

**October 10th, 2021 Thanksgiving Day – Email/At Home Missal**

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.30 am on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, can be found here:

Sunday Worship October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.

Click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87943072549?pwd=RUl5UDlucjdGK3kxTmYvWHBmeXAvQT09>

Meeting ID: 879 4307 2549

Passcode: 768271

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,,87943072549#,,, \*768271# Canada

+12042727920,,87943072549#,,, \*768271# Canada

**Dial by your location:**

+1 778 907 2071 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: 879 4307 2549

Passcode: 768271

**Find your local number:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87943072549?pwd=RUl5UDlucjdGK3kxTmYvWHBmeXAvQT09>

**PASTORAL VISITS:** 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.

**FINANCE REPORT**

**As of August 31, 2021**

Income \$67,688.19

Expenses \$95,039.73

Net Income -\$27,351.54

+ CEWS \$20,585.14

Loss -\$6,766.40

CEWS (Canadian Emergency Wage Supplement)

**As a Member or Friend of St. Peter's have you considered registering for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)?**

Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) keeps your offerings current, if you miss a Sunday, or are on vacation. Your gifts will be received each month. The process works well and is secure. **All information is confidential.**

If you would like to register for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), **please contact your church treasurer.** A void cheque or bank account information is required to enroll in PAR.

**Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank:**

Now that we are open, we are resuming the collection of non-perishable food items for the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank. You can bring your items to church and drop them into the bins provided, or you can arrange your own drop-off time during the week. Please remember those who have not navigated this pandemic time as well as others have

**Thanksgiving for Our Presence on This Land:**

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

**Gathering Hymn: ELW # 796 'How Firm a Foundation' (Bradley Moggach – organ)**

Click here: <https://youtu.be/TxDIMF6P77E>

*(Title: How Firm a Foundation; Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt., Text and Music Public Domain  
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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.

**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:**

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**The First Reading: Joel 2:21-27**

Do not fear, O soil;  
    be glad and rejoice,  
    for the Lord has done great things!  
Do not fear, you animals of the field,  
    for the pastures of the wilderness are green;  
the tree bears its fruit,  
    the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad  
    and rejoice in the Lord your God;  
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,  
    he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
    the early and the later rain, as before.  
The threshing floors shall be full of grain,  
    the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years  
    that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
    my great army, which I sent against you.  
You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
    and praise the name of the Lord your God,  
    who has dealt wondrously with you.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.  
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
    and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame. (NRSV)

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

**Psalm: 126**

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

***Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.***

***Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."***

The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

***Restore our fortunes, O LORD,***

***like the watercourses of the Negeb.***

Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

***Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,***

***will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.\****

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**The Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle I am telling the truth, I am not lying, a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. (NRSV)

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

**The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 6:25-33**

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

Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (NRSV)

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

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

Today, I want to tell you a story. It is the story of Stone Soup. There are many versions of it around. My version goes like this:

A kindly, old stranger was traveling through the land when he came upon a village. As he entered, the villagers moved towards their homes locking doors and windows.

The stranger smiled and asked, why are you all so frightened. I am a simple traveler, looking for a soft place to stay for the night and a warm place for a meal.

"There's not a bite to eat at the end of this bad year full of disasters," he was told. "We are hungry and our children are starving. Better keep moving on." "Oh, I have everything I need," the stranger said. "In fact, I was thinking of making some stone soup to share with all of you." He pulled out a big pot from his luggage, filled it with water, and began to build a fire under it.

Then, with great ceremony, he drew an ordinary-looking stone from a silk bag and dropped it into the water. By now, hearing the rumor of food, most of the villagers had come out of their homes or watched from their windows.

As the stranger sniffed the "broth" and licked his lips in anticipation, hunger began to overcome their fear. "Ahh," the stranger said to himself rather loudly, "It is very delicious already. But, stone soup with cabbage, that's hard to beat." Soon a villager approached hesitantly, holding a small cabbage he'd retrieved from its hiding place, and added it to the pot. "Wonderful!!" cried the stranger. "You know, I once had stone soup with cabbage and a bit of salt beef as well, and it was fit for a king." The village butcher managed to find some salt beef... And so it went, through potatoes, onions, carrots, mushrooms, and so on, until there was indeed a delicious meal for everyone in the village to share.

Everyone but one... When the stranger was about to leave, the wealthiest person of the village opened his door the first time and offered the stranger a great deal of money for the stone, but he refused.

The wealthiest man asked how much the stone costs, and the stranger answered, "it costs all you have. And the Stone Soup can only be cooked successfully when everyone, everyone put something into it."

On his way leaving, the stranger came upon a group of village children standing near the road. He gave the silk bag and the magic stone in it to the youngest child, whispering to him something, and then disappeared at the end of the road. Someone asked the kid what the stranger told him. The kid said, "he told me 'it was not the stone, but the sharing spirit of all people that had performed the magic.'"

Today is the day we celebrate Thanksgiving. Did you give thanks to the delicious Stone Sup God prepared for you in the last year? Do you want to taste the better version of the Stone Soup God prepared for you in the future? You know what I am talking about, right? I am talking about the best Stone Soup you can ever taste, the soup called the blessing from our Lord God; it is called the kingdom of God; it is also called eternal life.

In today's Gospel reading, a wealthy young man came to Jesus and he wanted this better version of the soup too. He asked Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" He was such a well-behaving and h and the religiously pious young man that even Jesus loved him. So Jesus told him the secret of inheriting eternal life directly. For this wealthy young man, the secret was, "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." And what was the end of the story? "At this, the man's face fell. He went away sad because he had great wealth."

What keeps him from inheriting eternal life? It is the things he treasures the most, more than inheriting eternal life.

What keep you from inheriting eternal life? For a missionary lady who had already offered her life to God's mission, it was her love towards books.

In a publication put out by Wycliffe Bible Translators, a story was published about Sadie Sieker, a lady who served for many years as a house-parent for missionaries' children in the Philippines.

Sadie loved books. She would gladly loan out some on occasion, but there were others that she treasured and kept tucked away in a footlocker under her bed.

One night, when all had gone to bed and everything was quiet, Sadie heard a faint gnawing sound. She searched her room for the source of the sound, but then suddenly realized it was coming from her footlocker underneath her bed.

When she opened it, she found only a huge pile of dust. All the precious books she had kept hidden away for herself had been lost to a band of termites. Sadie learned a valuable lesson that night—what we give away, we keep. What we keep, we lose.

Matthew 6:19-21 says, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Jesus told his disciples including us not to value possessions or keep them selfishly locked away. If our hearts are focused on possessions, money, security, friendships, or something else, and put them above the love of God, the Lord will take it all away. What He wants the most from us is our love and everything associated with this love.

Jesus’ words strike at the very heart of human selfishness. We are all selfish by nature, so we must daily seek to give all that we have and our lives to Him, so He can fully use us for His glory and receive His blessings.

Let’s pray... Thanks be to God who indeed has given us all that we need, blessings not just of food and drink, warmth and shelter, but blessings as well of love and acceptance, forgiveness and hope, prayer and praise, love and joy.

**Hymn of the Day:** ELW # 679 ‘For the Fruit of All Creation’ (*Bradley Moggach – piano*)

**Click here:** <https://youtu.be/cCleDqaj4Lg>

(Title: *For the Fruit of All Creation (AR HYD Y NOS)*

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Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872 – 1958; arr. © Oxford University Press, All rights reserved.

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### **Prayers of Intercession:**

God whose giving knows no ending, you invite the whole world to your table of mercy. Hear us as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

God, you give all people a place at the table. Nurture and encourage campus ministries, new congregations, and workplace chaplaincies. Support all parts of the church that meet people where they are and offer accompaniment through daily challenges and joys. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give nourishment to the birds of the air and the lilies of the fields. Sustain all creatures who rely on the earth for sustenance. Water parched ground, dry flooded fields, temper heat waves and frosts, and give sunlight and shade. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you give wisdom to your people. Enlighten all leaders. Inspire and guide our Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, our premier of Ontario Doug Ford, our local leaders Bryan May and Belinda Karaholios, and all who represent us in our government. Give them patience and perspective to choose wisely for our common good. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you give nourishment to those who hunger. Bring poverty and food insecurity to an end. Give dignity and adequate employment to those who are unemployed and underemployed. Sustain us all at your welcoming banquet of love and justice. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

God, you give community to those who are lonely. Be with our biological families, our chosen families, and our church family as we gather for the Thanksgiving holiday. Send your compassionate presence to those who are lonely, those who are separated or estranged from their families, and those whose loved ones have died. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

God, you bring comfort to those who are sick or suffer. Embrace those who are in need, and surround them with your unwavering presence, especially Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Sharon, Bryan and Sherrie. Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God, you give a feast of endless thanksgiving. We are grateful for the saints gathered at your table who have gone before us. Unite us with them whenever we give thanks to you. God, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

God, your welcome is wider than we can imagine. Receive our prayers for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us. **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.

#### **Offering Prayer:**

Holy God,  
the earth is yours and everything in it,  
yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures.  
Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine,  
and strengthen us to be your body for the world  
through Jesus Christ our 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/-RnRfJoYmjs>**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you unto life eternal.

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Blessed Jesus,  
at this table, you have been for us both host and meal.  
Now send us forth to extend our tables  
and to share your gifts  
until that day when all feast together  
at your heavenly banquet.  
**Amen**

#### **Blessing:**

God, the beginning and the end,

who has written your name in the book of life,  
 ✝ bless and keep you in grace and peace  
 from this time forth and forevermore.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 879 'For the Beauty of the Earth' (Bradley Moggach – organ)**

**Click here: <https://youtu.be/AFPhyp7fvJI>**

*(Title: For the Beauty of the Earth; Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.; Public Domain; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786 – 1872, Public Domain  
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**Dismissal:**

Led on by the saints before us,  
 go in peace to serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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