**September 10th, 2023 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on September 10, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship September 10, 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 SEPTEMBER 10th, 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, September 3rd, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/vZWEK5uz7iI**](https://youtu.be/vZWEK5uz7iI)

1. **……………………….**
2. **PASTORAL VISITS:** Pastor Laura is available for visits by appointment by calling the church office, 519-653-4721. Whether you have a particular pastoral concern or would just like some one-to-one time to get to know Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.
3. **…………………………….**

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 to order your own locally produced fresh Maple Syrup.

**…………………………**

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. **…………………………….**

**Summer Services - Historic Ellis Pioneer Chapel**

6705 Ellis Road, Puslinch Township

**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

…………………………………….

**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**

**Rev. Heike Toeller –** **pastor.heike@gmail.com**

……………………………………….

1. **50th Anniversary
Celebration Organ Series
Saturday September 23, 2023**
2. **7:00 PM
featuring Martin Jongsma**
3. **Save the Date!**
4. **………………………………**

St. Peter’s, Cambridge is pleased to host two concerts by the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra during their 2023/2024 season! The first concert will be held:

**Saturday October 21, 2023 7:00 PM Cambridge**

Symphony Orchestra Masterworks I with Ken Gee, Piano

**…………………………………..**

**Book Study**: **Our Home and Treaty Land**

**During the month of October**, on **Wednesday evenings at 7:15** **PM at the church,**

Pastor Laura will be leading a group study for the book “Our Home and Treaty Land: Walking Our Creation Story” by Ray Aldred and Matthew Anderson. A limited number of copies are available for purchase from the church office ($10/each). To express your interest, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. To purchase a copy of the book please contact the church office at 519-653-4721.

**…………………………………….**

**The flowers on the altar have been placed by Gail Pannabecker in loving memory of a dear mother Florence Weiberg, who passed away 22 years ago on September 9th, 2001, and also in cherished memory of her family the Weibergs and the Walkers.**

1. **…………………………………….**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

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

**Assisting Minister: Helga Morrison**

**Reader: Bonnie Berg**

**Welcome remarks & Land Acknowledgement**

**Call to Worship:**

***Congregational Response: We praise you for your glory***

P: Let us awaken our hearts to the presence of God, saying,

***C: We praise you for your glory***

P: God before us, behind us, above us, upholding us…

P: God with us, among us, beside us, befriending us…

P: God within us, flowing through us, animating, harmonizing…

*Source: Brian D. McLaren, We Make the Road by Walking. Jericho Books: NY, 2014. Appendix I.*

**Gathering Hymn: ELW Setting 8 - Kyrie *(page 184)***

***Refrain***

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,***

***Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.***

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;

for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,***

***Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.***

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;

that we may live out truth and justice and grace,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,***

***Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.***

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;

for life and for love, for our work and our play,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,***

***Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.***

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,***

***Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.\****

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**Greeting:**

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

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

**Prayer of Gratitude:**

P: Let us give thanks to the living God for all the gifts that we enjoy, saying

***C: We thank you, Living God.***

P: For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea…

For all that is gracious in our lives, revealing the image of Christ…

For your gifts of healing and wholeness…

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends…

For minds to think, hearts to love, hands to serve…

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play…

For challenges that call forth new strength, for failures that teach greater humility, and for encouragement to persevere when life is hard…

For all who have gone before us, for all who walk beside us, and for all children, who are precious to us and to you…

And for the great wisdom and hope that you reveal to us through Jesus, our leader, example, teacher, liberator, and friend…

Amen

*Adapted from: Brian D. McLaren, We Make the Road by Walking. Jericho Books: NY, 2014. Appendix I.*

**Theme Time**

**Prayer of the Day:**

Holy Creator, you created each one of us in your own image to till the earth and help one another. Give us hearts to continue tending to all that you have made so that the earth will sustain life for generations to come. Amen.

*(by Kimberly Leetch - source: http://www. narrativelectionary.org)*

**Scripture Song: ELW #519 ‘Open Your Ears, O Faithful People’**

1 Open your ears, O faithful people,

 open your ears and hear God's word.

 Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,

 God has come to you.

***Refrain***

 ***Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!***

 ***Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!***

 ***Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!***

 ***Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!***

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!

 God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

 God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!

 God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

2 They who have ears to hear the message,

 they who have ears, now let them hear;

 they who would learn the way of wisdom,

 let them hear God's word. ***Refrain***

*(Title: Open Your Ears, O Faithful People; Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version; © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.* *# 30148194*; *Music: Yisrael V’oraita, Haisidic tune; ©1995, 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. # 20209; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

***Reader****:*

*A passage from* ***Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25****. May we be equipped by these words to walk in love for God, ourselves, our neighbours, all people, and all God’s creation.* ***(Brief pause)***

On the day the Lord God made earth and sky— before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the Lord God hadn’t yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land, though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land—the Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life’s breath into his nostrils. The human came to life. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed. In the fertile land, the Lord God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. The Lord God commanded the human, “Eat your fill from all of the garden’s trees; but don’t eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!” Then the Lord God said, “It’s not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him.” So the Lord God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them. The human gave each living being its name. The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found.

So the Lord God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it. With the rib taken from the human, the Lord God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being. The human said,

“This one finally is bone from my bones
        and flesh from my flesh.
She will be called a woman
        because from a man she was taken.”

This is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh. The two of them were naked, the man and his wife, but they weren’t embarrassed. *(CEB)*

The Living God is with us. ***C: And with all creation! Thanks be to God.***

**Engaging with the Story**

**Genesis 2:4b-25**

Why are we here? What’s wrong with the world? What’s our role, our task, our purpose? What dangers should we guard against? What treasures should we seek?1 These are big questions. The biggest questions you might say. Questions that people from all times and places have wrestled with and sought answers for. These are questions that the creation stories in Genesis seek to address.

And yes, in Genesis there are two distinct creation stories that Biblical scholars tell us come from different sources. And these two stories are very different. In Genesis 1 we have the 6 day story of creation, where God makes order out of chaos and rests on the 7th day. It’s the big picture creation story, where humans are created last, in the image of God, dependent upon all that was created before. The creation story in Genesis 2 takes a much more intimate angle – focusing in particular on the humans – or human – who is created first, because in this instance a human is needed as a caretaker before plants and animals can exist. For ages, Christians have wrestled with how to reconcile these two different – and sometimes contradictory – stories. How can they both be true?

In his reflections on the creation stories, author and teacher Brian McLaren makes the point that just as two heads are better than one because insight from multiple perspectives adds wisdom, the same is true with stories. The Bible is not one tidy story with many chapters but a wild and fascinating library told from many perspectives – each one adding depth, a sense of direction, and wisdom. We will never be able to tidily fit together these two stories of creation, and that’s okay, because each one offers wisdom and truth when it comes to those big questions I listed at the start.2

Today, as we sit for a while with this second story of creation, the question I’m wondering about is this: what does this story have to teach us about what it means to be human? As I’ve sat with this story this week, three things in particular have arisen for me. To be human, at least in part, has to do with responsibility, relationship, and choice.

Responsibility is one of those things that many of us would rather not have. At least not the kind of ‘the buck stops with me’ kind of responsibility. I know I had my fill of that kind of responsibility during the pandemic with time after time having to make a call about imposing and lifting public health measures. We don’t always want responsibility, and yet, it would seem that responsibility is pretty central to God’s purpose for humans in creation.

God couldn’t create plants or animals until there was a caretaker to look after them. So often we look at creation as something that supports us – and it most certainly does – and yet, we are really here to support creation. I wonder, what might be different in the world if we truly and deeply embraced that role of responsibility and caretaking for creation?

Relationship. To be human very clearly involves relationship, and not just relationship with God but with one another. When God created the first human, even though they were in paradise, something was missing. The human was lonely. And so God creates animals in an attempt to find the right kind of helper and partner. But when aardvarks and orangutans and zebras won’t do, God makes another human – different but alike – who turns out to be just the right one.

The fact that the woman was created as a helper has been a reason throughout Christian history to argue for women’s inferiority to men. But the Hebrew word that is used for ‘helper’ in this story is a word that in the Hebrew Scriptures is most often used to speak about God. When the psalmists cry out to God, their helper, it’s the exact same word used here to speak about the woman. This is a powerful kind of help; a rescue, salvation kind of help. It means, as Rabbi Amy Robertson puts it, Eve was not Adam’s secretary or assistant.3

Because the other thing that’s lost in translation here is that this second human is meant to be particular kind of partner – one that is complementary and oppositional. There really in an equality in this relationship; someone who can hold their own against you. And I think that this is a really powerful way to think about what it means to be created for relationship. Whether it’s with a spouse or a friend or in a community like this, we are created to be in relationships that are mutual and supportive and life-giving. Unfortunately, we don’t always do this well, which brings me to that third point: choice.

Do you ever wonder why God chose to plant two trees in the garden if one is forbidden? Why plant the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the first place if the human wasn’t to touch it? The story doesn’t tell us why God planted that second tree, but the fact that it was planted means that choice is woven into the fabric of creation. From the beginning, humans have had the capacity to choose. And for those of us who know how this story ends, we don’t always choose wisely (spoiler: the humans eat from the forbidden tree). This choice that was there from the very beginning is a choice that exists to this day. Like those first humans, we too can choose which tree we will eat from. This is both an incredible gift and burden.

Irish poet, philosopher, and scholar John O’Donohue says, “though the human body is born complete in one moment, the birth of the human heart is an ongoing process.”4 As creations of God, we are yet being made – we are works in progress, which means that in our daily living we have choices to make: will we make choices that bring more creativity and generosity into the world, or will we make choices that bring selfishness and destruction?

Responsibility, relationship, choice. To be human as God created us to be is a high calling and a life’s work. But as we seek to be humans who live in right relationship with one another and with creation, we can trust that our Source of Life is always with us to help us do just that. AMEN.

1 Questions from Brian McLaren, We Make the Road by Walking, page 1.

2 Brian McLaren. We Make the Road by Walking, page 7.

3 Bibleword podcast. Episode 501 “Created for Relationship.” 3 September 2023.

4 John O’Donohue. Anam Cara, page 6.

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 684 ‘Creating God, Your Fingers Trace’**

1 Creating God, your fingers trace

 the bold designs of farthest space;

 let sun and moon and stars and light

 and what lies hidden praise your might.

2 Sustaining God, your hands uphold

 earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;

 let water's fragile blend with air,

 enabling life, proclaim your care.

3 Redeeming God, your arms embrace

 all now despised for creed or race;

 let peace, descending like a dove,

 make known on earth your healing love.

4 Indwelling God, your gospel claims

 one fam'ly with a billion names;

 let ev'ry life be touched by grace

 until we praise you face to face.

 *(Title:**Creating God, Your Fingers Trace; Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934; Text © 1979 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission # 11263; Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. hymnal version; All rights reserved. Used by permission. # 52455; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A:Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

Living God, you gave us life so that we might be fully alive in you. Each and every day, help us to be creative and generous in our relationships with one another and with all creation. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth’s thriving. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick especially Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Shirley, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Jan, Ken, Robin, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Fred, Anne and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts…. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage us to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

God of community, we pray for our siblings in Christ. For the people of Trillium United Church and their pastor Mark Rutledge, youth minister Heather Margerison, and parish nurse Sally White. For Principal-Dean Kristine Lund and the faculty and staff of Martin Luther University College. Bless them in their ministry and unite us in our mission to serve your world. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

We pray for our Communications and Technology point person Lorre, as we give thanks for her work in keeping us connected and informed. Embrace her with your love and renew her by your Spirit. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.\***

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW # 692 ‘We Are an Offering’**

**Chorus 1**

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We are an offering

**Bridge**

All that we have

All that we are

All that we hope to be

We give to You

We give to You

**Chorus 2**

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

We are an offering

*(Title: We Are an Offering; Text & Music: Dwight Liles, b. 1957; © 1984 Word Music, LLC. All rights reserved. Used By Permission. # 16220*

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**Offering Prayer:**

A: God of power, God of plenty,

all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,

that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,

Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.\***

**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**

**ELW Setting 8: ‘Preface…’ *(Sundays)***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ELW Setting 8: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy…’ *(page 190 )***

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of pow’r and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**\*

**Thanksgiving at the Table:**

On the night before he showed us the full extent of his love,

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 Setting 8 - Lamb of God *(page 187)***

 **Voices United # 382 ‘Breathe on Me, Breath of God’**

**ELW Setting 8 - Lamb of God** *(page 187)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.\***

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**Voices United # 382 ‘Breathe on Me, Breath of God’ *(Trentham)***

1 Breathe on me breath of God

 Fill me with life anew

 That I may love what Thou dost love

 And do what Thou wouldst do

2 Breathe on me breath of God

 Until my heart is pure

 Until with Thee I will one will

 To do and to endure

3 Breathe on me breath of God

 Till I am wholly Thine

 Till all this earthly part of me

 Glows with Thy fire divine

4 Breathe on me breath of God

 So shall I never die

 But live with Thee the perfect life

 Of Thine eternity

*(Title: Breathe on Me, Breath of God (Trentham); Text: Edwin Hatch 1878, French. Trans. Suzanne Bidgrain 1937; Public Domain; Music Robert Jackson, 1888; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under CCLI, License # 11098609. 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: Blessed be your name, O God,

for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food,

send us to gather the world to your banquet,

where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.\***

**Blessing:**

Oh God, may we receive your blessing,

through sharing your blessings beyond borders.

May we receive your gifts,

from those who carry nothing.

May we recognize you,

in people we do not know

and may we all find a safe home and peace in you

who had no place to lay your head.\*

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever.

**Amen**

*\*Source: Claudio Carvalhaes, “Liturgies from Below.” Page 47.*

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 836 ‘Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee’**

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,

 God of glory, Lord of love!

 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,

 praising thee, their sun above.

 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,

 drive the gloom of doubt away.

 Giver of immortal gladness,

 fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,

 earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,

 stars and angels sing around thee,

 center of unbroken praise.

 Field and forest, vale and mountain,

 flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,

 chanting bird, and flowing fountain

 call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,

 ever blessing, ever blest,

 wellspring of the joy of living,

 ocean-depth of happy rest!

 Thou our Father, Christ our brother,

 all who live in love are thine;

 teach us how to love each other,

 lift us to the joy divine!

*(Title: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee; Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922; Public Domain; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Dismissal:**

**P**: We are a community /

Of learners and seekers /

Alive in God’s story of creation.

A: Let us go forth in joy and peace to love and serve God and our neighbours.

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

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