**August 13th, 2023 The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

**ZOOM INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 13, 2023-ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on August 13th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship August 13th, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:**[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929098103?pwd=QlJFNUV1Slg3MHhOeGVEalJMdXMvZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929098103?pwd=QlJFNUV1Slg3MHhOeGVEalJMdXMvZz09)

**Meeting ID: 859 2909 8103 Passcode: 171662**

**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:**

**+17789072071,,85929098103#,,,,\*171662# Canada,**

**+17806660144,,85929098103#,,,,\*171662# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+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**

**Meeting ID: 859 2909 8103 Passcode: 171662**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kerkltBAqg**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kerkltBAqg)

**…………………………….**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 6th, 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, August 6th, 2023:**

<https://youtu.be/tX0kyb9whZs>

**……………………….**

1. **PASTORAL VISITS:** Pastor Laura is available for visits by appointment by calling the church office, 519-653-4721. Whether you have a particular pastoral concern or would just like some one-to-one time to get to know Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.
2. **…………………………….**

You can order your own Maple Syrup from St. Peter’s, Preston. Our partner is a 5th generation Woolwich Township farm that has been producing maple syrup for over 100 years. They adhere to the production guidelines issued by the Ontario Maple Syrup Association, which state the number of taps per tree (max. of 2) for best forest management practices. Handling of the sap and syrup is minimized to reduce the chance of contamination. Their syrup is pure with nothing added, only the water has been removed. As of 2018 their maple syrup is certified organic.

**1 litre Mason Jars of maple syrup are $23.00.**

**Send an email to or** alexblack@sympatico.ca **or call the church office at 519-653-4721 to order your own locally produced fresh Maple Syrup.**

**………………………………**

Help us support the **Cambridge Food Bank** by bringing a canned good or non-perishable item to church with you. We have a collection basket in the narthex, and every donation helps enable the food bank to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. We appreciate and thank you for your help in filling the basket as there is a very real and urgent need.

1. **…………………………….**

This Fall you are invited to join as a singer in the **Mennonite Mass Choir** **in a performance of Handel’s Messiah** with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony at Centre in the Square on **Sunday, December 10th** (afternoon). Monday evening rehearsals begin on September 25th at First Mennonite Church (800 King St E, Kitchener) from 7:30-9:30pm. For more information and to register go to [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com)

1. **…………………………..**

**Summer Services - Historic Ellis Pioneer Chapel**

6705 Ellis Road, Puslinch Township

**August 20, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.**

Guest speaker: Rev. Don McCallum

from Duff’s Presbyterian Church, Puslinch

**September 24, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.**

Concert of Barbershop and Gospel music

by Bakers Dozen, Guelph

Refreshments and fellowship in the garden to follow each of the services

**…………………………………..**

**Coffee + Connect with Pastor Laura!**

Over the summer, Pastor Laura will be hosting the following coffee hours in the parlour:

**Tuesday August 15 at 10:30AM**

This is a chance for you to get to know her and to (re)connect with one another. No need to RSVP but if you’d like to bring goodies to share, please contact the office.

Everyone is welcome, so bring along a friend or neighbour!

**………………………………**

**AN EASTERN SYNOD TWO RIVERS and GRAND RIVER MINISTRY AREA GATHERING
Thinking Forward – Saturday, September 16, 2023
ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 54 BENTON STREET, KITCHENER**

**Checking In 9:30 am – 10:00 am Gather and Refreshments**

**10:00 am – 12:00 noon Conversation**

An invitation to all Active Rostered, Congregational Lay Leaders and Members of Churches in the Grand River and Two Rivers Ministry Areas in the Waterloo and Wellington Regions

Part 2 - Let’s continue the conversation from May to think about possible pathways forward and discern the Spirit’s calling into God’s future.

**QUESTIONS?
Rev. David Malina –** **dmalinachurch@gmail.com**

**Rev. Heike Toeller –** **pastor.heike@gmail.com**

**…………………………..**

50th Anniversary
**Celebration Organ Series
Saturday September 23, 2023**
featuring Martin Jongsma

Save the Date!

**…………………………………**

**Send’em Off Smiling** [**http://www.sendemoff.ca/**](http://www.sendemoff.ca/)

COVID-19 has caused significant financial and personal hardships for many within Waterloo Region. Relatedly, it has made it more difficult for families to provide clothing and school supplies to their children. With your help and generous contributions, Send ‘em Off Smiling seeks to alleviate some of the burden by aiding those most in need within our community.  We rely on teachers, who witness the impact of child poverty on learning readiness, to help identify the children who would benefit most from the program.

Please get involved by bringing in **new** school and clothing supplies by **August 20, 2023**.  A basket will be in the St. Peter’s Narthex each Sunday for your much needed donations!  Feel free to also bring in any loose change!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SCHOOL SUPPLIES****Note:** we do not accept scissors or glue* Backpacks
* Lunch bags
* Water bottles
* Zippered pencil case
* Pencils
* Blue, red and black pens
* Erasers
* Pencil sharpeners
* Highlighters
* Package of 24 crayons
* Package of 24 pencil crayons
* 12 inch flexible plastic ruler
* Calculator
* Math/geometry set
 | **CLOTHING**We provide **new** clothes, both male and female, from JK (age 4) thru to Grade 8 (age 13):* running Shoes
* jeans/sweat pants
* short sleeved shirt
* long sleeved shirt/hoodie
* packages of underwear
* packages of socks
 |

**…………………………….**

**Yard Sale**

**Saturday, August 26, 2023 8 am – 2:00 pm**We’re looking for good, gently used, clean items of all kinds, and clothing. Please – no very large mirrors, no complete dining room suites, no large old television sets. If you’re unsure of whether what you have is suitable or not, leave a message at the church office.

We’d love to re-purpose your goods and make a new owner happy. Items may be dropped off at church; just let us know when we can meet with you.

**August 18th is the last day to drop off items!**

**………………………………**

COMMUNITY FAMILY CAMP - JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED EVENING CREATING, EXPLORING AND LAUGHING WITH YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS.

**WHEN**: Tuesday evenings in August 6:30pm – 8pm **WHERE**: Trillium United Church 450 King St E, Cambridge – (519) 653-6601 www.tilliumchurch.ca youthtrillium@gmail.com

***THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT. NO CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.***

**AUGUST 8:**  Musical Mayhem **AUGUST 15:**  Building Bridges – a S.T.E.M. challenge **AUGUST 22:**  Old-time camp games **AUGUST 29:**  The Amazing Race Preston Interactive fun around the neighbourhood, crafting, and family teamwork.

**……………………………………**

###### Concert here at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church

Saturday October 21, 2023

**Cambridge Symphony Orchestra**

Save the Date!

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**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Guest Organist: Sabatino Vacca**

**Assisting Minister: Helga Morrison**

**Reader: Emily Reidl**

**Land Acknowledgement:**

Here at St. Peter's in Cambridge, we acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron, or Neutrals, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee Peoples. Before the arrival of European settlers, these First Peoples had agreements between them represented by wampum belts from which they understood how to use the resources sustainably. One of these wampum belts is called the ‘Dish With One Spoon’ Belt. This wampum agreement represents the abundant land and water in what is now known as the Great Lakes Region with a dish, or bowl. Each tribe was to use the one spoon to remove only those resources they needed to live sustainably and then pass the dish onto others so that the abundance was shared. We are grateful for this example of using our abundance sustainably so that our resources are never depleted but shared equally for the benefit of all and continuing to the next seven generations.

**Candle of Remembrance for Pastor Neil**

**Call to Worship:**

P: For the beauty of the summer day,

***C: And the comfort of friends nearby;***

P: For the invitation to love and be loved,

***C: For God who extends that call;***

P: For time set apart to nourish the soul,

***C: For time to go out into the world armed with love:***

P: For all these things we give thanks.

***C: Let us worship God.***

*Source: “Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’.  Used with permission.* [*https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/*](https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/) *”*

**Gathering Hymn:  ELW # 765 ‘Lord of All Hopefulness’**

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,

 whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:

 be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,

 your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,

 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:

 be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,

 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,

 your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:

 be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,

 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,

 whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:

 be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,

 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*(Title:* *Lord of All Hopefulness; Text:* *Jan Struther, 1901-1953; Text © Oxford University Press 1931. All rights reserved. Used by permission # 46796; Music: Irish Traditional; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Invitation to Confession:**

The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God’s mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident in God’s love for us, let us offer our prayers, first in silence.

*silent prayer*

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**P: Gracious and loving God,

***C: open our hearts so that we can admit to you***

***the fullness of our lives –***

***that which is beautiful and good,***

***and that which is hurtful and hateful.***

***We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.
We love with condition.
We judge and condemn.
We cast the first stone,***

***and keep the logs in our own eyes.
We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.***

***Forgive us, we pray,***

***and empower us to be imitators of Christ***

***in love and service. Amen.***

**Assurance of Forgiveness:**

P: Friends in Christ, know this:

the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting,

and I remind you of this surpassing grace –

in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven +

***C: Alleluia! Amen.***

*Source:**“Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’.  Used with permission.* [*https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/*](https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/)

**Greeting**:

The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

**Prayer of the Day*:***

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.\*

**Lesson Introduction *(Pastor Laura)***

**1 Kings 19:1-18**

In our first reading we encounter the prophet Elijah at a low point in his ministry. Things didn’t work out as he had planned or imagined. Unable to trust that God would shelter him from harm, he’s run as far away as he can get from anywhere. But God shows up there too, because even if Elijah might be at the end of his resources, God still has work for him to do. There’s nowhere he can ran that God cannot go.

God finds Elijah in the middle of nowhere, and gives him his next task. It may not be what Elijah had imagined for his ministry or his future, but despite any setbacks, God makes a way forward for him. Let us listen to the word…

**The First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18**

There he went into a cave and spent the night.

The Lord’s word came to him and said, “Why are you here, Elijah?”

Elijah replied, “I’ve been very passionate for the Lord God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I’m the only one left, and now they want to take my life too!”

The Lord said, “Go out and stand at the mountain before the Lord. The Lord is passing by.” A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones before the Lord. But the Lord wasn’t in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But the Lord wasn’t in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire. But the Lord wasn’t in the fire. After the fire, there was a sound. Thin. Quiet. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat. He went out and stood at the cave’s entrance. A voice came to him and said, “Why are you here, Elijah?”

He said, “I’ve been very passionate for the Lord God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I’m the only one left, and now they want to take my life too.”

The Lord said to him, “Go back through the desert to Damascus and anoint Hazael as king of Aram. Also anoint Jehu, Nimshi’s son, as king of Israel; and anoint Elisha from Abel-meholah, Shaphat’s son, to succeed you as prophet. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill. Whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. But I have preserved those who remain in Israel, totaling seven thousand—all those whose knees haven’t bowed down to Baal and whose mouths haven’t kissed him.” *(CEB)*

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

**Lesson Introduction *(Pastor Laura)***

**Romans 10:5-15**

Today’s reading from the letter to the Romans comes from a section where Paul reflects on salvation for the Jewish people (we always need to remember that Christianity emerged from Judaism, and in those early days there was much debate about where Christianity fit within Judaism).

In this section of the letter, Paul references many verses from the Hebrew Scriptures: from Leviticus, Deuteronomy, the Psalms, and the prophet Joel. He follows a very Jewish way of building an argument to make his point that God is accessible to all.

Paul wants us to set our faith in the promise that God isn’t in some faraway place. God is near to us. He also makes it clear that none of us is nearer to God than anyone else – there is no need for comparison. For God is Lord of all creation, of Jews and Christians, and God responds to anyone who calls on God’s name. Let us listen to the word…

**The Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15**

Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law: *The person who does these things will live by them.* But the righteousness that comes from faith talks like this: *Don’t say in your heart*, “*Who will go up into heaven?*” that is, to bring Christ down or “*Who will go down into the region below?*” that is, to bring Christ up from the dead. But what does it say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* that is, the message of faith that we preach. Because if you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. The scripture says, *All who have faith in him won’t be put to shame*. There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. *All who call on the Lord’s name will be saved.*

So how can they call on someone they don’t have faith in? And how can they have faith in someone they haven’t heard of? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, *How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news. (CEB)*

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

1. **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

**The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 14:22-33**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, while he dismissed the crowds.And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” *(NRSV)*

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

**Sermon**

**Matthew 14:22-33**

I want you for a moment to put yourselves in Peter’s shoes. To imagine what it might have felt like to be him in this story.

Peter, who often speaks before he thinks, asks Jesus if he can walk on the water too; that choppy, windy water. Without hesitation, Jesus tells him to “Come.”

It must have been exhilarating – exciting, a little scary. Stepping out of that boat and onto the waves and somehow standing on top of the water – not sinking. All the while the wind is blowing and waves are crashing against the boat.

Focused on Jesus, Peter takes a couple of hesitant steps. But realizing that, like Jesus, he too is in fact walking on the water, Peter gains confidence and takes a few more steps.

He’s almost within arms’ reach of Jesus…when something changes.

For just a moment Peter’s focus strays. And it’s as if all of a sudden he realizes what he’s actually doing – as if it finally hits him that he’s in a dangerous situation he has no control over.

Peter freezes. His fear overtakes him and he begins to sink.

Fear has a way of finding us in all areas of our life, and our faith is no exception.

So often we fear that our faith is inadequate. That we don’t pray enough, or well enough. That we don’t read the Bible enough or go to church enough. That we don’t trust God as deeply as we wish we did or that we have too many doubts.

As a congregation we face fears as well. Whenever we try something new – a new mission or ministry – a new program or project, there’s always the fear that it might fail. And so sometimes we aren’t as bold in our faith and in our vision for ministry as we might be, because we’re afraid of failing or falling short.

This is a time too when many congregations are fearing for their future. Fewer people and fewer financial resources mean that it’s not business as usual coming out of the pandemic. The image of a being in a boat that’s being tossed around and blown far from the shore by wind and waves feels pretty apt these days.

Fear can be crippling and it can be overwhelming. And the hard part is, we can’t avoid fear. Fear is part of being human. We will always face fear in our personal faith life and in our life as a congregation. So what do we do in those moments when fear has a hold of us? When we feel like we’re sinking?

If we’re anything like Peter, we might cry out for help.

When Peter cries out in fear, Jesus is right there to catch him. Jesus is right there. In fact, all Jesus has to do is reach his hand out. Jesus catches Peter and brings him safely back to the boat. Of course, not without giving him a bit of a hard time first. “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

We often hear Jesus rebuking Peter with these words, but I can’t help but wonder if Jesus didn’t say these words with a bit of a gentle laugh. The way good friends often joke with each other.

Because the truth is, Jesus wasn’t ever going to let anything happen to Peter. The minute Peter cries out for help, Jesus is right there to lift him again and bring him safely back to the boat.

I’d like to think that this story is a promise that Jesus does the same for us too. That when we find ourselves flailing, even drowning, that in our time of need, Jesus will reach out and pluck us up out of the water too.

Sometimes though, maybe it feels most like we’re still those disciples in the boat, having spent a long sleepless night being tossed and thrown in the sea. That we’re still waiting and longing for Jesus to make his way out to us and rescue us from the storm. That we’re still here waiting for Jesus to rescue us, and he’s sure taking his sweet time!

But even in those moments when I’m still waiting for Jesus to pull me up, I trust that our Lord who can walk on the stormiest of waters, is making his way to me; and more likely, is really already right there with me.

As I imagine those windy, wavy, waters, Judy Brown’s poem “The Trough”[1] offers some beautiful and powerful wisdom. She writes,

*There is a trough in waves,*

*A low spot*

*Where horizon disappears*

*And only sky*

*And water*

*Are our company.*

*And there we lose our way*

*Unless*

*We rest, knowing the wave will bring us*

*To its crest again.*

*There we may drown*

*If we let fear*

*Hold us within its grip and shake us*

*Side to side,*

*And leave us flailing, torn, disoriented.*

*But if we rest there*

*In the trough,*

*Are silent,*

*Being with*

*The low part of the wave,*

*Keeping*

*Our energy and*

*Noticing the shape of things,*

*The flow,*

*Then time alone*

*Will bring us to another*

*Place*

*Where we can see*

*Horizon, see the land again,*

*Regain our sense*

*Of where*

*We are, And where we need to swim.*

Although our attention is often drawn to Peter in this story. Peter who boldly and foolishly asks to step out of the boat and join Jesus on the waves. This story is really about who Jesus is.

Our Lord is a Lord who can walk on the stormiest of seas. Who is with us in the stormiest of seas. Who does not abandon us to the wind and the waves, but who will bring us again to safety.

It doesn’t mean we won’t swallow a little water.

We may come up sputtering and gasping for air.

Sometimes the storm will last longer than we may personally like.

But we can trust that Jesus is with us and that he will bring us safely to the next shore. Jesus will bring the horizon into view once more, because Jesus is always with us, lifting us up, giving us the courage and strength to push past our fears and follow him. AMEN

1 <https://www.ms54.org/uploads/4/8/4/5/48453461/the_trough_by_judy_brown.pdf>

**Hymn of the Day: ELW 763 ‘My Life Flows On in Endless Song’**

1 My life flows on in endless song;

 above earth's lamentation,

 I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn

 that hails a new creation.

***Refrain***

 **No storm can shake my inmost calm**

 **while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

 **Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,**

 **how can I keep from singing?**

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,

 I hear that music ringing.

 It finds an echo in my soul.

 How can I keep from singing? ***Refrain***

3 What though my joys and comforts die?

 The Lord my Savior liveth.

 What though the darkness gather round?

 Songs in the night he giveth. ***Refrain***

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,

 a fountain ever springing!

 All things are mine since I am his!

 How can I keep from singing? ***Refrain***

*(Title: My Life Flows ON IN Endless Song; Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899; Public Domain; Music: Robert Lowry, alt.; Public Domain*

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**Affirmation of Faith:**

P: We believe in God;

***C: Who is older than eternity***

***and younger than our next breath;***

***who is beyond describing***

***yet knows us all by name;***

***who inspires faith***

***yet cannot be contained by religion.***

P: We believe in Jesus Christ,

flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone;

***C: He came in the body***

***to give worth to every human life.***

***He touched the untouchable,***

***loved the unlovable,***

***forgave the unforgivable***

***and endured slander,***

***persecution and death***

***in order that through suffering love***

***God’s kingdom might come on earth.***

***He rose from the grave as living proof***

***that what is laid down in faith***

***will be raised in glory.***

***He ascended to heaven***

***that he might be present***

***at all times***

***to all people.***

P: We believe in the Holy Spirit,

***C: Who leads us into truth and freedom,***

***who gives good gifts***

***to all God’s children,***

***who inspires research, enables prayer,***

***and wills***

***that human economics and politics***

***should prioritise justice,***

***care for the earth***

***and the healing of the nations.***

P: We celebrate the potential of the Church,

***C: The life in our bodies,***

***the yearning in our souls,***

***the promise of good things in store***

***for those who love the Lord.***

*Source: (A Wee Worship Book – Liturgy for Holy Communion A #30810; Type: Words; First Line: Call to worship – Gather us in; Language: English (pages 80-92); Contributors: Iona community; Text: © 1999, WGRG, Iona community, GIA Publications, Inc; exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and through Christ Jesus we share in your holiness. Send us to proclaim the good news both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and online. Hear us, O God.***C: Your mercy is great.***

God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.***C: Your mercy is great.***

God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in us and our leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God.***C: Your mercy is great.***

God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Bryan, Nansea, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Creena, Shirley, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Jan, Ken, Robin, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Fred, Anne and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts…. Hear us, O God.***C: Your mercy is great.***

God of eternal life, we hold in prayer our brother Pastor Neil, giving thanks for his life and his ministry among us in this place. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for his family and loved ones, especially Kathy and Charlotte and their family.  May they feel the comfort of your unfailing love in the days and weeks ahead.  Hear us, O God.***C: Your mercy is great****.*

God of community, we pray for our siblings in Christ. For the people of Preston Mennonite Church and their pastors Danielle Raimbault and KyongJung Kim. For the people of St Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Kitchener and their pastors Sebastian Meadows-Helmer, Carey Meadows-Helmer, and Scott Knarr. Bless them in their ministry and unite us in our mission to serve your world. Hear us, O God.***C: Your mercy is great.***

We give thanks and pray for Jann and Heide who serve on our Ministry of Vision in Mission. Embrace them with your love and renew them by your Spirit, as they encourage us to live into our mission as disciples of Jesus. Hear us, O God.***C: Your mercy is great.***

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.\*

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW # 686 ‘We Give thee but Thine Own’**

1 We give thee but thine own,

 whate'er the gift may be;

 all that we have is thine alone,

 a trust, O Lord, from thee.

2 May we thy bounties thus

 as stewards true receive,

 and gladly, as thou blessest us,

 to thee our firstfruits give.

3 The captive to release,

 to God the lost to bring,

 to teach the way of life and peace—

 it is a Christlike thing.

4 And we believe thy word,

 though dim our faith may be:

 whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,

 we do it unto thee.

*(Title: We Give Thee but Thine Own; Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.; Public Domain; Music:* *L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantictica Lauda, 1850; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering Prayer:**

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky,

you are the giver of all good things.

Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,

and multiply your graciousness in us,

that the world may be fed with your love,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.\*

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/ViXmTzRsfU4**](https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4)

**Great Thanksgiving: ACS Setting 12: ‘Dialogue…’ (page 36) (spoken)**

The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**Thanksgiving at the Table:**

On the night before he died,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

**Invitation to Communion:**

This is Christ’s table. All are welcome here to receive God’s abundant gifts of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, “The body of Christ, given for us.”

And, as we take our cup we say, “The blood of Christ, shed for us.”

**Communion Music: ELW # 487 ‘What Feast of Love’**

1 What feast of love is offered here,

 what banquet come from heaven?

 What food of everlasting life,

 what gracious gift is given?

 This, this is Christ the king,

 the bread come down from heaven.

 Oh, taste and see and sing!

 How sweet the manna given!

2 What light of truth is offered here,

 what covenant from heaven?

 What hope of everlasting life,

 what wondrous word is given?

 This, this is Christ the king,

 the sun come down from heaven.

 Oh, see and hear and sing!

 The Word of God is given!

3 What wine of love is offered here,

 what crimson drink from heaven?

 What stream of everlasting life,

 what precious blood is given?

 This, this is Christ the king,

 the sweetest wine of heaven.

 Oh, taste and see and sing!

 The Son of God is given!

*(Title: What Feast of Love; Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939; Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.#98260; Music: English ballad, 16th cent.; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you, in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer after Communion:**

A: We thank you, generous God,

for the refreshment we have received

at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,

through the one who is our dearest treasure,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.\*

**Blessing:**

The God who calls across the cosmos

and speaks in the smallest seed

☩ bless, keep, and sustain you

now and to the end of the age.

Amen\*

**Sending Hymn: ACS # 1004 ‘Faith Begins by Letting Go’**

1 Faith begins by letting go,

 giving up what had seemed sure,

 taking risks and pressing on,

 though the way feels less secure:

 pilgrimage both right and odd,

 trusting all our life to God.

2 Faith endures by holding on,

 keeping mem'ry's roots alive

 so that hope may bear its fruit;

 promise-fed, our souls will thrive,

 not through merit we possess

 but by God's great faithfulness.

3 Faith matures by reaching out,

 stretching minds, enlarging hearts,

 sharing struggles, living prayer,

 binding up the broken parts;

 till we find the commonplace

 ripe with witness to God's grace.

*(Title: Faith Begins by Letting Go; Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944; Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission # 01182; Music: J. G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

***C: Thanks be to God.\****

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