

August 8th, 2021 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.30 am on August 8th, 2021, can be found here

Sunday Worship August 8th, 2021 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10 am.

Click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86566578300?pwd=WnlrZ01zRXp3b3V0Q1RiTUx5RTlHZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 6657 8300

Passcode: 411838

You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the "One tap mobile" option:

+12042727920,,86566578300#,,, *411838# Canada

+14388097799,,86566578300#,,, *411838# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Meeting ID: 865 6657 8300

Passcode: 411838

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86566578300>

PASTORAL VISITS: Even though our church is closed, please know that our Interim Pastor Chun Zhang is available for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to him by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

Thanksgiving for Our Presence on This Land:

Click Here: <https://youtu.be/SqEZLBrAu4c>

Gathering Hymn: 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' (Bradley Moggach – piano)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/PdFBtbMmxlw>

(Title: All Things Bright and Beautiful Text: Cecil F. Alexander 1818 – 1895 Public Domain All rights reserved.

Music: Bradley Moggach, b. 1952 All rights reserved. Tune Name: Kroft

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

Prayer of the Day: Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

The First Reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8

Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get

up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.” He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. (NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: 34:1-8

I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

I will glory in the LORD;

let the lowly hear and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God’s name together.

***I sought the LORD, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.***

Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

***I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.***

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.

***Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!****

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The Second Reading: Ephesians 4:25--5:2

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.***

The Holy Gospel according to John 6:35, 41-51

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the crowd, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’

Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon (Imagine Interim Pastor Chun Zhang's voice here)

Do you know who is the most popular monarchy in British history? ... King Arthur.

Although his existence is still a question. King Arthur made to the top of the list anyway.

According to the tradition, before being crowned as King of England, King Arthur was called "the Wart" by his friends and families. As the second son of the family, he grew up in the shadow of his older brother, Sir Kay. His father, Sir Ector loved him as much as Kay, but it was clear to all that Kay had the makings of nobility. Someday he would be a powerful knight in England; perhaps he would even become the King. But none of this was part of Wart's dream.

But things turned around one day. On that day, Sir Kay was participating in a tournament, and the Wart was serving as his squire. However, in the midst of all the excitement, the Wart left the boarding house without Sir Kay's sword, and since the house was locked, he was unable to retrieve it before the tournament. Desperate to find his brother a sword, he remembered seeing an old sword stuck in a stone in a churchyard, so he went and pulled it out of the stone and brought it to Sir Kay to use in the tournament. When all the knights heard what he had done, they were amazed, because they knew the one who could pull out that sword would become the king of all England.

The boy, who was called Wart has been crowned King Arthur. His friends and neighbors had all thought that they knew his background and family. He was the son of Sir Ector, after all - everyone knew that. It turned out, though, that everyone was wrong. He was in fact the son of Uther, the former king of England. But sadly, when all the England was under his rule, it was King Arthur's close families who still saw him as the Wart. They thought that they knew him better than anyone else. And if you know the legend, you would recall that it was his nephew who rose against him, and King Arthur was killed in that battle.

A similar thing happened in today's Gospel reading too. When Jesus proclaimed who he really is, the crowd started to grumble about him because they thought they knew who Jesus was. In their own words, the people said, "Isn't this the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?" They knew what they knew, but what they didn't know was that Jesus' real father was not Joseph but God the almighty. They used what they knew to reject what they didn't know, even though what they didn't know was the truth. As a result, they refused the heavenly bread, which brought everlasting life from eternity.

"I am the bread of life", Jesus said, "he who comes to me shall not hunger, he who believes in me shall never thirst". As the Jews surrounding Jesus, we all know what bread is. We all want bread. And we all know what it means to go without it. But do you think we Christians are any better than Jesus' fellow Jews who rejected Jesus in his time? Do we really understand what Jesus said about him when he said that he was the bread that came down from heaven?

These days, many people including many Christians believe that faith is a personal thing. Many claims that they are spiritual but not religious. Many see Jesus as one of the greatest people and even one of the greatest prophets in human history. Many see Jesus as their personal savior. Many see Jesus as their national, racial, tribal or personal God. Many believe that they know Jesus much better than anyone else in this world. But they fail to see Jesus as who he really is and what he is really for. Perhaps it is because they thought that nobody else in this world could know Jesus better than them. It may also be because they fail to see beyond their own benefits and interests. They fail to recognize that Jesus is the bread from heaven for this world. He is the source of life from God to the whole entire world.

Jesus gives himself as bread. He puts his life in ours as bread, and when he does so, he brings heaven to us. He brings himself to us as a feast so that we would live now with the sole purpose of bringing this bread of heaven to all the world, and to each and every life of the world.

Do you want to fulfill your purpose and share this good news with the people who are eager to hear it today? May God give us faith and strength to do so. Amen

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 679 'For the Fruit of All Creation' (*Bradley Moggach – organ*)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/cCleDgaJ4Lg>

(Title: For the Fruit of All Creation (AR HYD Y NOS)

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Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872 – 1958; arr. © Oxford University Press All rights reserved.

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Prayers of Intercession:

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, new mission starts, and all communities of faith exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one. For all who are sick especially Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Sharon and Bryan. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly gathered around your table, we pray. For those among us who bake bread and prepare the vessels for our communion celebration. For those who bring the food from this table to those who are homebound or hospitalized. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. With Dominic and all the saints we praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Share the peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.

Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/-RnRfJoYmjs>

Prayer after Communion:

Jesus, Bread of life,
 we have received from your table
 more than we could ever ask.
 As you have nourished us in this meal,
 now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
 In your name we pray.
 Amen

Blessing:

The blessing of God,
 who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
 ☩ be upon you now and forever.
 Amen.

Sending Hymn: 'When There Are Challenges to Face' (Bradley Moggach – piano)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/aceQGTiRPGQ>

(Title: When There Are Challenges to Face; Text: John Wesley Oldham All rights reserved. Music: Bradley Moggach b. 1952 All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed with permission; All rights reserved.)

Dismissal:

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
 Thanks be to God.

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