his disciples. Remember, Jesus is preparing to return to God, leaving his disciples confused, afraid, and forlorn. That is us at times – confused, afraid, forlorn. So, this prayer is as much for the church as it was for the first disciples. Jesus prays for the disciples' protection and their joy. He prays that they will be sanctified (made pure and holy) by God's word. Jesus' ministry had been 3 years long. That's not a lot of time, really. I have been with you for almost 3 years. Your faith was already established long ago. For most of you, you have been a practicing Christian all your life. So, even if you didn't have a minister, you would find a way to continue your Christian journey. Caistorville Pastoral Charge is an example of that. They have been without a minister since the end of September, so many of them have joined us through their computers. (We welcome you, by the way.)

But imagine, now, if you had never heard of Jesus until about 3 years ago. And imagine if the leader who brought his teachings to you was now leaving. And imagine if it was dangerous for you to be a follower. How easy it would be to abandon the journey. How easy it would be to give in to the temptation to go back to your old ways. Jesus prays for protection for the disciples that they are not tempted to give up the life and ministry that he brought them.

He prays for them to have the full measure of his joy. What might that be? Well, it obviously gave him joy to heal the sick. He seemed to get great satisfaction from challenging racist, sexist, and classist practices within society. He had the joy of spending time with society's outcasts. And he had the joy of teaching people that God's desire was to love, not to punish. The church has not always been open to having the full measure of Jesus' joy. Within our policies, polity, and practices we have

indeed been racist, sexist, and classist. We have not welcomed those shunned by society. We have not been tolerant of many sicknesses, even when they weren't contagious. However, many churches, including the United Church of Canada, have recognized these failings and are determined to correct them. I am proud to be a member of a denomination that seriously wants to minister as Jesus taught. When this pandemic is over, what might we do to experience the full measure of Jesus' joy?

Finally, Jesus prays for us to be made pure and holy by God's word. This is where it often gets confusing. Someone will say, "God tells me to do this." or "God says that is evil." Do we believe them? I propose that we ask the question, "who or what will be hurt by this?" And by "hurt" I'm not talking about financial profits. I'm talking about relationships. I don't believe that if a course of action, when followed, breaks down relationship, it can possibly be prompted by the word of God. I believe that Jesus taught us that God is a loving God who expects the same from us. Decisions should be loving ones. An act of love is kind and just. God's word for us is that of kindness and justice.

Now I just want to touch a bit on one more concept. That is the teaching that those who believe in Jesus have eternal life and those who don't, do not have eternal life. Eternal life, the Kingdom of God, often thought to refer only to the life beyond this one. Life after death. And we might interpret it that God takes believers to heaven and refuses non-believers. Think, instead, of the kingdom of God being here and now (the kingdom of God is at hand). And you are already a part of it. And those who do not believe in Jesus are not part of what we are, not because God rejects them, but because they are the ones doing the rejecting. Let me word that more simply. Do I believe that God rejects anyone? No. Do I believe that anyone rejects God? Yes. And unfortunately for them they miss out on the protection and joy that is ours through Jesus Christ.

Hymn – VU #380 She Comes Sailing On the Wind SH Disc 4 #9

**She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,
like a mother breathing life into her child. (to Verse 2)

- 2 Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts
found new delight,
and then down the ages still she flew on.

**She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark,
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would
never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart. (to Verse 4)

4 Flying to the river, she waited circling high
above the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,
and she carried him away in her embrace.

**She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

5 Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

**She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

We Respond to God's Word

Offering

Prayer of Dedication

These gifts are tokens of our gratitude, O God.

You have given us so much!

By sharing our resources, we pray that others may have their
burdens lightened.

**We ask you to bless these gifts and bless the work they
support. Amen.**

Minute for Mission—Generosity Takes Flight during Pandemic.

Staff of Antler River Watershed, Western Ontario Waterways, and Horseshoe Falls regional councils aren't travelling due to COVID-19. So, each region decided to donate \$2,500 in staff travel savings to support the world's most vulnerable. Collectively, the regions will direct \$7,500 to the COVID-19 Global Response.

"This budget money isn't needed during this time. The regional executives decided to share it with those in need in places without even the social safety net we enjoy," says Executive Minister Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. "We hope that others who are not suffering the financial impact of COVID-19 personally might follow suit and identify some savings they have due to the changes in their lifestyle that could help support others at risk during the pandemic."

Many Mission & Service partners work in communities that were already living with hunger, lack of access to water, crowded living conditions, and limited health care before the pandemic struck. COVID-19 has further exacerbated these heartbreaking realities. The United Church has been in close touch with Mission & Service partners since COVID-19 swept across the globe. The global appeal was launched at the beginning of May in response to congregations that contacted the denomination and asked how they could support those living in the global South. The denomination is working faithfully with partners to address immediate needs for food and supplies to help keep communities safe during the pandemic.

"Some congregations and individuals in our communities of faith are suffering financially right now. But many aren't. I want to invite those who have extra funds, maybe from not eating out or not being able to travel, to share with those who have less financial means. It's what the community of Jesus does," says Dave Jagger, one of the General Council Office's stewardship animators. "This is a time when each of us can model generosity by sharing what we can. Yes, that includes money, but it also means other things like time and ability. We all have something to contribute in service to each other, our community, and the world. After all, we are called to be the church," he says.

You can support Mission & Service partners working to meet the increasing needs of communities in the global South during the pandemic. All of your gifts—your time, talent, and treasure—make a difference.

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

May the Easter joy remain with you throughout the year. Pray for those who are ill, celebrate for those who are healed and reach out to those who are alone. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours Monday-Thursday

9:00 am-11:30 am

Our office is operating remotely, feel free to call and leave a message or send an email and we will respond during office hours.

519-583-0342

graceunitedportdover@gmail.com

For Pastoral Care, please contact

Rev. Kathryn Vance

519-717-7426

kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca

Announcement reminder

Please submit announcements by noon Tuesday
for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. Thank you!

Stewardship Seconds

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Stewards give thanks and shout “Hosanna!” every day,
knowing that God’s steadfast love endures forever.