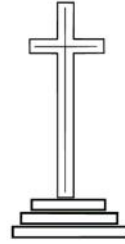


**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, May 2, 2021**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge**

**Box 814, 18 Chapman St. West,  
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**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**

**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)**

May 2 2021

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

We Gather to Worship

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Reader – Lynda Simpson**

**Joke -** Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad"

**Candle**

**Call to Worship**

Each in their own homes, yet together in spirit. We come together in this way to praise God, for our faith assures us that God is with us. Whether we are watching this service or reading it, we are together with others from our church. Let us worship God...together.

**Hymn – VU # 559 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing SH Disc 1 #14**

Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing  
call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God,

came to rescue me from danger,  
precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt  
or daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known:  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,  
seal it for your very own.

### **Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, this is not the way we want to celebrate your presence in our lives. We want to gather at our church. We want to share your love in greetings, handshakes, and hugs. We want to laugh and sing in our beautiful sanctuary. Yet we know that you are not confined to a building. We know that you are everywhere. So we pray that our worship, though not in an ideal fashion, may be pleasing to you this day. Amen.

### **We Listen for God's Word**

*Time for the Young at Heart - How does an anchor remind you of God?*

**Hymn - VU #291 All Things Bright and Beautiful SH Disc 1 #3**

**All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.**

Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colours,  
God made their tiny wings.

**All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.**

The purpleheaded mountains,  
the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning  
that brightens up the sky;  
**All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.**

The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden:  
God made them every one.  
**All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.**

The rocky mountain splendour,  
the lone wolf's haunting call,  
the great lakes and the prairies,  
the forest in the fall;  
**All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.**

God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God our maker,  
who has made all things well.

**All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love, God made them all.**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

For thousands of years your people have looked to scripture for guidance, O God. Help us, again this day, to learn more about you, your love for us, and your desires for us. Amen.

### **Scripture Psalm 22:25-31 The Lord of all life**

In every part of the world, there are those who praise you.

**They form a great congregation of the faithful.**

And this is their sign -

**their poor no longer go to bed hungry,**

their weak are protected, their strangers welcomed.

**God gives life to the forgotten!**

From the river deltas to the mountain tops,

**from the rain forests to the ice caps,**

all nations, all peoples, all creation

live and breathe in praise of the Creator.

**For in the end, everything comes back to God;**

The Lord is incarnate in all life.

**Fat moles that burrow in the earth**

**and swallows that fly above it,**

sleek tuna that swim the oceans

and steel tankers that furrow the seas,

**all owe their origin to God the Creator.**

None are self-sufficient;

**they will all decay into dust,**

**except as they live on in the Lord.**

As they teach their children about the mystery,

their successors will also serve the Lord.

**Thus the Lord touches generations waiting to be born,**  
and transcends the tyranny of time.

## **1 John 4:7-21 New International Version**

### **God's Love and Ours**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

## **John 15:1-8 New International Version**

### **The Vine and the Branches**

<sup>15</sup> "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also

remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

## **Anthem - There Is Your Heart SH Disc 4 # 20**

### **Message**

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in God's sight.

This is mental health awareness week. The objective of Mental Health Week is to shift societal beliefs and perceptions about mental health. It helps promote behaviours and attitudes that foster well-being, support good mental health and create a culture of understanding and acceptance.

In Jesus' day, and beyond, mental illness was thought to be devil possession. Even in our lifetime, mental illness has been misunderstood. Yes, there are a few illnesses that require institutionalization, but there are millions of people who are able to manage their illness, depending on what it is, with medication, cognitive therapy, and/or other healthy practices. Yet they keep their illness a secret because there is still a stigma that goes with mental illness.

Mad, sad, glad, and scared. Those are the emotions we're born with. And we all experience all of them at different times in our lives. But when one is stronger than the others for an extended time, things don't go quite as they should. Our lives feel out of control. That's when we especially need our brothers and sisters in Christ.

What can we do? Love. Love, as is written in our scripture today. Bear good fruit. Love, compassion, support, acceptance. We are called to love and support our brother or sister who has a mental illness just as

much as the one who has, say, diabetes. It is with that love and support that you accompany someone through mental illness to mental health. It isn't always easy. In fact, sometimes it's really difficult. Be loving and supportive anyway. After all, Christ never said that bearing good fruit would always be easy.

Which brings us to the reading from 1 John. Verse 19 says we love because he first loved us. As I mentioned before, we are born with the emotions of mad, sad, glad, and scared. Love and hate are learned. We learn love from God. Lynda shared with us in verse 20, "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." Those are pretty strong words. Yet they are words that have been ignored by millions... trillions... billions in the past 2,000 years. Think of all the wars. Think of all the violent crime. Think of all the hunger and homelessness. Think of all the unkind words. To love God is to love God's people. I believe that means not only all denominations of Christians but all people. How better can we model Christ than to be loving to all?

Being loving does not mean being a door mat or agreeing all the time. But we can speak our truth in love. Think of when you are dealing with children. You don't give them everything they want. You don't give them things that could be harmful to them. You don't give them what you can't afford. Yet, because you withhold things it doesn't mean that you don't love them.

Christians have a lot of ground to make up for. Hopefully all churches who follow the lectionary are hearing this same message today. Love. Love unconditionally. You don't necessarily have to like everything about someone. That wouldn't be realistic. We are individuals, each with our own sense of what is right and wrong; each with our own system of values. But whether we like someone or not, we must love them. That means treating them as we would want to be treated. That means not wishing for them what we would not wish for ourselves. Those are branches that grow from the vine we hear about in the Gospel reading today. The vine that is grounded in God. It won't be easy.

I'd like to share a writing that Mother Theresa had on the wall in Calcutta:



## ***Mother Teresa's Anyway Poem***

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered;

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;

It was never between you and them anyway.

And that's what it boils down to. God is the gardener. If our motivators are love and justice, we should bear good fruit.

### **Let us pray:**

Help us in our living to be loving toward all your people, even the unlikable ones. Help us to follow the teachings of Jesus in our daily living. Please fill us with your love and grace. 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**

Risen Christ:

You startled us when you came into our world.

You startled us when your love touched our hearts.

You startled us with your kindness and open heart.

You startled us when you rose from the dead.

Receive these, our gifts, we pray.

Startle us again by the good work these gifts make possible that we  
may startle ourselves with our generosity made possible by your love.

Amen.

*Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont.*

## Minute for Mission

Florence Gava is a grandmother. She lives in a small community in Zimbabwe where she looks after her grandchildren. Recently, a series of challenging events has pushed her whole family to the edge. First, 9 of Florence's 12 cattle died of a disease. That meant that less of Florence's fields could be turned for food. Shortly after her livestock died, there was a severe drought. If disease and drought weren't devastating enough, COVID-19 struck.

Florence's family didn't have enough food to survive.

Thankfully, Florence's story doesn't end there.



When the situation was most dire, your gifts through Mission & Service helped change Florence's life. With the support of generous people like you, Florence's family received a monthly food ration of life-saving beans, meal, and cooking oil through June and July when they were most in need. Other families just like hers—7,000 of them—received the same life-saving support.

### *Every gift matters.*

In Canada right now, COVID-19 is the final straw for families who were already pushed to the financial edge before the virus struck. By the end of the year, 12,000 people per day living around the world could die of hunger because of the pandemic. And the situation is getting worse by the hour.

Compassion, care, and love are up to us. Together, we can create a better world. A world where grandmothers like Florence don't have to watch their family go hungry.

Please make a special gift through Mission & Service to help people who need it most at home and abroad during this pandemic.

*Your generosity through Mission & Service helps create a world where everyone belongs and where we take care of each other so no one is hungry or alone. Your gifts truly do make a difference. Thank you for giving generously.*

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

Would you bless our homes and families,  
Source of life who calls us here;  
in our world of stress and tension  
teach us love that conquers fear.  
Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles,  
love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding,  
let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures,  
sharing joys in gentle hours.

When our way is anxious walking  
and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another  
and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured,  
with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family

every one whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer,  
may we in your love remain;  
may the love we share in families  
be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries  
of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen  
spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles  
love's expressed in many ways.

### **Benediction and Commissioning**

Jesus said, "I am the true vine and you are the branches." So, go today prepared to grow in God's love. Go to bear fruit, that you and all you encounter might know the sweetness of the depth of God's love. Go in peace. Amen.

*Sheryl Spencer, Mount Forest P.C., Mount Forest, Ont.*

# **Thank you**

The church office, received the following message of thanks for the Easter deliveries to the church members:

**'Thank you to the Easter Bunnies that hopped around leaving goodies. The food was good and a few minutes with the Bunny was even better.'** K.E.