

June 13th, 2021 Third Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.45 am on June 13th, 2021, can be found here

Sunday Worship June 13th, 2021 09:45 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10 am.

Click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86463612819?pwd=Nzg5eUwyd3h3REJlc1VoWmFXSDlMdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6361 2819

Passcode: 651484

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:

+16473744685,,86463612819#,,,,*651484# Canada

+16475580588,,86463612819#,,,,*651484# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

Meeting ID: 864 6361 2819

Passcode: 651484

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

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.

Get Ready for Summer with ATTWOOD HERITAGE SUMMER SAUSAGE (formerly N.S. Martin) \$25.00 / Chubb. Contact the church office to place your order(s) at 519-653-4721.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 657 'Rise, O Sun of Righteousness'

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

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958; Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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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, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;

I will set it out.
 I will break off a tender one
 from the topmost of its young twigs;
 I myself will plant it
 on a high and lofty mountain.
 On the mountain height of Israel
 I will plant it,
 in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
 and become a noble cedar.
 Under it every kind of bird will live;
 in the shade of its branches will nest
 winged creatures of every kind.
 All the trees of the field shall know
 that I am the LORD.
 I bring low the high tree,
 I make high the low tree;
 I dry up the green tree
 and make the dry tree flourish.
 I the LORD have spoken;
 I will accomplish it. (NRSV)
 Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
 to sing praise to your name, O Most High;
**to herald your love in the morning
 and your faithfulness at night;**
 on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
 and to the melody of the harp.
**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
 and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**
 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
 and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
 shall flourish in the courts of our God;**
 they shall still bear fruit in old age;
 they shall be green and succulent;
**that they may show how upright the LORD is,
 my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

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The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10-17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you

again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (NRSV)

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

Gospel Acclamation: ‘Listen, Listen to the Gospel Message....’ (Bradley Moggach – piano)

Click here: # <https://youtu.be/X2jHYEsLg8A>

Words & Music by Bradley Moggach, © 2021, copyright reserved.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 4:26-34

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples. (NRSV)

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

Sermon (Imagine Interim Pastor Chun Zhang’s voice here):

In today’s Gospel reading, there is a very mysterious sentence - the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how...

It tells us that ultimately, life itself is a mystery.

These days, farmers have the most sophisticated equipment you can imagine. Seeds are genetically modified. Plowing, planting, watering, and gathering machines are driven by GPS units and computer software. Storage barns are temperature and humidity controlled. Professional traders offer advice about when to sell and when to hold off. To be a successful farmer these days is a completely different process than what our ancestors experienced.

Yet still, the growing process remains a mystery. Earth is tilted. Seed is thrown. Fertilizer is applied. Prayers are said. And in good years, the harvest comes. While in bad years, no matter what a farmer does, a poor gathering is guaranteed. And nobody 100% knows why.

And it is the same with the life of our faith in our time. Literally, with the help of the internet we have all the tools we need to share the good news with others — and they are right at our fingertips. Just as one of the internet company’s slogan: everything is just one click away from you.

Nowadays, there are lots of online faith development resources: Study Bibles, Daily devotional messages that are prepared by our brothers and sisters from another side of the world, 24-hour television and radio

programming, Theological books available on Kindle and iBooks... The list can go on and on. There are more sophisticated resources for faith development available to you and me than any previous generation has ever dreamed about.

Yet still, the salvation of human beings remains a mystery: some of us tell the story of our encounter with God; Some encourage the faith of others; some pray for others; some meditate and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit; some seek answers from research and theological studies; some serve the church and the surrounding communities. But the mystery remains. The mystery is that through our very human imperfect being, and incomplete proclamation, faith takes root real lives transformed, and God's words bear many fruits.

Jesus tells the story of a sower of seeds. This sower doesn't have sophisticated methods or equipment. This sower simply does two things: first, scattering the seeds. And then, second, wait patiently until the harvest time. Just like how Jesus put it: Life goes on. Sleeping and rising. Sleeping and rising, and all the while, seeds mysteriously sprout: first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head, until it is time to go into the fields, and bring in the harvest.

God calls us to become part of his mystery, he calls us to sow seeds of faith wherever we go. We share our faith; we perform acts of mercy; we give of ourselves generously. We pray that the Holy Spirit might move, and the kingdom of God proclaims itself in this world through us.

Help us, O God, in our efforts to offer our witness. And work the mystery of faith in all who receive it.

Amen.

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 465 'As the Grains of Wheat' (Bradley Moggach – piano & vocal)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/tHSIRnAd758>

(Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. 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 God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians, especially Brad. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of All people, we pray for our Indigenous siblings as they absorb the loss of 215 children whose bodies were discovered on the grounds of the Residential School in Kamloops, BC. Lord, we take comfort in knowing they did not die alone but were held within your loving embrace. We pray for their families and

their communities as they seek answers and demand justice. 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 our weary years, God of our silent tears, we grieve with our Muslim siblings as they deal with yet one more incident in a long history of tragic acts of racial and religious violence. We pray for the entire Afzaal family and especially young Fayez as he recovers from his injuries from the recent vicious and deliberate attack. We ask for peace in our communities for people of all races and religions and we pray that you would show us the way to true solidarity and justice. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of abundance, we pray for those who are oppressed, sick or in any need, especially Bill, Don, Tammy, Linda, Alice and Don. Encourage those who have begun to lose heart. Strengthen and renew us with your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you (*especially*). We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. 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.

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

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

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.

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: WOV # 767 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' (Bradley Moggach – piano)

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdFBtbMmxlw>

(Text: Cecil F. Alexander 1818-1895 – Public Domain, Music Bradley Moggach b.1952; Tune Name: Kroft)

Dismissal:

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.