

**July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.45 am on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, can be found here  
 Sunday Worship July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 09:45 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 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/kbPCYJmux>

**Announcements:**

**MAPLE SYRUP:** You can order your own Maple Syrup from St. Peter's. 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 \$22.00.** Contact the church office to place your order(s) at 519-653-4721.

**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.

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**Thanksgiving for our Presence on This Land**

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

**Gathering Hymn: ELW # 657 'Rise, O Sun of Righteousness' (Bradley Moggach – organ)**

Click here: <https://youtu.be/uG1ExvTQ5Uc>

(Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958; Tune: Sonne der Gerechtigkeit; Music: Bohemian Brethren, 1566  
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**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:** O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your

commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**The First Reading: Amos 7:7-15**

This is what the Lord GOD showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line  
in the midst of my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by;  
the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,  
and Israel must go into exile  
away from his land.’ ”

And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ” (NRSV)

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

**Psalm: Psalm 85:8-1**

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

***Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.***

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

***Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.***

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

***Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.\****

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**The Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an

inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. (NRSV)

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

### **The Holy Gospel according to Mark 6:14-29**

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

King Herod heard of the disciples' preaching, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. (NRSV)

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

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

After hearing this quite bloody story of John the Baptist being beheaded, do you still have appetite for your lunch? I find that it is even difficult to say "Thanks be to God!" after a story like that.

And interestingly, this Herod's banquet of death is put side by side with Jesus' banquet of life. The story of Jesus feeding 5000 hungry people is right after today's reading. Isn't it strange? Mark places these two stories side by side. Maybe he wants us to see the huge contrast between two very different banquets. Let's go back to Herod's banquet first. This feast was in a palace. There wasn't a large crowd, but a select guest of important people. They had plenty of fine food and wine, and entertainment. And the chilling factor of this banquet is that they treat other people's life as objects. John's head became a reward of a piece of beautiful dance.

Herod could have made a different choice, but he put his own interests and honor before God in his life. Though he loved to listen to John the Baptist, he couldn't risk his own reputation to save John's life. His values led to his decisions. Sacrificing his interests for the sake of God and for other people's needs was not in Herod's mind.

But it was in Jesus' mind. In the following story of feeding 5000, when the hour grew late, when the disciples said, "This is a deserted place... send the crowds away so that they may go into the village and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

As we know, Jesus' disciples found 5 loaves and 2 fish; it was just enough as a light dinner for an adult. This little food had no way to feed 5000 people. But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." Not like Herod who cared only about himself, Jesus cared about every one who was hungry. And he asked his disciples to feed them.

Our church is a church with limited resources. And the needs are big. We need more financial resources to maintain and hopefully expend our ministry. But more than that we need more human resources to do all the ministries we are doing and those we really want to do. But if we just focus on our own needs and plans and dreams, we may not be able to see what Jesus sees.

Our lives are filled with choices. Herod chose his own interests and honor. He presided over a banquet of death. Jesus called his disciples to make a choice: "You give them something to eat." They could have said "no" for they had only 5 loaves and 2 fish--just enough to feed themselves. But Jesus called them to share what they had. They did have something. You have something. And so do I. Jesus blesses and multiplies what we bring. When that happens, there will be a banquet of life for everyone.

**Amen**

**Hymn of the Day:** ELW # 712 'Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service' (*Bradley Moggach – organ*)

**Click here:** <https://youtu.be/kt5vfXUwA8M>

(Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984; Music: Beach Spring: The Sacred Harp; Text © 1961 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission Under One License # A727610)

### **Prayers of Intercession:**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

Holy parent, you welcome your people into one family and gather all things to yourself. Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness all might praise your glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Awesome Creator, you steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and laborers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the oppressed, turn the ears of those who are in power to the voices of prophets in our own day. Protect those who speak difficult truths when it is risky to do so. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of strength, you are near to those who endure difficulty. Comfort all who are survivors of violence, guard the refugee and the immigrant, and protect all those who are victims of prejudice and discrimination. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for this holy house and all those who worship here. We pray especially for those whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed; for the custodian and maintenance workers, for our office staff, and for all of our volunteers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need especially Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice and Don. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy. Our minds and our hearts can barely fathom the numbers of Indigenous children lost to the Residential School System in Canada. Their families and their communities were forever changed by cruelty done in your name. We grieve the loss of generations of Indigenous children. Lord you know that the depth of pain we feel is small compared to the pain felt by the

families of these children. Give us strength and courage to stand with our Indigenous siblings as they seek answers and demand justice. Help us to more fully demonstrate that you are a God of love and compassion who also grieves the loss of these little ones. Lord, the names of these precious souls may never be known to us, but they have always been known to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, we pray for all of the people in the devastating partial condo building collapse in Surfside Florida. We pray that you will welcome into your eternal rest those who have lost their lives, and comfort their families in their grief. Lord, protect and guide the first responders and volunteers as they search through the debris looking for your precious children, and help the leaders investigate and understand how this tragedy happened, so that it can be prevented in the future. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We thank you, God, for the saints, martyrs, and prophets who have died in the faith especially Benedict of Nursia. We remember those in this community who have recently died. United with them as God's children, assure us that we are yours forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. *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:

Click here: <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:** ELW # 793 'Be Thou My Vision' (*Bradley Moggach – organ*)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/C2DkJKyKYN4>

(Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; All rights reserved. Used by permission Under One License # A727610)

### **Dismissal:**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**