

**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, November 7, 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)**

November 7 2021

**24th Sunday after Pentecost  
Remembrance Sunday**

**We Gather to Worship**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Joke** – A car headed out of Calgary was stopped by a Mountie. He told the driver, “Congratulations, you have just won a \$100 prize for the 100<sup>th</sup> car passing through here today with all occupants buckled up with seat belts. Now, what are you going to do with the money?”  
“Well”, said the motorist, “I think I’ll go and get a driver’s licence, now that I can afford it.”

**Bible is Opened and Christ Candle Lit**

**Call to Worship**

Peace,  
    **when trouble seethes.**

Peace,  
    **when views are rigid.**

Peace,  
    **when pain persists.**

Peace,  
    **when loss deadens.**

Peace,  
    **when dreams are lost.**

Peace,  
    **to counter injustice.**

The deep peace of God  
    **that goes beyond human understanding.**  
**Let us pray for peace as we worship today.**

*David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.*

## **Hymn - VU # 806 O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:

under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure,  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

Time like an ever-rolling stream  
soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.

## Opening Prayer

Remember the suffering of the world.

Remember the sacrifice of the soldiers, civilians, and peacemakers.

Remember the Holy Spirit,

who leads us into the ways of peace and light.

**We celebrate your presence, Holy One, and live for a world made holy. Amen.**

*Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, Ont.*

## We Listen for God's Word

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

### Hymn - VU #337 Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

Perfect submission, perfect delight!

Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

angels descending, bring from above

echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Open wide our hearts, open wide our minds, open your word to us this morning, we pray; let your holy light shine upon it and through it, bringing us light and life. Amen.

*Fern Gibbard, for Penticton U.C., Penticton, B.C.*

### **Scripture**

**Psalms 127 The best insurance (James Taylor, Everyday Psalms)**

The road of life takes many tricky turns;

**You never know what crisis waits around the corner.**

Each day has only 24 hours.

**You cannot accomplish any more**

**By burning candles at both ends;**

You will only burn yourself out.

**But gather friends and goodwill as you go,**

**and you will never lack strength for your tasks.**

A surplus of goodwill pays off better than any insurance policy.

**Treat everyone as a friend,**

**And you will never lack support for your journey.**

### **Hebrews 9:24-28**

<sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. <sup>25</sup> Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again

and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup> Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

## **Mark 12:38-44**

### **Warning Against the Teachers of the Law**

<sup>38</sup> As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. <sup>40</sup> They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

### **The Widow’s Offering**

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

<sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

## **Anthem**

### **Message**

I have always struggled with the doctrine that Jesus died for our sins to be forgiven. So what am I to understand when I read scripture such as our one from Hebrews today? Quite honestly, I usually try to avoid it. I’ll pick the gospel passage to offer my message around. But something was calling me to look closely at the Hebrew reading this week. Let’s begin with the first verse: “For Christ did not enter a sanctuary

made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence." Well, yes, that's easy enough to understand and accept. When Jesus died, he didn't end up in the temple like other sacrifices. He joined God in heaven.

Next: "Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own." The requirement for all Jews was that they bring a sacrifice, an unblemished one, to the temple each year to atone for their sins. This was true even for the high priest. As the scripture says, this was done every year. The Jewish people recognized that, as humans, we will sin, even in spite of our best intentions not to. So the difference between Jesus and the high priest, we know, is that Jesus had no sins of his own to atone for. But Jesus didn't teach offering sacrifices for sins anyway. He taught forgiveness. We hear it in the prayer that he taught us: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who trespass against us." And in his words from the cross, "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do." Forgiveness – without a sacrifice.

Then we read: "he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself." I have to ask, did Christ's sacrifice of himself do away with sin? I certainly don't see it. It's possible that the hearers of this letter to the Hebrews believed it was possible. Although they would have believed that it was only possible for followers of Christ. One thing is certain, the author of this letter was saying that Jesus' sacrifice was greater than any other. Well, I don't think there's any doubt about that.

Next, the author says, "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many." Rather than read this as another iteration of Jesus as a sin offering, I choose to interpret it as Jesus dying *because* we are sinful. Jesus' messages on what was sin and how to live sin-free were powerful; so powerful and so contradictory to the teachings of the leaders (and, in fact, threatening to their authority) that they were demanding that he

stop. He would not. So they had him crucified – that would silence him.. All who contributed to his trial and crucifixion were guilty of a great sin – the assassination of an innocent man. I'm sure they figured that this would set an example to anyone of his followers who might consider following in his footsteps. But that didn't work either. Jesus disciples knew that his teachings would take away the sins of many. They knew that Jesus chose to die rather than stop teaching of a loving God and the way we God wants us to treat each other with love. We know, as we look back in history, that Jesus' was not the only death because of his teachings. The martyrs that followed were even more cause for people to take notice, to take seriously, Jesus' teachings. So, when I die and face my judgement, what sins will I have to account for? I believe that, were I not a follower of Christ, there would be a lot more than there are. The fact that Christ's teachings were so important to the elimination of sin from people's lives that he willingly gave up his own life rather than stop spreading his loving words, makes me want to follow in his way... just as it has affected so many throughout these last 2 millennium. Christ's way – not the way of sin.

Finally, this passage says, "he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." We know that the first and second century Christians thought Christ was going to come back any day. Since then there have been others who believed they saw the "signs" that he was returning. I offer this thought... is it possible that Christ returns to each of us daily? Is it possible that Christ's presence in our lives can help us choose His way rather than a sinful way? I think the answer to both questions is yes. I see it in choices you are making to support others. Keep making those choices. They are expressions of love for Jesus and for God's people. That is why Jesus willingly gave up his life. Amen.



## **Hymn - VU #678 For the Healing of the Nations**

For the healing of the nations,  
    God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
    of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
    help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,  
    from despair your world release;  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
    all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
    fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
    let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
    dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
    may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written  
    your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
    bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that, by our response and service,  
    earth its destiny may find.

### **We Respond to God's Word**

**Offering, Chorus** (VU#537 Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands),  
Your work, O God, needs many hands  
to help you everywhere,

and some there are who cannot serve  
unless our gifts we share.

Because we love you and your work,  
our offering now we make:  
be pleased to use it as your own,  
we ask for Jesus' sake

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, we know that our gifts make a difference to each other and to others in your world. We give to support the ministry of this congregation. We give to support your ministry of love in the world. We give that others might live with hope. Receive and bless our gifts, and with them, the offerings of our hearts. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont.*

### **Guest – Cindy Kemp-Wonzo & Mel Scott (Grace only)**

#### **Minute for Mission**

##### **Offenders Suffer Even More Isolation**

Some of us find social isolation challenging. Imagine what it's like for inmates who so often already feel discarded and isolated—and who now in the wake of COVID-19 have even less contact with the outside world.

"The people we serve are already isolated because of offences and so don't have strong family and friend connections. Now, in the midst of the pandemic, they are pushed further into self-isolation, which makes it all the more important that volunteers and staff reach out to them," says Heather Driedger, the director of Parkland Restorative Justice (PRJ), a community-based non-profit in Prince Albert, SK, that supports inmates at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary and offenders reintegrating into society.

The majority of offenders PRJ serves participate in programs run in the penitentiary. Often these people come from difficult circumstances

marked by poverty, discrimination, and trauma. Before the virus, many lacked positive support. Now, thanks to the pandemic, the support they do have is even more limited.

“We found out last week that we couldn’t go into the institution anymore. We normally do a weekly visit,” says Driedger. To overcome isolation, Driedger has organized a letter-writing program between



*Parkland staff provide support—now at a distance—in Prince Albert, SK.  
Credit: Parkland Restorative Justice*

volunteers and inmates “to maintain connection.”

Offenders trying to reintegrate into society are also feeling the sting of isolation. Now, PRJ is running circles of support and accountability for offenders who are reintegrating into society online. Sometimes offering support means explaining the basics.

“One thing we’ve noticed is that some of the people we serve don’t listen to news very often or don’t have the cognitive ability to understand the information that is coming out. So they lack understanding that can affect their health and the health of others. For example, they don’t really understand how important hygiene and social isolation is. We show them how to wash their hands and show them how far apart they need to be. Our staff is helping them to understand.”

Your gifts through Mission & Service foster dignity, safety, and understanding through organizations like Parkland Restorative Justice. 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 #684 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**

Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your healing power,  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all that we receive,

and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

## **Bible is Closed and Christ Candle Extinguished**

### **Minute of Silence**

### **Benediction and Commissioning**

Let us go trusting in God's never-ending care.

Let us go seeking to be God's people.

Let us go enfolded in praise and prayer.

Let us go to be people of peace, justice, and right relationships.

Amen.

***Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask.***

### **Go Now In Peace**

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour  
of ev'ry 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

***Note: the office will be closed on Nov 11th***

**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 7, Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Even in perceived scarcity, trusting God's abundance helps  
generate a culture of generosity.