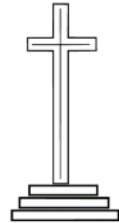


**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, October 10, 2021**



**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)

October 10 2021

5th Sunday of Creation Time Thanksgiving Sunday

We Gather to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Joke -

May your stuffing be tasty. May your turkey plump,
may your potatoes and gravy have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious, and your pies take the prize,
and may your Thanksgiving dinner stay off your thighs.

Call to Worship

For the bounty of the harvest,
for the colours of the fall,
thanks be to God.

For the miracle of bird migration,
for the ingenuity of hibernation,
thanks be to God.

For the glories of the earth all around us,
we give thanks to God, our Creator.

In a spirit of humility and thankfulness,
come let us worship God as one
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Judy Sears, Willowgrove U.C., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Hymn – VU #516 Come, You Thankful People, Come

Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;

God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:

come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
 wheat and weeds together sown,
 here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
 Harvest-giver, grant that we
 wholesome grain and pure may be.

For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take this harvest home;
 from the field shall in that day
 all offences purge away;
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast;
 but the fruitful ears to store
 in the garner evermore.

Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
 Gather all your people in,
 free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,
in your presence to abide:
 come, with all your angels, come,
 raise the glorious harvest home.

Opening Prayer

Holy One,
we praise you for these simple gifts
on an autumn day:
the chipmunks darting in and out of the garden,
the tiny nuthatches at the feeder,

the way thanksgiving springs to our lips
as praise lifts our hearts.
Before we ask, we are forgiven.
Before we notice, we are blessed.
Before we pray, we are already held in your love.
For the blessing of your unending grace
we give thanks, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Wendy MacLean, Christ U.C., Lyn, Ont.

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart – How does the Thanksgiving meal make you think of God?

Hymn – VU# 236 Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God, with heart,
and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Prayer for Illumination

On this thanksgiving Sunday, speak your word to us once again, O God.
Show us how to express our gratitude for all your love. Amen.

Scripture Psalm 126 Harvest thanksgiving

God has been good to us.

**the storm clouds gathered, the hail hung overhead---
but it passed by.**

Then we laughed and danced;

our peals of joy echoed across our lands.

Celebrations spread faster than fire through autumn grass,

faster than rumours on a summer night.

for God has done great things for us.

We are overcome with gratitude.

The desert is not kind, oh God.

It demands living on the edge of disaster.

Give us some sparkling springs!

We watered the desert with our tears;

with our hearts in our mouths,

we watched the green shoots stretch up.

We risked everything on the seed we planted;

we sank our lives into this soil

Now the harvest has come home a hundredfold.

God, you have renewed our lives.

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Instructions on Worship

2 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there

is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. ⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

Matthew 6:25-33

Do Not Worry

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^l?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Anthem

Message

Thanksgiving...we have so much to be thankful for! Yes, in the past year there have been many disappointments and difficulties. There will be every year. That’s part of life. And it’s a part of life that, if we let him, God will help us through. So we should probably start by thanking God for God.

In the gospel of Matthew, we heard Jesus say that we are not to worry about food. Well, in Canada, there is so much food that about 64% of adults over 18 and 30% of children aged 5-17 are overweight or obese.

Plus, we waste up to 40% of our food. For those with financial troubles, we have meal programs and food banks. No one has to starve in Canada and yet **One out of every six children under the age of 18 suffers from food insecurity.** This is most prevalent in Northern Canada. As for around the world, more than enough food is produced to feed the global population—but as many as 811 million people still go hungry. We must be thankful that we live in Canada and that we have the means to help feed people who are starving.

Jesus also said that we are not to worry about having something to drink. Well, in Canada, we have almost 1/5 of the world's fresh water. That sounds great, but over 82,000 people in Canada do not have access to clean and healthy drinking water. We must be thankful for our abundance of clean water and for our right to lobby the government to do something for the communities whose water is contaminated.

Clothes are also something Jesus said we are not to worry about. According to one study, Canadians spend an average of 6% of their income on clothing and accessories. I don't know about you, but I always seem to end up with at least half of my closet filled with clothes that I don't wear anymore. The nice thing is that I can donate them to someplace that gives them away or sells them cheaply. And, of course, for those in severe poverty, there are campaigns such as our "Sock It To Me" that provide the necessities. Internationally there are some interesting stories. First there is Nicaragua, the largest country in Central America. Nearly 80 percent of Nicaraguans live on less than \$2 a day. Many are just scraping by, with no excess money to spend on clothes. Since this is a warm weather area, people do not need sweaters and winter clothes, but poverty makes it difficult for them to buy even the basic shirts, pants, dresses, and shoes. Then there are countries such as Nigeria who have banned the import of second-hand clothing hoping that it will boost the textile industry and therefore jobs. We must be thankful that we have enough clothing for each season and access to used clothing when there is a need.

Those are the three that Jesus mentioned but there is so much more, as

Canadians in south-western Ontario, to be thankful for.

Healthcare. I can remember when, before the Employer Health Tax, when each person had to pay for their own Ontario Health Insurance Plan. If you didn't have OHIP, you had to pay your own medical expenses. Now we can be thankful that if anyone in our province needs medical attention, it is not contingent upon their ability to pay.

Employment. Ontario's unemployment rate was 9.6% in 2020. Burkina Faso's, a country in west Africa, was 77%, Syria 50%. We can be thankful for income protection such as Employment Insurance and Ontario Works.

Peer Support. We can be thankful for groups such as AA, TOPS, and Al-Anon

Democracy. We can be thankful that we are free to peacefully express our opinions and make most of our own decisions.

Freedom of Religion. We can celebrate our faith without fear of persecution. For that we must be thankful.

Natural beauty. We live in a beautiful part of the world. We can enjoy lakes, rivers, woods, trails, fields, the falls...all within driving distance. We must give thanks for our easy access to this beauty.

Family and friends. What would we do without them? We give thanks for the many ways they amuse, comfort, and support us.

Music. No matter what genre of music we like, we are free to listen to it. We can give thanks for the ears to hear it with.

These are just some of the things we can be thankful for today. Some of you will even be thankful that this is the end of my message. Amen.

Hymn – VU # 291 All Things Bright and Beautiful

**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.**

We Respond to God's Word

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we celebrate
the bounty of this earth,
the love of family and friends,
the grace that surrounds our lives,
and the opportunity to be a means of grace
in the lives of others.

Through these offerings, may your love and grace be known
here and around the world. Amen.

Beth W Johnston, Hantsport P.C., Hantsport, N.S.

Minute for Mission

Street-Involved People Are Especially Vulnerable

“By protecting the underserved community, we protect everybody in the community.” - A Mission & Service–supported community centre serving Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable, ***Our Place*** is bracing for COVID-19 to strike. Grant McKenzie, the Communications Director at Our Place, predicts that more support from paramedics will be needed in the near future if the virus spreads.

“This population is especially vulnerable to being hit extremely hard by COVID-19 because so many of them already have underlying health issues. When you struggle every day, wondering where you’re going to sleep at night and where your next meal is coming from, you only access health services when it’s life or death,” says McKenzie. “By protecting the underserved community, we protect everybody in the community. It’s so very easy for our delicate health system to become overrun—and if COVID-19 runs amok in this population, we’ll hit the tipping point that much harder.”



For over 50 years, Our Place has served Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable people: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted, and homeless. Even

A client receives medical treatment at Our Place, Victoria, BC.

though Our Place has had to close its

drop-in space, computer lab, and community room in order to comply with provincial health guidelines, it continues to help those who rely on their services.

“There is a lot of fear around what happens when this virus makes its way to the people we serve. But our dedicated staff isn’t about to abandon them. We know that there is going to be so much help that our family members need, especially when it comes to nutrition, hygiene, and a place to live. While we have had to close access to the building, we are still serving up to 1,400 meals a day, handing out 1,200 bottles of water, and offering paramedic services. We are working hard,” says McKenzie.

Your gifts through **Mission & Service** mean that people who are especially vulnerable can access life-saving services through organizations like Our Place. 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# 506 Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Benediction and Commissioning

Let us leave this time and place of worship
remembering God's goodness to us:
a goodness known in Creation,
in our relationships,
and most especially known in Jesus Christ.
Let us commit ourselves
to lives of thanksgiving and thanks-living,
remembering that when we are simply grateful,
life is simply great!
Let us go now, with smiles on our faces,
with joy in our hearts,
with purpose and in kindness,
to be God's people
in all the places life calls us to be.

Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont.