**June 25th,2023 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

**ZOOM INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2023-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on June 25th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship June 25th, 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 JUNE 25th, 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, June 18th, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/GzcpAXg9Q54**](https://youtu.be/GzcpAXg9Q54)

**……………………….**

**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.***

**……………………………**

**Bible Study will be in the Art Room on Mondays at 3:00PM.**

**Please join us – all are welcome!**

1. **…………………………..**

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!​

**………………………………..**

**Yard Sale - Dates are July 7 and 8, 2023.** 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.

**……………………………**

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)!

**………………………………….**

**The June Lamplighter** is now available! If you would like a paper copy, please pick one up in the narthex! Thank you to our Editor Lorre for putting together this most informative newsletter!

**……………………………….**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

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

**Assisting Minister: Helga Morrison**

**Reader: Austin Dykstra**

**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.

**Gathering Hymn: ACS # 1038 ‘God, We Gather as Your People’ *(For All the Children)***

1 God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,

and we dare to claim the promise of your love.

Though the day may not yet be here,

we trust it soon will be, when your people will be free.

***Refrain***

***Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened,***

***fling the church doors open wide.***

***May there be room enough for ev'ryone inside.***

***For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.***

***May that welcome be our song.***

2 Oh, we sing for all the people, that one day they be free;

and we sing for generations yet to be,

that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest.

May they, in your love, find rest. ***Refrain***

3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame,

so afraid of who they are and whom they love.

May the message now be banished that your love is for the few;

may their faith in you renew. ***Refrain***

4 God, we're working for the future when children far and wide

can live their lives with dignity and pride.

As they grow in strength and stature, may they join us hand in hand,

as against all hate we stand. ***Refrain***

*(Title: God, We Gather as Your People (For All the Children) Text & Music: David Lohman, b. 1961; Text & Music © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved. Used by permission. # AF20210212; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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

**Prayer of the Day*:***

God, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works. You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation.

In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us.

Today we celebrate and give thanks for your expansive love. Amen.

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

**Psalm 139:13-18**

Psalm 139 is a psalm I often turn to when I need a word of hope or a reminder of God’s love for me – and for others. Even though God’s beloved children come in all different shapes and sizes, we are promised that each one us is precious to God. As you listen, I invite you to hear these words spoken for you. Let us listen to the word…

**The First Reading: Psalm 139: 13-18**

You are the one who created my innermost parts;  
    you knit me together while I was still in my mother’s womb.  
I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart.  
    Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.  
My bones weren’t hidden from you  
    when I was being put together in a secret place,  
    when I was being woven together in the deep parts of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my embryo,  
    and on your scroll every day was written that was being formed for me,   
    before any one of them had yet happened.   
God, your plans are incomprehensible to me!  
    Their total number is countless!  
If I tried to count them—they outnumber grains of sand!  
    If I came to the very end—I’d still be with you. *(CEB)*

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

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

**Acts 10:9-15**

The book of Acts tells the story of the early church, and in this passage we hear about a vision that Peter had (this is the same Peter that was Jesus’ close disciple). It’s a moment that radically changes Peter’s understanding of God – and of the wideness of God’s embrace. In Peter’s case, whether the good news was for just the Jewish people, or for the gentiles too.

As with many other stories in the bible, this is one that invites us to think about the boundaries and limits we sometimes place on God’s love. It’s a promise that God’s love is always bigger than we can imagine. Let us listen to the word…

**The Second Reading: Acts 10:9-15**

At noon on the following day, as their journey brought them close to the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted to eat. While others were preparing the meal, he had a visionary experience. He saw heaven opened up and something like a large linen sheet being lowered to the earth by its four corners. Inside the sheet were all kinds of four-legged animals, reptiles, and wild birds. A voice told him, “Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!”

Peter exclaimed, “Absolutely not, Lord! I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”

The voice spoke a second time, “Never consider unclean what God has made pure.” *(CEB)*

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

**Message for All Ages *(Pastor Laura)***

**Gospel Acclamation: Sing the Circle Wide # 37 Come and hear now the gospel *(Rakanaka vhangeri)***

Come and hear now the gospel, hear the good news ***(repeat)***

We sing it many times again, we sing the good news ***(repeat)***

*(Title: Come and hear now the gospel (Rakanaka vhangeri) Text: Traditional Zimbabwean (Shona); English Translation: Maggie Hamilton and Maggie Hamilton © Maggie Hamilton and Maggie Hamilton. All rights reserved. Used by written permission. Music: Maggie Hamilton © Maggie Hamilton. All rights reserved. Used by written permission.*

**The Holy Gospel according to John 15:12–14, 17**

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

This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I give you these commandments so that you can love each other. *(CEB)*

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

1. **Sermon**

**John 15:12-14, 17**

Beloved is a word that I hold close to my heart. In my early 20s, during a time when I was struggling with self-acceptance and that transition into adulthood, the promise that I was a beloved child of God is a promise I clung to.

Bible verses like Colossians 3:12, where the author of the letter addresses his listeners as “God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved” gave me that assurance that in spite of my insecurities, God loved me for who I am.

And I know I’m not alone in this. We all need to hear and to know in the deepest part of ourselves that we are dearly loved by God. Because it’s true – and the world is always trying to tell us it’s not.

Jesus calls us to love one another, but the reality is, “if you can’t love yourself, how in the world are you gonna love somebody else.”

This is one of my very favourite pieces of wisdom from a rather unlikely place. This is the line that ends every single episode of the show RuPaul’s Drag Race – a reality TV competition for drag queens. Like most reality tv shows, this one also relies on drama and conflict to draw ratings. But at the core, it’s a show about helping the contestants gain confidence in themselves – as performers and as individuals.

It’s a show about being proud of who you are. About embracing yourself – in all your uniqueness – and sharing that gift with the world.

Now pride can be a tricky word when it comes to the Bible. And that’s because often it’s a word that comes up in the context of sin – as in it’s a sin to be prideful. And a quick google search will bring up a list of bible verses where pride is condemned. But it’s important to point out that there are different types of pride. Three, in fact: dignity, superiority, and arrogance.

In those places where pride is condemned, it’s in relation to those second two – superiority and arrogance. Dignity, on the other hand, is something that Jesus in particular, spent a lot of time giving to people.

Dignity isn’t about looking down upon others. Dignity is about self-respect. Jesus spent a lot of his time restoring dignity to folks whose dignity has been taken away by illness, by society. His ministry was all about showing people that God loves them despite what the world may say.

The other interesting thing about pride, is that if it’s a bad thing, then surely, it’s opposite must good, right? Well, the opposite of pride is shame. And while some humility is a good balance to superiority or arrogance, shame is the enemy of dignity.

One of my favourite definitions of shame comes from Brene Brown who is a shame researcher. In her books she talks about the difference between shame and guilt. Guilt is “I did a bad thing,” whereas shame is “I am the bad thing.”

The impulse connected with shame is the need to hide. Which means one could argue that shame is actually the original sin. For what was the first thing Adam and Eve did after eaten the forbidden fruit? They hid from God. They were ashamed. From the very start, shame is woven into the human experience.

Shame is not what God intended for us. An often passed over detail of this story is that after God finds Adam and Eve, God sews clothing for them, rather than having to rely on those fig leaves they slapped together. Dignity matters to God, which is why dignity – and affirming one another’s dignity, worth, and belovedness – ought to also matter to us.

Right now in the world, the rights and dignity and safety of 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples are under threat. There of course continue to be many countries in the world where it continues to be illegal – and even punishable by death – to be a part of this community.

And here in Canada and the US we are seeing a rise in incidents of hate and violence and intolerance towards the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. A recent StatsCan report noted a 64% increase in hate crimes targeting individuals over their sexual orientation.1 South of the border we’re seeing state after state pass legislations that attack LGBTQ rights, and in particular the rights of trans youth.2

As the church, it’s important to speak up and against this hate. Particularly because much of it is being carried out – or at the very least supported – by other Christians. And while we can debate whether this kind of hateful behaviour can even be called Christian, the fact is it that for many outside the church – Christian and anti-LGBTQ beliefs go hand in hand. Which is why it’s so important for us to offer a different witness.

Here in the ELCIC, we’ve had a long journey to get where we are today. To be a church where LGBTQ+ children of God can be pastors and a church where LGBTQ+ folx can be married. Here at St Peter’s you did the good and faithful work in 2019 of adopting a statement of welcome:

*“Here at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cambridge, all are truly welcome. We welcome all who Jesus would welcome: this means Everyone. Regardless of who you are or how you are, YOU are welcome here. We affirm and bless loving relationships, and ordination of those called by the Holy Spirit, regardless of sexual orientation, race, colour, social standing, or other factors that might cause prejudice beyond our walls.”*

This statement of welcome is such an important witness to who we strive to be as a community. AND, we also need to be asking ourselves, what are the next steps? In this world that seems bent on perpetuating hate, how do we preach and share God’s love with everyone, and especially with those who continue to be on the margins.

I don’t have the answer this morning, but my hope is that together, in the coming weeks and months we will continue asking this question. How can we witness God’s love for 2SLGTBQIA+ folx. What steps do we need to keep taking to be a place where everyone can feel safe and welcome and included both here and in our communities.

Love one another as I have loved you, Jesus commands. We are the beloved community, called to live and be and share Jesus’ love in our families, our community and our world.

It begins with receiving this love for ourselves. Remembering that you are a beloved child of God.

Nothing about you – your traits or personality or looks or sexual orientation or gender identity or weaknesses – can exclude you from God’s love.

And nothing that has been done to you can exclude us from God’s love.

In God’s beloved community, you don’t need to hide you we are.

In God’s beloved community, 2SLBGTQIA+ folx are beloved by God and don’t need to hide who you are.

Today, we rest in this promise of belovedness for each one of us. By the power of the Spirit, may we loudly and boldly and proudly proclaim, no matter who you are or who you love, you are a beloved child of God. AMEN.

1 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/230322/dq230322a-eng.htm>

2 <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights>

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 641 ‘All Are Welcome’**

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell

and all can safely live,

a place where saints and children tell

how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,

rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

***Refrain***

***All are welcome, all are welcome,***

***all are welcome in this place.***

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,

and words are strong and true,

where all God's children dare to seek

to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness

and as symbol of God's grace;

here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:***Refrain***

3. Let us build a house where love is found

in water, wine and wheat:

a banquet hall on holy ground

where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,

is revealed in time and space;

as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:***Refrain***

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach

beyond the wood and stone

to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,

and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger

bear the image of God's face;

let us bring an end to fear and danger:***Refrain***

5. Let us build a house where all are named,

their songs and visions heard

and loved and treasured, taught and claimed

as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,

prayers of faith and songs of grace,

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:***Refrain***

*(Title: All Are Welcome; Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. # 00004; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**PRIDE Prayer:**

Constant Friend, because

**P**eople of every sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity have the right to live with dignity and without persecution or discrimination, we

**R**emember in our prayers:

* LGBTQ+ people of Chechnya, Uganda, Zambia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and elsewhere who have been murdered and tortured because of who they are. We remember them and the people who love them.
* LGBTQ+ refugees from around the world seeking safety and sanctuary. We remember them and the people who welcome them.
* Trans and gender-diverse people in Canada, the United States, Brazil, and elsewhere, who are targeted victims of hate crimes and assaults. We remember them and the people who love them.
* LGBTQ+ people whose dignity and self-esteem have been eroded by hateful systems and structures. We remember them and seek to be people who love more fully.

**I**ndividually, we each uniquely reflect your glory and express your love, but anti-gay violence, homophobia, and transphobia have blocked many from recognizing your beauty in all people. All of creation suffers from the effects of such hate, fear, and violence.

**D**aily, may we dedicate ourselves to building bridges of love and hope where harmful divisions have been made, making equity and equality for all people our goal, while working continually for justice, so that

**E**veryone can live fully in your love.

Amen.

—a prayer by the Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith for Pride month

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A:Trusting in God’s abundant mercy and the invitation to bring everything before God in prayer, we extend our prayer to the needs of our community and the world.

A brief silence.

Under your watch not even a sparrow goes unnoticed. Safeguard plant and animal habitats threatened by melting glaciers, rising oceans, and receding coastlines. Amplify the voices of those calling for responsible stewardship of the earth’s resources. God, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Our world is enduring violence and destruction. Rescue your people in nations experiencing conflict or crisis. Thwart the efforts of those who sow chaos and terror, and guide those working to bring about peace and reconciliation. God, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Each one of us was known to you in our mother’s womb. Reassure anyone experiencing poverty, homelessness, unemployment, or exploitation that every life has value. Look favorably upon all who struggle (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…..). Answer us, for your steadfast love is good. God, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our siblings in Christ. For the people of Immanuel City Church and their pastor Roberto Ascencio. For the people of St Paul’s Lutheran Church here in Cambridge and their pastor Steve Weber. 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 our music director Brad. Embrace him with your love and renew him by your Spirit, in his service and ministry among us. God, in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.\***

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ACS # 968 ‘Feed Us with Hunger for Justice’**

Feed us with hunger for justice.

Feed us with thirst for peace.

***Optional descant***

Feed us justice.

Feed us your peace.

*(Title: Feed us with Hunger for Justice; Text & Music: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960; Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved. Used by permission. # AF20210546; 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 # 814 ‘Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am’**

Take, oh, take me as I am;

summon out what I shall be;

set your seal upon my heart

and live in me.

*(Title: Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am; Text & Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949; © 1995 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. # 00075; 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:**

There are, in our day, so many people who “cannot find God.”

And I tell you:

that God is in our future calling us;

that God is in our past forgiving us;

that God is in the present loving us.

There is no greater blessing. +

Amen.

**Sending Hymn: ACS # 978 ‘God Welcomes All’**

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

*(Title: God Welcomes All;* Text:  *John L. Bell, b. 1949; Text © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com.* *All rights reserved. Used by permission. # 72484; Music: South African traditional; transc, and arr. John L. Bell; © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com.* *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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