

**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.30 am on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, can be found here: Sunday Worship September 12<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

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**PASTORAL VISITS:** Even though our church is closed, please know that our Interim Pastor Chun Zhang is available for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to him by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

**Important Notice About Reopening for In-Person Worship:**

We plan to reopen tomorrow, **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** for in-person worship! Masks will be required by anyone entering into the church. Please enter by the Church St. door. Please follow all seating instructions to ensure adequate physical distancing between individuals and families. There will be no singing and the order of service will be displayed on the screen.

**We will be celebrating Holy Communion at both the in-person service and at home via ZOOM.** For those attending in person, you are invited to bring your own communion elements, (bread, wine, crackers, juice, or whatever you might feel comfortable with), or you can receive an individual communion kit from our greeters when you arrive at church.

For those who do not wish to come into the church yet, the service will still be available by a ZOOM link. The link and the order of service is being emailed out as has been our custom during the pandemic.

**FYI:** You will be required to attest to the following screening questions when you enter the building:

1. Do you currently have one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms below that are new or worsening?  
Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions.
  - fever and/or chills
  - cough or barking cough (croup)
  - shortness of breath
  - decrease or loss of smell or taste
  - fatigue and/or malaise (for adults)
  - nausea/vomiting, and/or diarrhea (for <18 years of age)

If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No.”

2. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)? This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.
3. Do you live with someone who has been told by a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit that they should currently be isolating? If you are fully immunized\* or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and since been cleared\*, select “No.”

If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No.”

If you answer YES to any one of the questions above, PLEASE DO NOT enter this location AND contact either your health care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) to get advice or an assessment, including if you need a COVID-19 test.

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

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

**Gathering Hymn:** ELW # 834 ‘Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise’ (*Bradley Moggach – organ*)

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3r2zBsW7Cg>

*(Title: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise; Text: Walter Chalmers Smith 1824-1908, alt.; Public Domain  
Music: Welsh traditional, arr. John Roberts 1807 -1876; 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.

### **Prayer of the Day:**

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

### **The First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
 he who vindicates me is near.  
 Who will contend with me?  
 Let us stand up together.  
 Who are my adversaries?  
 Let them confront me.  
 It is the Lord God who helps me;  
 who will declare me guilty? (NRSV)

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

**Psalm: 116:1-9**

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
 and listened to my supplication,  
**for the LORD has given ear to me  
 whenever called.**

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
 I came to grief and sorrow.

**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**

**“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

Gracious is the LORD and righteous;  
 our God is full of compassion.

**The LORD watches over the innocent;  
 I was brought low, and God saved me.**

Turn again to your rest, O my soul.  
 for the LORD has dealt well with you.

**For you have rescued my life from death,  
 my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

I will walk in the presence of the LORD  
 in the land of the living.\*

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**The Second Reading: James 3:1-12**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. (NRSV)

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

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

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

## **The Holy Gospel according to Mark 8:27-38**

### ***Assisting Minister: Glory to you, O Lord.***

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (NRSV)

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

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

These years as a pastor, I got a lot of chances to attend church-wide meetings here and there. As the result, I developed a habit of reading church signs before entering the church building. Many churches put slogans on their signs along with their service time and phone numbers. It was always something bright and inviting, such as "The Welcome Place." "Come Grow with Us." "Jesus Loves You and Me."

Last week, when I prepared today's sermon, an insight sparkled in my mind: what church sign slogan can we build out of this week's Gospel lesson. How about "Carry Your Cross with Us." "The Place of Self-denial." Or even "Come Die with Us." Do you think that would bring any newcomer into our church?

But it was exactly what Jesus said to his disciples. Let's hear them again: Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

These are hard words; words that create great discomfort. They draw a strong contrast between the common understanding of religion called "the theology of glory" and what Martin Luther and other reformers called the "theology of the cross."

The common expectation of religion assumes that our faith will make our lives prosperous and successful. With God on our side, life just keeps getting better and better. On the other hand, a theology of the cross insists that the life to which Jesus calls us is no easy one. We'll not be immune from the brokenness of this world. The theology of cross suggests that at the end of every human life's road, there is always a cross standing firmly.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian, believed that the authentic Christian life was one lived in the shadow of the cross. "The cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die" (The Cost of Discipleship).

Most of us prefer the view of Peter, who thought Jesus had lost his mind when he began to talk about the suffering he must endure. And who can blame him? Someone who actively seeks to suffer must be considered unbalanced, or at least immature.

When Origen, the third-century theologian and Bishop of the church, was a teenager, his father was arrested for being a Christian, and he was scheduled for execution. Origen, in his youthful zeal, planned to turn himself into the authorities as well, but when his mother got wind of it, she hid his only set of clothes, and because he was too embarrassed to go outside naked, his life was spared. Origen went on to become the greatest theologian of his generation, and one of the most original thinkers in the early church. As a young man, he was wrong to think that taking up his cross meant that he had to die a literal death, although many people of his day were killed for their faith. However, he was right to recognize, even at a young age, that being a Christian means something more than just being a member of a social club. It is much more than professing to hold certain fundamental beliefs. Following Christ by taking up one's cross means to be willing to sacrifice one's time, one's efforts, one's career, and possibly even one's life, if circumstances demand it.

Eight years after writing the words quoted above, Bonhoeffer, having left the security of United States to return and minister in his native Germany, carried his cross into a Nazi prison cell, where he was executed for his opposition to Hitler just a few days before the end of the war.

We have not only the example of Jesus, but also the example of people like Origen and Bonhoeffer, who were willing to give up everything they had to follow Christ. What sacrifices are we willing to make? Amen.

**Hymn of the Day:** ELW # 808 'Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song' (*Bradley Moggach – organ*)

**Click here:** <https://youtu.be/SNNani5BbPc>

*Text: Les Petites Soeurs De Jesus and L'Arche Community; tr Stephen Somerville; Tune: Les Petites Soeurs De Jesus and L'Arche Community  
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### **Prayers of Intercession:**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

***A brief silence.***

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy, ***Assisting Minister: hear our prayer.***

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy, ***Assisting Minister: hear our prayer.***

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy, ***Assisting Minister: hear our prayer.***

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy, ***Assisting Minister: hear our prayer.***

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy, ***Assisting Minister: hear our prayer.***

Loving God, you are with us at all times, letting your gentleness be known among those who are sick or in need of comfort, 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, **Assisting Minister: hear our prayer.**

**Here other intercessions may be offered.**

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **Assisting Minister: hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Share the peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

**You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.**

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

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

### **Prayer after Communion:**

Lord of life,  
in the gift of your body and blood  
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.  
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,  
bearing witness to the abundance of your love  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

### **Blessing:**

People of God,  
you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.  
The holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
bless you now and forever.  
Amen.

### **Sending Hymn: 'Este Momento'**

**Click here:** <https://youtu.be/5d3eBoymEYc>

*(Words and Music: Pablo Sosa (c) 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. English Translation: Mary Louise Bringle (c) 2007, GIA Publications, Inc. Video: Produced by Ronnie Smith, Peace Lutheran Church, Pickering. Used with permission. Thank you to all the musicians who contributed, including Inshallah, Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song, Martin Luther University College.)*  
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### **Dismissal:**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**