

**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, October 3, 2021**



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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**

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

October 3 2021

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Creation Time

## World Communion Sunday

### We Gather to Worship

#### Land acknowledgement

#### Welcome and Announcements

**Joke** - A man bought a horse from a pastor of a church...

The pastor explains to him "to make the horse go yell 'Thank God!' And to make it stop yell 'Hallelujah'". He is riding the horse and gets distracted when he notices he is about to ride off a cliff and begins to yell "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!", and the horse stops just at the edge of the cliff. He wipes his sweat off and says "Phew! Thank God!".

#### Call to Worship

We are Canadian, Indigenous, Ukrainian, Jamaican, Dutch, Scottish, and so much more.

**We may be proud of our heritage. Yet, we are also brothers, sisters, and siblings of Christ Jesus.**

We join with all of Jesus' followers so that we might share in this World Communion feast.

**We eat and we are nourished. We drink and we are drawn into the great community of faith.**

Let us pray:

God of every good gift, our table is laden with every imaginable gift that we might need. There is nourishment for body and soul, and resources that will be used to nurture bodies, minds, and souls in this community and beyond. May all of our offerings today be blessed for further service. Bless you, God of Abundance. Amen.

*Laura Turnbull, Penticton U.C., Penticton, B.C.*

## **Hymn – VU #226 For the Beauty of the Earth**

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,

**God of all, to you we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light,

**God of all, to you we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

**God of all, to you we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

For each perfect gift sublime  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

**God of all, to you we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

## Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, your circle is wide and includes the most amazingly wonderful array of beautifully created folk. The languages we speak are like a chorus of every sound of creation. The gifts and abilities with which you have blessed us encircle the word in creativity. You call us “good.” May we be committed to being a welcoming people, inclusive and accepting. Grant us the faith that transforms our world as we feast at this table today. Amen.

*Laura Turnbull, Penticton U.C., Penticton, B.C.*

## We Listen for God's Word

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

### Hymn – VU# 669 Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul,  
let me to thy bosom fly,  
while the nearer waters roll,  
while the tempest still is high.

Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
till the storm of life is past;  
safe into the haven guide,  
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none;  
hangs my helpless soul on thee.  
Leave, ah! leave me not alone;  
still support and comfort me.

All my trust on thee is stayed,  
all my help from thee I bring;  
cover my defenceless head  
with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;  
more than all in thee I find.  
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,  
heal the sick, and lead the blind.

Just and holy is thy name,  
I am all unrighteousness:  
false and full of sin I am,  
thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
grace to cover all my sin;  
let the healing streams abound;  
make and keep me pure within.

Thou of life the fountain art,  
freely let me take of thee;  
spring thou up within my heart;  
rise to all eternity.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Sophia, Wisdom of God, shed your light on these scriptures as we  
once again turn to them for guidance.

### **Scripture Psalm 26: 1-12 A faithful lover**

Do not reject me, God. I have been true to you.

**I have trusted you;**

I have never doubted you for more than a moment.

**If you don't believe me, test me.**

Look into my heart and listen to my thoughts.

**See for yourself that I have been faithful.**

Can't you see that your love means everything to me?

**Everything that I do, I do for you.**

I don't play around with pretense;

**I don't flirt with false ideas.**

I despise those who do wrong;

**I avoid those who flaunt their faithfulness.**

**I wash my hands of them.**

My hands are clean;

**I come to you with a clear conscience.**

I constantly count my blessings;

**I always speak well of you.**

I bless the day you entered my life.

**I glow when I am near you;**

I bask in the sunshine of your smile.

Don't look at me like something rotting

in the back of the fridge;

**don't dump me out with your garbage.**

The trash can is full of people who cheat and swindle;

**they deceive their friends;**

they play both ends against the middle.

But I am not like them.

I can hold my head high,

**because I have been faithful to you.**

## **Acts 2:1-21**

### **The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost**

**2** When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language

being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”  
<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

### **Peter Addresses the Crowd**

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> “‘In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

### **John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

#### **The Work of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>26</sup> “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the

Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>4b</sup> I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, <sup>5</sup> but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup> Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. <sup>7</sup> But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

<sup>12</sup> “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

## **Anthem**

### **Message**

The readings today are about the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ. We believe in a Triune God. That is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, 3 persons, yet one. The holy spirit is God’s power in action, his active force. So what is the work of the Holy Spirit?

The first thing is that the Holy Spirit confirms our relationship with God. Listen as Paul explains it:



“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children” (Romans 8:16).

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14).

“This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit” (1 John 4:13).

Next the Holy Spirit helps us to pray. In Romans again, Paul says, “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God” (Romans 8:26-27).

Thirdly the Spirit helps us to understand scripture. “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13).

Fourth, the Spirit helps us to overcome sin. To the Galatians Paul says, ““So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).

Next, the Spirit gives us the boldness to witness to our faith. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

And the Holy Spirit transforms our characters. We hear in Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law”

The traditional description of the Triune God, or “Trinity” as it is often referred to, is, as I said, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost). A newer description is Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. This is more descriptive of the function of each “person” of the Trinity. When you think about it, it makes sense. When we look around we can see

creation in plants, animals, water, humankind. God, the Creator... believing only in God, the Creator, doesn't require us to do anything for ourselves or anybody else or anything else. But it can also lead to an extremely lonely or miserable life. So let's add Jesus, the Redeemer to our beliefs. Jesus, Son of God, lived among us 2,000 years ago. There is lots of evidence of that. So Jesus taught us how to live in right relationship with God and all that God created. An important part of his teaching was forgiveness of sins. We are taught that Jesus died that we might be redeemed from our sins. If this is all we believe, we are really no further ahead than only believing in the Creator. We can go through life, doing as we please, with the attitude that it doesn't matter since all of our mistakes are forgiven anyway. Being a Christian requires more. It requires belief in the third person of the Trinity...the Holy Spirit or the Sustainer. To sustain something takes some sort of action. The Holy Spirit is the energy that moves us into action. To maintain healthy relationships takes effort. The energy for that comes from the Spirit. Discerning what is right or wrong often takes deep thought or prayer. The Spirit helps with that. Speaking out against injustice can be scary. The Spirit gives us courage. The bottom line is that we need the Holy Spirit to be active within us if we are to follow Jesus. As a Christian we observe, we listen, and we respond. The Spirit is the energy for a Christian response. Amen.

### **Hymn – VU # 459 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face**

Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;  
here would I touch and handle things unseen,  
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,  
and all my weariness upon you lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,  
here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;  
here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;  
this is the heavenly table for me spread;  
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong  
the fellowship of living wine and bread.

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear.  
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;  
the bread and wine remove, but you are here,  
nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,  
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love

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

#### **Offering and Prayer of Dedication**

You have brought gifts of money for blessing, and you have  
brought gifts of bread and wine to the table of Holy  
Communion for blessing,

**and with them, we bring our anticipation.**

With the money, with the bread and wine, comes the promise  
that God's realm will be established,

**and the hope that we will be among those who will welcome  
its coming.**

As these gifts are blessed, we recognize how they can be used  
to bring God's realm closer,

**and for this, we give you thanks, Gracious God. Amen.**

*David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.*

#### **Sacrament of Baptism**

#### **Sacrament of Communion**

## Minute for Mission

Today's update and story is about how your Mission and Service dollars help groups, families and individuals locally.

Church Out Serving is a community-focused, faith-based charity serving Simcoe and surrounding Norfolk County.

Church Out Serving assists people in the community in many ways, but for today I would like touch on one specific situation that our Mission and Service Committee recently supported.

Church Out Serving has a small Benevolent Fund which they use to address specific needs of individuals. Recently, a single senior with multiple disabilities and no family, needed kitchen appliances and supplies.

Church Out Serving had been helping him by supplying fresh food and meals on a regular basis but since his living circumstances were complicated, he was not well equipped in his former apartment to eat well, even with donated food support. His fridge was not working, he had no microwave, few utensils, dishes or other supplies. His health was deteriorating. While he has been living with a physical disability for decades, in late April he fell and hit his head which resulted in a brain bleed requiring emergency surgery.

His recovery has progressed well but following the accident he was moved from his second story apartment into a new geared to income apartment on the main floor. This has already improved his mobility and health significantly. His new apartment has a working fridge and stove, but he was in need of most other kitchen supplies and necessities.

With a donation received from Grace United Church, Church Out Serving was able to equip him with some of these necessities, not only improving his ability to cook for and feed himself, but also helping him to regain some independence, dignity and comfort.

The Board of Church Out Serving is grateful to Grace United Church for their financial support and the support of volunteers.

Thank you for your support to Mission and Services.

## **We Take Christ's Message Into the World**

### **Hymn VU# 602 Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

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**

Having been united with Christians across the globe to this holy meal, may we continue to remember we are all made one body in Jesus Christ. As we go forth, may this foretaste of God's grace assist us in breaking down divisions of prejudice, across borders and closer to home.

*Taylor Croissant, Southminster U.C., Lethbridge, Alta.*