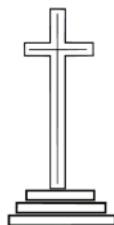


**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, September 26, 2021**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Box 814, 18 Chapman St. West,
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)

September 26 2021

**18th Sunday after Pentecost
3rd Sunday of Creation Time
Orange Shirt Day**

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Joke – The Honeymoon Is Over

My wife, a registered nurse, once fussed over every pain or mishap that came my way. Recently, however, I got an indication that the honeymoon is over.

I was about to fix the attic fan, and as I lifted myself from the ladder into the attic, I scratched my forehead on a crossbeam. Crawling along, I picked up splinters in both hands, and I cut one hand replacing the fan belt. On the way down the ladder, I missed the last two rungs and turned my ankle.

When I limped into the kitchen, my wife took one look and said, “Are those your good pants?”

Bible is Opened and Christ Candle Lit

Call to Worship

Come and worship the God of creation.

**We bow down to the maker
of heaven and earth.**

Delight in all of God’s creation.

All that God created is very, very good.

Praise God for generously providing all that we need,
purpose and meaning for life and a pattern for living.

Six days for work

and one day to enter into God’s Sabbath rest.

All that God created is very, very good.

Sue Webb, Faith Centennial U.C., Selkirk, Ont.

Hymn - VU # 603 In Loving Partnership We Come

In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.

We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.

Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love.

In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

Opening Prayer

Great Spirit, Loving God, Christ of Life:
In this Season of Creation,
as the earth cries out for mercy
we join her voice, as we pray in words of faith.
In the changing seasons,
we see our own lives change.
In the strange skies,
that hold the smoke of fires burning
a continent away,
we realize how we breathe the same air
as our distant neighbours.
In the hope of a future

of gentle kindness and reassuring hope,
we turn to your ancient words in scripture.
Turn us, as you have always turned your followers,
so we find ourselves following you closely,
seeking direction
and trusting you are the way. Amen.

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

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart – How do the leaves on the ground
remind you of God?

Hymn - VU #344 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes the sorrows, heals the wounds,
and drives away all fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Dear Name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

The effort of my heart is weak,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you whom I seek,
I'll praise you as I ought.

Prayer for Illumination

We hear so much from so many sources, O Lord. There is television, internet, Facebook, twitter, Instagram, newspapers, magazines, flyers, and on and on. It is often hard to distinguish your voice through it all. However, the scriptures were written to guide us in your way. We know we can count on you to shed your light on today's readings so that we might grow in your wisdom. For that, we give thanks. Amen.

Scripture Psalm 124 The only explanation (James Taylor, Everyday Psalms)

We must have had God's help.

The odds were all against us.

If we had not had right and justice on our side,
our opponents would have destroyed us.

We would have burst like balloons;

we would have plummeted in the popularity polls.

But that didn't happen.

We must have had God's help;

no one else could have done it.

We evaded the trap the other side set for us.

Now their scheming has been exposed;

no one will trust them any more.

We must have had God's help.

There is no other explanation.

James 5:13-20

The Prayer of Faith

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Mark 9:38-50

Whoever Is Not Against Us Is for Us

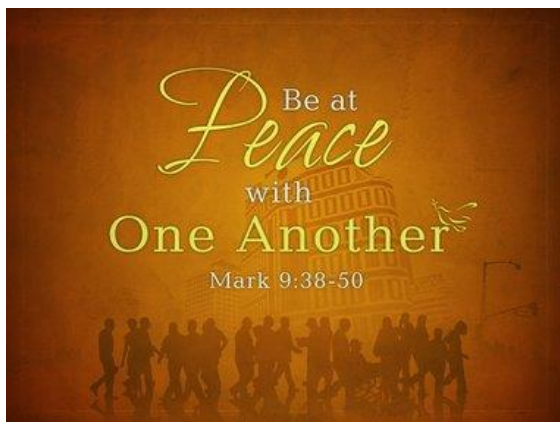
³⁸ “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

³⁹ “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say

anything bad about me, ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

Causing to Stumble

⁴² “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand



causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where “the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

⁴⁹ Everyone will be salted with fire.

⁵⁰ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves and be at peace with each other.”

Anthem

Message

What is James saying to us today?

He talks about healing, praying, and bringing back those who wander away from the faith.

Well, Christians have done pretty good at the healing task. Many hospitals were started by Christians. In fact, many major cities still have hospitals with Christian names...St. Joseph's, St. Mary's, etc. We donate to healthcare and send medical staff to third world countries. Mental and spiritual health support groups are offered in many churches and exercise groups for physical well-being. Yes, we're pretty good at helping people heal.

Praying... we're pretty good at that, too. Short prayers, long prayers, prayers of thanks, prayers of needs, prayers for ourselves, prayers for others, prayers for the weather, ...the list goes on.

Bringing back our wandering brothers and sisters. *That* we are not so good at. I would guess that most of the people we know have been baptized. Many over 60 would have attended church in their childhood, perhaps in their teens, and some into adulthood. But I would guess that a larger number of people over 60 that you know don't go to church and probably don't even think to pray most of the time. Do we invite them back? I know that it can be awkward but we must try. And that's just the “over 60's”. If there is to be a church 30 years from now, we must get the under 60's back too. As I said, most have been baptized. Their

parents made promises at the time of that sacrament. And the congregations made promises, too. We also have a membership roll with names of persons who are no longer here. How do we encourage them, invite them back?

While we're at it, what about those who were never baptized? Shouldn't they be invited into this rewarding way of life? How do you tell? Who has been baptized and who hasn't? There really isn't a way. The baptized do not walk around with a halo hovering over their heads. So the best thing to do is invite everyone. We'll figure out the baptism piece when they decide to join the church.

As I was preparing this message, I thought of a lunch that I had with a recent widow. She's lonely. I wish that I had thought of it then...I should have suggested that she go to church, maybe get involved in the women's group. That would certainly help to heal her heart. Who is your best friend outside of the church? How about inviting them to come with you?

The passage from Mark is a little more difficult. There isn't time to expand on it all so let's just look at the last of it. "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves and be at peace with each other."

Salt. It has a lot of good properties.

It adds flavour to the food you put it on. Following Christ adds flavour to life.

Salt is a good de-icer in the winter. Following Christ melts the cold heart.

Salt induces thirst. When people see you living a good and happy (even exciting) life as a follower of Christ they will thirst for that life too.

Salt has healing properties. If you rinse a sore throat with salt-water, it will heal it. If we were to sprinkle true Christian values on our society it could make a difference in the health of our relationships.

Salt is a good preservative. Healthy relationships can be kept healthy with Christian values.

Salt had such a high value in Jesus time that even soldiers were sometimes paid with it. That's where the saying, "He's not worth his salt" come from.

But if salt were to lose its saltiness it would not be able to add flavour, de-ice, induce thirst, heal, or preserve. If we, as Christians, don't display Christian values 7 days a week, we will have no influence with others. We will be called hypocrites or worse.

So, the next thing is deciding what constitutes "Christian values". My older sister thought for years that it meant, "If you catch yourself having fun, stop what you're doing." Fortunately she discovered otherwise. Being as Christian can be lots of fun, don't you think? However, there is so much more to it. But this is where denominations differ in their understandings. So I'll go back to Jesus' words. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself. And there's nothing wrong with good, clean, fun. Do you think that if Jesus was boring his disciples would have stayed with him? Remember, Jesus made the *best tasting* wine.

Another measure is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Beyond those there are the 10 commandments. Everything after that, I think, is each denomination's interpretations of everything else and ideas of how to get along as community. In my opinion the only word that really matters is LOVE. Love of God, love of neighbour, love of self.

So our tasks, according to our scripture today, are to contribute to healing, praying, bringing people back to church, and live according to our Christian values. All those will come fairly easily if we love the lord our God with heart, soul, and mind and if we love our neighbours as ourselves. Amen.

Hymn - VU #642 Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

We Respond to God's Word

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God,
we are thankful for your gifts of fresh air, sunshine, and precipitation. Today we present our gifts for the continuation of a world where fresh air, sunshine, and precipitation will be available for all your children. Amen.

Jim McKean, St. Paul's U.C., Orillia, Ont.

Minute for Mission

Video _ Mambuds Story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PL6CI5zPkLA>

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 #664 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.

Bible is Closed and Christ Candle Extinguished

Benediction and Commissioning

And now we leave this time and place
to continue our journey as God's people:
surrounded by the wonders of God's creation,
accompanied by the One who shared our existence
enfolded in the purposeful caring of the Spirit,
to be God's faithful people
in all the places life calls us to be.

Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont.