**July 9th, 2023 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

**ZOOM INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY JULY 9, 2023-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on July 9th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship July 9th, 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 JULY 9th, 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, July 2nd, 2023:** <https://youtu.be/88NKVqczhV8>

**……………………….**

**PASTORAL VISITS**: Pastor Laura Sauder is available for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to her by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

***Please note: Pastor Laura will be on vacation from July 10 – August 6, 2023 inclusive.*…………………………….**

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](mailto:alexblack@sympatico.ca) **or call the church office at 519-653-4721 to order your own locally produced fresh Maple Syrup.**

**………………………………**

**Greenhorizons BigYellowBag - Give & Grow Program**

This fundraiser is open to all and enables each one of us to raise funds for St. Peters. If you don’t have a lawn or garden, you can still help by spreading the word to your neighbours, friends and relatives.

Each time that an order is placed at Greenhorizons Sod at 519.653.7494 for a **BigYellowBag** of soil using the **code SPLCC23** you will save $5.00, and the church will receive $10.00.

Spread the word, and the soil!​

**……………………………**

1. **Yard Sale**
2. **Saturday July 15, 2023 8:00 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. So – start your spring clear out and think of St. Peter’s. 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.

**………………………………..**

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

**July 16, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.**

Guest speaker: Rev. Kate Ballagh-Steeper

from Harcourt United Church, Guelph

**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

**…………………………………..**

GET READY FOR SUMMER - **With Summer Sausage from Atwood Heritage (Formerly N.S. Martin).  $25.00 / Chubb.**  Please contact Alex Black [alexblack@sympatico.ca](mailto:alexblack@sympatico.ca) or the church office at [519.653.4721](tel:519.653.4721) to place your order(s)!

**………………………………….**

**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**](mailto:dmalinachurch@gmail.com)

**Rev. Heike Toeller –** [**pastor.heike@gmail.com**](mailto:pastor.heike@gmail.com)

**…………………………..**

**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!

**………………………………**

Today, the flowers on the altar are in memory of Janet Black who passed away ten years ago on July 10th, 2013. Alex, Mary Anne, Nancy.

**…………………………..**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

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

**Assisting Minister: Kim Strassburger**

**Reader: Helga Morrison**

**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.

**Welcome remarks**

**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 # 827 ‘Arise, My Soul, Arise!’**

1 Arise, my soul, arise!

Stretch forth to things eternal

and hasten to the feet of your redeemer God,

who, hid from mortal eyes,

yet dwells in light supernal;

so worship God in humbleness, your sov'reign Lord.

The banquet of love

awaits you above;

yet here you have a foretaste of the feast to come!

Rejoice, my soul, rejoice,

to heav'n lift up your voice:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Now hear the harps of heav'n!

Oh, hear the song victorious,

the never-ending anthem sounding through the sky!

To mortals is not giv'n

to join in strains so glorious;

yet here on earth we too can sing our praises high!

Christ bought with his blood

the ransomed of God;

to him be everlasting pow'r and victory.

And let the great amen

resound through heav'n again.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*(Title: Arise, My Soul, Arise! (Nyt ylös, sieluni);* Text: *Johan Kahl, 1721-1746; Finnish tr. Halullisten Sjelujen**Hengelliset Laulut, 1790; English tr. Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt.; Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*Music:* Finnish folk tune**; arr.;** *© 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. 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*:***

Let us pray

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.\***

**Lesson Introduction *(Pastor Laura)*Romans 7:15-25a**

This passage from Paul’s letter to the Romans is one that has always resonated with me. It just feels so true to my lived experience – that in spite of our good intentions and even deep seated desires to do good, we often struggle to live as we ought. That we really do need Christ’s grace and mercy to overcome the things that derail us and turn us inward.

But hearing these words again this week, I’m really struck by the judgmental tone of Paul’s words. To be honest, I don’t know if we need to beat ourselves up about this truth of human nature as Paul does, but I’ll say more about that piece in the sermon. Let us listen to the word…

**The Reading: Romans 7:15-25a**

I don’t know what I’m doing, because I don’t do what I want to do. Instead, I do the thing that I hate. But if I’m doing the thing that I don’t want to do, I’m agreeing that the Law is right. But now I’m not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it’s sin that lives in me. I know that good doesn’t live in me—that is, in my body. The desire to do good is inside of me, but I can’t do it. I don’t do the good that I want to do, but I do the evil that I don’t want to do. But if I do the very thing that I don’t want to do, then I’m not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it is sin that lives in me that is doing it.

So I find that, as a rule, when I want to do what is good, evil is right there with me. I gladly agree with the Law on the inside, but I see a different law at work in my body. It wages a war against the law of my mind and takes me prisoner with the law of sin that is in my body. I’m a miserable human being. Who will deliver me from this dead corpse? Thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then I’m a slave to God’s Law in my mind, but I’m a slave to sin’s law in my body. *(CEB)*

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

**Gospel Acclamation: ELW Setting Eight *(page 188)***

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.\*

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**The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

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

“To what will I compare this generation? It is like a child sitting in the marketplaces calling out to others, ‘We played the flute for you and you didn’t dance. We sang a funeral song and you didn’t mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ Yet the Human One came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved to be right by her works.”

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you’ve hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have shown them to babies. Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness.

“My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows the Son except the Father. And nobody knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.” *(CEB)*

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

**Sermon**

**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

James turned 7 at the end of June, and that meant planning a birthday party. Now I will just start this off by saying that I discovered long ago that I did not miss my calling as an event planner. So it was no surprise to me when at least 6-8 weeks beforehand I started losing sleep over this. And to be fair to myself, there were a several pieces that were rightfully anxiety producing.

* I was doing this for the first time; because of COVID this was our first ‘friends’ birthday party.
* I was doing this with new people, in a new community; I still hadn’t met all of James’ friends’ parents.
* Our house and yard aren’t all that big, so where would we host the party? Do we squeeze into our place or find another venue? But where would that other venue be?
* We ended up doing a shared party with one of James’ friends – which is a whole other story of which I will spare you the details – but then I worried whether people might think that was cheap.

I could go on, but you can see how I was spinning, so I’ll spare you the rest. Maybe some of you can relate?

In the end, James had a lovely party with his friends, but by the end of June, I was spent. I couldn’t believe how much emotional energy I used up on a birthday party. And it was frustrating because I know my energy is limited. I have way better things to use my energy on than worrying about a child’s birthday party.

So what was my problem? Why was I so stressed about this party?

I mean, my little problem was nothing like being in Jesus’ shoes, who really knew a thing or two about being judged – about conflict and being challenged. Or John the Baptist for that matter, who at this moment in time is languishing in prison.

It’s kind of interesting to think about it, especially since Jesus lays the comparison right out there for us, how different he and John were. Even though they were part of the same movement and ministry, neither one of them could win. As Jesus tells us, For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ Yet the Human One came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’

It’s something we run up against in life again and again. We can’t please everyone. But some of us will die trying.

And we won’t always agree. There will always be conflicts and disagreements and differences, which is hard and can take a lot from us. So how do we navigate all of this in a way that doesn’t burn us out or tear us to shreds? Which is important because if all our energy gets sucked into conflict or worry, we won’t have a lot left for things like service or compassion or justice work.

Which brings me back to the birthday party. I ended up sharing this story with my therapist this week because it was still bothering me how this one thing basically derailed the month of June for me.

I was feeling at a loss because I knew exactly what the source of my stress was.

And I knew – like I really knew – that most of the things I was worrying about really didn’t matter. And that at the end of the day, I can’t control if other people judge me.

When I laid out my woes to my therapist this week – and just let me be clear, I realise how silly in the grand scheme of things this “problem” is, but I think this insight makes it worth sharing.

When I shared this story, my therapist said to me, “of course.”

“Of course you’re feeling stress and anxiety and worry because this is a new thing with new people. And this is how you’re wired – this is what you do.”

Until she said that, I hadn’t quite realised how I had been judging myself for feeling worried and stressed. My go to self-talk is usually something like “why am I feeling like this?” or “I shouldn’t be feeling this way” To say instead, ‘of course you’re feeling like this” was an incredible revelation.

And it suddenly made a lot of sense why I always resonated so deeply with Paul’s lament about not doing the thing I want to do, and instead doing the thing I hate – and in particular, the judgment of that behaviour.

Unknowingly, all through June I had been fighting those feelings of worry and anxiety; judging myself for feeling that way in the first place. Those two little words “of course” sucked away that judgment, and I could literally feel the tension ease in my body.

To acknowledge the truth of our feelings, without judgment, is an act of self-compassion. And it mirrors the compassion Jesus has for us.

“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.”

Jesus knew how hard life could be. He knew what it was like to be judged and hated and challenged. Jesus knew that life doesn’t always make sense and that feelings are a lot. He knew what it was like to work and hope for change and justice and peace in a system that does everything in its power to resist that change.

Of course you are weary, he says, of course. But you are not alone – and you don’t have to carry these burdens alone.

Jesus’ promise of rest doesn’t mean the absence of stress, conflict or worry. Instead, it’s a promise that we don’t bear these things alone. It’s a promise that in acknowledging our weariness and offering ourselves compassion rather than judgment, space is made for the Spirit to move and breathe life.

When I notice that I’m carrying a burden or a worry, one really simple and practical way I’ve learned to practice this way of rest is to imagine God holding that person or place that is weighing on my heart.

Because the tricky thing is, when we’re worrying about something, at the root of that somewhere is the idea that it all depends on us. To follow in Jesus’ way of humility is to realise that in fact, God is holding all of it.

And the thing is, we’re never going to not have worries or stresses in our lives. I will probably stress about James’ birthday party again next year. But I will do my best to practice self-compassion. When I feel that anxiety rising, instead of willing myself to feel another way, simply telling myself “of course” and resting in God’s love and grace for me.

In the most recent issue of the Lamplighter, I invited our congregation into a season of prayer over the summer. We’re in a stressful space right now as a congregation, as we deal with some financial challenges and what ministry looks like on this side of a global pandemic.

And truthfully, it’s not just in the church but in society at large that we’re experiencing similar stresses – the impacts of the pandemic continue to ripple and create stresses in the systems all around us – economically, politically, socially. It’s a lot – and so if you are feeling worried or weary – of course you are.

As we enter into this quieter and slower season of the church year, my desire is for us to use this time with intention. To pray for our congregation, our ministry, and our future.

And if you’re not sure what that might look like for you, praying in this way, I’m going to invite us to do it together right now; using the prayer prompts that I shared in that article and the model of imagining God holding us in this prayer.

All you need to do is settle into your seat, both feet on the floor, hands on lap (flat on your knees or clasped). Close your eyes.

Take a moment to feel God’s love around you; holding you.

Rest for a moment in that love.

As I speak each petition, I will leave space for you to offer your silent prayers – your hopes, your wishes, your desires.

*God, as we rest in the promise of your presence and your love, we lift these concerns to you. We ask you to help us hold them with gentleness and humility, not having all the answers but trusting in you to guide us.*

*God, we pray for our congregation…*

*We pray for those who serve on council…*

*We pray for those who serve on the redevelopment committee…*

*We pray for you to open our hearts and our minds and our wills to the movement of your Spirit in this congregation…*

*We pray for direction and opportunity to serve our neighbours…*

*Many of us are feeling weary and worried. Of course we are. And God, we know that your love won’t save us from anything, but help us to trust that your love will sustain us through everything. May it be so. Amen.*

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 777 ‘Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty’**

1. "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;

drink the water I will give.

If you knew what gift I offer,

you would come to me and live."

***Refrain***

***Jesus, ever flowing fountain,***

***give us water from your well.***

***In the gracious gift you offer***

***there is joy no tongue can tell.***

2. "Come to me, all trav'lers weary;

come that I may give you rest.

Drink the cup of life I offer;

at this table be my guest." ***Refrain***

3. "Come to me, believers burdened;

find refreshment in this place.

Come, receive the gift I offer,

turn to me and seek my face." ***Refrain***

4. "Come to me, repentant sinners;

leave behind your guilt and shame.

Come and know divine compassion,

turn to me, I call your name." ***Refrain***

5. "Come to me, distressed and needy;

I would be your trusted friend.

Come and seek the gift I offer,

come, your open hands extend." ***Refrain***

6. "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;

lonely ways no longer roam.

Come and take the gift I offer,

let me make in you my home." ***Refrain***

*(Title: Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty; Text: Delores Dufner, b. 1939; Text © 2008 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1935; © 1985 Augsburg Fortress All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**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.

God of the covenant, you call us to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Encourage and inspire us to carry out your work. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state/province, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation We pray especially for the people of Palestine and Israel. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need (especially we pray for Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Bryan, Nansea, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Creena, Shirley, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Jan, Ken, Pastor Neil, Robin, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Janice, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts…..). Make your presence known among all who suffer. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around word and sacrament. Encourage us in our learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

God of community, we pray for our siblings in Christ. For the people of St Luke’s Anglican Church and their priest Craig Love. For the people of St Stephen’s Lutheran Church, Kitchener and their pastor Richard Schwass. Bless them in their ministry and unite us in our mission to serve your world. God, in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks and pray for Dave and Donna who serve on our Ministry of Human Resources. Embrace them with your love and renew them by your Spirit, in their service and ministry among us. God, in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

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 # 790 ‘Day by Day’**

1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,

bringing comfort to my anxious soul.

Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me

draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.

Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,

brings to naught the burdens of my quest;

Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,

where at last I'll find eternal rest.

2 Day by day, I know you will provide me

strength to serve and wisdom to obey;

I will seek your loving will to guide me

o'er the paths I struggle day by day.

I will fear no evil of the morrow,

I will trust in your enduring grace.

Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow

till in glory I behold your face.

3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me

when my burdens grow too great to bear;

oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.

Day by day, no matter what betide me,

you will hold me ever in your hand.

Savior, with your presence here to guide me,

I will reach at last the promised land.

*(Title: Day by Day; Text: Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005; Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress.; All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882; Public Domain; 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: ELW # 208 ‘Praise to You, O God of Mercy’**

1 Praise to you, O God of mercy:

thanks be to you forever!

Raising high the weak and lowly:

thanks be to you forever!

2 From of old you loved and sought us:

thanks be to you forever!

Truth and justice you have taught us:

thanks be to you forever!

***Bridge***

Strong is your faithfulness,

strong is your love,

rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.

3 Praise to you, O God of mercy:

thanks be to you forever!

Raising high the weak and lowly:

thanks be to you forever!

Thanks be to you forever!

*(Tile:* *Praise to You, O God of Mercy;* Text & *Music: Now the Feast of Celebration* *© 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

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