

**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, November 14, 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

Volunteer Associate Minister: Rev. Sheena Riley-Marini

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)

25th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Joke – Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins

The service will close with “Little Drops of Water”. One of the ladies will start quietly, and the rest of the congregation will join in.

Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and get a piece of paper.

Bible is Opened and Christ Candle Lit

Call to Worship

We come together on this Sunday morning

to lift our hearts and our minds and our spirits to God.

God weaves the fabric of our lives and includes
the beautiful colours and textures of hope, love, joy, and
forgiveness,
and also special gifts for each one of us.

We are not alone. God is with us.

Come and worship.

George Allan, Chatham, Ont.

Hymn - VU # 703 In the Bulb There Is a Flower

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.

Opening Prayer

As we take some time out of our busy week to think about you, O God, help us to take comfort from the knowledge that you also think about us. You desire to live in relationship with us and to fill us with the knowledge of your love and care for us and for all that you have made. Surround us with your love, your peace, and your joy, and inspire us with your vision for the world, so that all might receive your blessing. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Allan Warren, Appleby U.C., Burlington, Ont.

We Listen for God's Word

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

Hymn - VU # 218 We Praise You, O God

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

All Creation speaks with your wisdom, O God.
The words of scripture, too, capture your wisdom,
as reflected by people in generations past,
who had something they wanted to say about you,
something they wanted to share.
May we glean from their wisdom and their stories,
the wisdom we need for our lives,
this and every day. Amen.

Susan Lukey, High River U.C., High River, Alta.

Scriptures

Hebrews 10:11-25

¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made

holy.

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them
after that time, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds.”

¹⁷ Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts
I will remember no more.”

¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

A Call to Persevere in Faith

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Mark 13:1-8

The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

13 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him,
“Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!”

² “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?”

⁵ Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶ Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸ Nation will rise against nation, and

kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

Anthem

Message

In the Mark reading, Jesus says that the great buildings will be destroyed. When we look at history, there have been lots of historic landmarks destroyed both in war and selected attacks. Here in North America, the most notable has probably been the twin towers on 9/11. What we can take from this history is that nothing built by humans is immune to attack and destruction. We should not worship that which has been created by human hands. It is all only temporary. We should worship only God. God and God's love endures forever.

Then, of course, the disciples wanted to know *when* the great buildings would be destroyed. Jesus tells them that there will be wars and rumours of war. Nations will rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes and famines.

Tell me a time in the last 2,000 years that there hasn't been at least one of these things going on. Last week we had our Remembrance Day service. Even though we remember those who have been hurt or killed by war, and even though we pray for there to be no more war, we know that global peace will not happen in our life time. Just as we know that there will be more earthquakes and famines. So it's been 2,000 years and we *might* be thinking that's a long time and surely Christ will be coming any day now and all that is evil will be destroyed and all that is good will be saved. But when you think of the age of the cosmos that God created, 2,000 years is about 3 seconds in God's time. So it really hasn't been long at all. Hopefully over the next 3 cosmic seconds, humankind will change their ways and a peace-filled world will be born... a world where race doesn't matter, a world where gender doesn't matter, a world where orientation doesn't matter, a

world where religion doesn't matter, a world where peaceful cultures are embraced, a world where abundance is distributed fairly, yes, a world where all are equal. According to Jesus we are in the time of birth pangs. We can't help but wonder how long this labour is going to last. Now this may sound very discouraging. I know that sometimes I question how I, one insignificant person, in this globally insignificant town, can do anything that could make a difference. How could I help bring peace on earth? Then I remind myself that there are more insignificant people in the world than there are famous ones with a lot of influence. And I think to myself, if every insignificant person followed the path that Jesus set, we could indeed enjoy heaven on earth.

Idealistic? Yes. Impossible? Maybe. In fact, definitely, if no one tries. But, at minimum, for each and every person that follows the Way, our world is a better place. Rather than think globally, let me picture it locally. Can you imagine what Norfolk County would be like if everyone in Simcoe and Dover followed Christ's teachings? What if people dreamed in terms of "when I follow Jesus" instead of "when I win the lottery"?

When you have imagined that, and when you teach yourself to follow Jesus' instructions, then it's time to follow the guidance of the apostle, Paul...encourage others.

I think of you all and I am warmed by the love and care that I have witnessed in this faith community. Now, I ask you, "Do you take it into your world?" Do you care for the stranger? Do you respond to need? Do you care for the bereaved? If the response to the need for socks and October M & O month are any indicators, I know the answer to at least 2 of those questions. Any idea of the results for the socks? I got a message from Cindy. She started with WOW. Socks-516 pair; Hats, mitts -11 of each; scarves-3; undershirts-5; underwear-9; coats-10. You have filled a need for so many strangers! And now this reverse advent calendar for the food bank. I don't have the words to tell you how

proud it makes me to be your minister. Now, you might ask, “if we’re doing it right already, why does she keep asking for more?” Well the answer is: Because Jesus calls me to keep reminding you of your Christian obligations; as Paul says in his letter to the Hebrews “let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” It’s that simple. And there is so much need in this community and the world that we need to continue responding to it.

Every week we hear a minute for mission. I have a challenge for you. I appeal to you to increase your offering to M&O by \$2 per week – the price of a large coffee at Tim Horton’s. If every person at both churches did that, we would, collectively, have \$10,00 more to help those in need. That’s right. Figuring \$2 per week times 52 weeks times 30 people at Woodhouse and 70 at Grace= \$104 per year times 100 people = \$10,400. Let me ask our M&O representative...would that make any difference in our world?

Yes, the world has a lot of despair...physically, emotionally, environmentally, socially, politically and, no, we cannot heal it all. But we can do our share and pray that more people will do their share. Together, we will bring the kingdom of God to others. This is our response to God’s love. Amen.

Hymn - VU # 675 Will your Anchor Hold

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

It will surely hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers tell that the reef is near;
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow.

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

It will surely hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill our latest breath;
on the rising tide it can never fail
while our hopes abide within the veil.

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

When our eyes behold, through the gathering night,
the city of gold, our harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
with the storms all past for evermore.

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

We Respond to God's Word

Offering, Chorus, & Prayer of Dedication

VU#549 For All Your Goodness God

For all your goodness, God, we give you thanks.
Thanks for the food we eat, and for the friends we meet,
For each new day we greet, we give you thanks.

It takes a lot of courage to follow the Way, Gracious God. We trust in our friends gathered here, and we trust in you, O God, to guide us. May these offerings be a token of our thanks for all you do for us as we seek to follow your path of righteousness. Amen.

Kate Gregory, Belwood-Metz P.C., Belwood, Ont.

Minute for Mission

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 # 424 May the God of Hope

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

**Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

**Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

Bible is Closed and Christ Candle Extinguished

Benediction and Commissioning

Knowing that the world
places heavy burdens upon all of us,
go out with love and grace,
prepared, willing, and ready,
with God as your helper,
to love and serve your neighbour.

George Allan, Chatham, Ont.

Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE IS OPEN

Office Hours Monday-Thursday

9:00 am-11:30 am

Feel free to call and leave a message or send an email at any time 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 end of day Tuesday for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. Thank you!

November 14, Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Gratitude is a muscle. It is a choice. It is a daily practice. A strong gratitude muscle will make you (and your church) more creative, more resilient, more Christ-like.