**July 2nd, 2023 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

**ZOOM INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY JULY 2, 2023-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on July 2nd, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship July 2nd, 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 JULY 2nd, 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, June 25th, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/RJtt-pXsTB0**](https://youtu.be/RJtt-pXsTB0)

1. **……………………….**
2. **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.
3. ***Please note: Pastor Laura will be on vacation from July 10 – August 6, 2023 inclusive.***
4. **…………………………….**
5. 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.
6. **1 litre Mason Jars of maple syrup are $23.00.**
7. **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.**
8. **………………………………**
9. **Greenhorizons BigYellowBag - Give & Grow Program**
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Spread the word, and the soil!​
13. **……………………………**
14. **Yard Sale**
15. **Friday, July 7, 2023 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm**
16. **Saturday July 8, 2023 8:00 am – 2:00 pm**
17. 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.
18. **………………………………..**

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. **…………………………….**

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

**…………………………………..**

1. 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)!
2. **………………………………….**

**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](mailto:dmalinachurch@gmail.com)

Rev. Heike Toeller – [pastor.heike@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.heike@gmail.com)

1. **…………………………….**

**Coffee + Connect with Pastor Laura!**

Over the summer, Pastor Laura will be hosting the following coffee hours in the parlour:

**Tuesday July 4 at 2:00PM**

Tuesday August 15 at 10:30AM

This is a chance for you to get to know her and to (re)connect with one another. No need to RSVP but if you’d like to bring goodies to share, please contact the office.

Everyone is welcome, so bring along a friend or neighbour!

**………………………………**

1. **Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**
2. **Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**
3. **Assisting Minister: Kim Strassburger**
4. **Reader: Barb Jones**

**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.

**Call to Worship:**

P: For the beauty of the summer day,

***C: And the comfort of friends nearby;***

P: For the invitation to love and be loved,

***C: For God who extends that call;***

P: For time set apart to nourish the soul,

***C: For time to go out into the world armed with love:***

P: For all these things we give thanks.

***C: Let us worship God.***

Source: “Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’.  Used with permission. <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/> ”

**Gathering Hymn: ‘Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!’**

**Invitation to Confession:**

The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God’s mercy and share in that abundant grace. Confident in God’s love for us, let us offer our prayers, first in silence.

silent prayer

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**P: Gracious and loving God,

***C: open our hearts so that we can admit to you***

***the fullness of our lives –***

***that which is beautiful and good,***

***and that which is hurtful and hateful.***

***We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.  
We love with condition.  
We judge and condemn.  
We cast the first stone,***

***and keep the logs in our own eyes.  
We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.***

***Forgive us, we pray,***

***and empower us to be imitators of Christ***

***in love and service. Amen.***

**Assurance of Forgiveness:**

P: Friends in Christ, know this:

the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting,

and I remind you of this surpassing grace –

in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven +

***C: Alleluia! Amen.***

*Source:**“Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’.  Used with permission.* [*https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/*](https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/)

**Greeting**:

The Lord be with you.

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

**Prayer of the Day***:*

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

**Jeremiah 28:5-9**

Our first reading tells the tale of dueling prophets – Hananiah & Jeremiah. In the midst of an impending invasion, Jeremiah calls on the people to submit to the king of Babylon, while Hananiah calls on the people to resist. In this instance, Jeremiah’s word wins out, but this passage raises an interesting question: when there are competing voices, how can we know who is right?

Jeremiah himself tells us that a prophecy is only proven true or false as time passes and the prophecy is fulfilled – or not.

For us in the present, facing the challenges of life, we don’t often have the luxury of the time to wait. We’re left having to figure things out as best we can in the moment – listening to our hearts, listening to one another, and listening to God for guidance. Let us listen to the word…

**The First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9**

Then the prophet Jeremiah responded to Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the Lord’s temple. The prophet Jeremiah said: “Indeed. May the Lord do just as you have said! May the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back from Babylon the equipment of the Lord’s temple and all the exiles to this place. However, listen closely to what I have to say to you and all the people: The prophets who came before you and me long ago prophesied war, disaster, and disease against many lands and great kingdoms. So the prophet who prophesies peace is recognized as one who is actually sent by the Lord only when that prophet’s message is fulfilled.” *(CEB)*

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

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

**Romans 6:12-23**

One of the Bible commentaries I read this week suggested that a perfect hymn of the day for this passage would be Bob Dylan’s “Gotta Serve Somebody.”1 Any Bob Dylan fans here? This wasn’t one I was familiar with, but the opening lyrics go like this:

“You may be an ambassador to England or France

You may like to gamble, you might like to dance

You may be the heavyweight champion of the world

You might be a socialite with a long string of pearls

But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed

You're gonna have to serve somebody

Well, it may be the Devil or it may be the Lord

But you're gonna have to serve somebody”2

In this excerpt from his letter to the Romans, Paul is talking about how in Christ, we are no longer slaves of sin. Instead, we are now slaves of righteousness. For those among us who are able bodied and financially secure, this idea of being a slave to anyone or anything goes against our sense of personal autonomy. And yet, Paul would almost certainly say that Bob Dylan’s got it right – it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but we all gotta serve somebody.

Slavery is a complicated metaphor especially the more aware we become of the different ways we are advantaged or disadvantaged by the way we look or show up in the world. And yet, it’s one worth wrestling with. Being slaves of righteousness isn’t something that is forced upon us. It’s a free gift, but we must choose to live into that gift, and that’s not always easy to do. It’s a gift that asks something of us – sometimes a lot of us – as we seek to follow in Christ’s way of love and service. Let us listen to the word…

1 https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-13/commentary-on-romans-612-23-6

2 https://www.bobdylan.com/songs/gotta-serve-somebody/

**The Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23**

So then, don’t let sin rule your body, so that you do what it wants. Don’t offer parts of your body to sin, to be used as weapons to do wrong. Instead, present yourselves to God as people who have been brought back to life from the dead, and offer all the parts of your body to God to be used as weapons to do right. Sin will have no power over you, because you aren’t under Law but under grace.

So what? Should we sin because we aren’t under Law but under grace? Absolutely not! Don’t you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, that you are slaves of the one whom you obey? That’s true whether you serve as slaves of sin, which leads to death, or as slaves of the kind of obedience that leads to righteousness. But thank God that although you used to be slaves of sin, you gave wholehearted obedience to the teaching that was handed down to you, which provides a pattern. Now that you have been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I’m speaking with ordinary metaphors because of your limitations. Once, you offered the parts of your body to be used as slaves to impurity and to lawless behavior that leads to still more lawless behavior. Now, you should present the parts of your body as slaves to righteousness, which makes your lives holy. When you were slaves of sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What consequences did you get from doing things that you are now ashamed of? The outcome of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and become slaves to God, you have the consequence of a holy life, and the outcome is eternal life. The wages that sin pays are death, but God’s gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *(CEB)*

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

**The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:40-42**

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

Jesus said to the twelve: “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” *(NRSV)*

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

**Sermon**

**Pentecost 5**

**Matthew 10:40-42**

**Rev. Adam Snook, Assistant to the Bishop, Eastern Synod**

*“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward. “*

Grace to you and peace, in the name of the God who loves us all!

My name is Adam Snook.

I serve as an Assistant to the Bishop in the Eastern Synod of our Evangelical Lutheran

Church in Canada where my primary roles are in the areas of Mission, Communication and

Congregational Support. I count it as a true privilege to participate, once again, in this year’s

ELCIC Summer Sermon Series. What a joy it is for us to worship together!

If you’re hearing this sermon on July 2, then you’re doing so as delegates conclude the business of Assembly 2023 – a joint gathering of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada, held over the past four days in Calgary. On behalf of our delegates and church leaders in attendance, I want to thank you for your prayers as they’ve accompanied those who’ve gathered for this important event in the life of our church and full communion relationship! We are grateful for your prayerful accompaniment through these days.

The tenth chapter of Matthew’s gospel is devoted solely to the topic of discipleship. It’s in these verses that Jesus commissions, empowers and then sends the twelve disciples out to cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and cast out demons. It’s also in these verses that Jesus offers warnings about coming persecutions…speaks about fear…wades into the topic of division on account of the gospel…and even calls the disciples to take up their cross and follow after.

Wowzer.

Imagine what the modern-day job description for such a role would look like: *Wanted: A Disciple. Must be able to do the seemingly impossible…sustain attacks and rumors…withstand threats of violence…speak truths that are sure to be poorly received…and be willing to lose their life.* It’s a tall order! Needless to say, that I doubt the position of ‘Disciple” would end up trending on LinkedIn or Indeed!

Sadly, I think our approach to Matthew’s 10th chapter often mirrors the response we would have to such a job description as the one I just described. Hearing these verses as they talk about such daunting…and often foreign…concepts may leave modern-day disciples (may leave you and me) feeling overwhelmed, uninspired…and even reluctant to take up that same cross which Jesus has called us to carry.

And after all…who could blame us?!?

But what if this chapter actually has less to do with fear…and more to do with hope. What if these verses are less concerned with the seemingly insurmountable odds…and more concerned with true and blessed opportunity. What if Jesus was actually focusing less on what it takes to be a disciple…and more on with what it actually **means** to be a disciple.

Because, in my mind, that changes things.

Yes, perhaps struggle…but also empowerment.

Yes, maybe rejection…but also welcome.

Yes, possibly division…but also the call to faithfulness.

Yes, challenges…but also holy opportunity!

Because, a quick return to this morning’s short gospel reading will remind us that discipleship comes…even in the form…of just a cup of cold water – offered for the sake of one of God’s blessed and beloved. Something so unassuming. Something so ordinary made beautifully sacred.

Or, and to phrase it quite differently, discipleship doesn’t have to be heroic. It can be, as Sarah Bessey puts it, *that moment when we find ourselves outside with the misfits…with the rebels…the dreamers…the second-chance givers…the radical grace lavishers; the ones with arms wide open. That moment when we find ourselves courageously vulnerable.*

I love that…because it means that:

Discipleship can be a hand outstretched to help another over the divide…

Discipleship can be a warm word spoken amidst the turmoil of conflict…

Discipleship can be love extended when the world says hate…

Discipleship can be radical acceptance…can be openhearted welcome…can be a commitment to learn…can be a life touched by the embrace of grace.

Discipleship can be as simple as a cold glass of water offered to parched and dry lips in search of a sip of hope – because to be a disciple means to be courageously vulnerable …and all for the sake of the gospel.

As I said at the beginning of my sermon, one of my roles in the life of our synod is to work with congregations engaged in the work of mission. The ministries of these congregations are wonderfully varied – each of which represents a thread that is woven to form the beautiful tapestry of mission ministry across our whole church. Now I don’t know if you’ve noticed…but we’re not always good at telling our mission stories. And yet – these stories provide us with a great example of what it means to be a disciple! They are evidence that we are, truly, living as a courageously vulnerable church.

Where food is made available to hungry bellies…

Where people are welcomed into intentional community…

Where steps are taken to bring awareness…

Where reconciliation is embodied…

Where joy is shared…

This, to me, is discipleship. And it’s absolutely beautiful!

Several weeks ago, I decided to spend a weekend touring around New York City. It had been a ‘bucket list’ item for as long as I can remember…and a sale on flights made it irresistible. Of course, there are many visuals that stand out to me from those four days in the Big Apple…but perhaps one of the most lingering came as I was headed toward the subway at West 34th and 8th Ave. As I approached, I could hear singing – which I quickly recognized as hymns. This group ran through some of the old favourites like ‘What A Friend We Have In Jesus’, ‘In The Garden’, and ‘Softly and Tenderly’. But as I ran past the well-intentioned choristers, I noticed that behind them…sitting on a pile of blankets that had been soaked through from the overnight rain…was a man. Unsheltered. Unfed. Unknown. Forgotten. Hidden.

Let me tell you…the sound of the hymns…the banner the singers held…and the messaging it contained has long since faded into the deepest recesses of my mind – but I can’t say the same for that man. I have thought, and prayed, about him so often. And it occurs to me –that he…a man sitting on a pile of wet blankets – he is precisely the person into whose life God would choose to step. God sees him – even when I could not. God calls him – even when I didn’t know he was there. God loves him – even when he was hidden from view. Because that’s what God does! Because that’s who God is! And God calls me…calls us…to get up…to follow…and to go and do likewise. God calls us into a life of discipleship.

What does it mean…in the life of our church…what does it mean to be disciples who are courageously vulnerable?

What does it mean to live out such a calling in God’s world?

And what does it mean, as the church of Christ in the year 2023…to offer even a cold cup of water to one of God’s beloved?

I suspect it looks less like hymns sung on street corners…and more like walking hand-in-hand with those who were once hidden from view.

Less like brick and mortar, beautiful though it may be…and more like a reformed take on a long and beautiful story.

Less like the way ‘we’ve always done things’…and more like a new path unto which God is leading us.

Less like yesterday…and more like tomorrow.

May we hear the Spirit’s call, which beacons us into a life of courageously vulnerable discipleship. And having heard that call, may we bold step into the days ahead…assured that we are loved…assured that we are called…and assured that we are accompanied by the one in whose name we serve.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 677 ‘This Little Light of Mine’**

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

*(Title: This Little Light of Mine; Text: African American spiritual; Public Domain; Music: African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935; © Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved. Used by permission. # 01998; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Affirmation of Faith:**

P: We believe in God;

***C: Who is older than eternity***

***and younger than our next breath;***

***who is beyond describing***

***yet knows us all by name;***

***who inspires faith***

***yet cannot be contained by religion.***

P: We believe in Jesus Christ,

flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone;

***C: He came in the body***

***to give worth to every human life.***

***He touched the untouchable,***

***loved the unlovable,***

***forgave the unforgivable***

***and endured slander,***

***persecution and death***

***in order that through suffering love***

***God’s kingdom might come on earth.***

***He rose from the grave as living proof***

***that what is laid down in faith***

***will be raised in glory.***

***He ascended to heaven***

***that he might be present***

***at all times***

***to all people.***

P: We believe in the Holy Spirit,

***C: Who leads us into truth and freedom,***

***who gives good gifts***

***to all God’s children,***

***who inspires research, enables prayer,***

***and wills***

***that human economics and politics***

***should prioritise justice,***

***care for the earth***

***and the healing of the nations.***

P: We celebrate the potential of the Church,

***C: The life in our bodies,***

***the yearning in our souls,***

***the promise of good things in store***

***for those who love the Lord.***

*Source: (A Wee Worship Book – Liturgy for Holy Communion A #30810; Type: Words; First Line: Call to worship – Gather us in; Language: English (pages 80-92); Contributors: Iona community; Text: © 1999, WGRG, Iona community, GIA Publications, Inc; exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A: Trusting in God’s abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for our church gathered in assembly these days. For wisdom, for courage, for resolve to be your disciples and to serve our neighbours and the world, all dearly loved by You. God, in your mercy,***C: Hear our prayer.***

We pray for creation. For the Speed River and Grand River, and all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams. For lands experiencing scorching heat, drought, or wildfires. For conservation organizations and environmental activists. For scientists working on clean energy solutions. God, in your mercy,***C: Hear our prayer.***

We pray for this nation and all nations. On this Canada Day weekend, instill in us gratitude, generosity, and persistence in working toward liberty and justice for all who call this land home. God, in your mercy,***C: Hear our prayer.***

We pray for those in need. For exiles, immigrants, refugees, and those seeking asylum. For victims of harassment, torture, or abuse. For those who are ill (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…..). For any near death and for all who grieve. God, in your mercy,***C: Hear our prayer.***

We pray for children. For their safety at home and in childcare settings. For their flourishing at summer programs and camps. For the many people who care for them including parents and grandparents; childcare workers and teachers; coaches, counselors, and mentors; pediatricians and psychologists. God, in your mercy,***C: Hear our prayer.***

We pray for our siblings in Christ. For the people of King St Baptist Church and their interim pastor Stan Grummett. For the people of St Peter’s Lutheran Church, Kitchener and their pastor Mark Ehlebracht. 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 Laura our pastor. Embrace her with your love and renew her by your Spirit, in her 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: ELW # 686 ‘We Give Thee but Thine Own’ *(verse 1)***

1 We give thee but thine own,

whate'er the gift may be;

all that we have is thine alone,

a trust, O Lord, from thee.

*(Title: We Give Thee but Thine Own; Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.; Public Domain; Music: L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850; Public Domain; 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 # 472 ‘Eat This Bread’ *(Jesus Christ, Bread of Life)***

"Eat this bread, drink this cup,

come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup,

trust in me and you will not thirst."

*(Title: Eat This Bread (Jesus Christ, Bread of Life) Text: Taizé Community; Text © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. # 00891; Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994; Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. 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:**

The God who calls across the cosmos

and speaks in the smallest seed

☩ bless, keep, and sustain you

now and to the end of the age. **Amen\***

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 774 ‘What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine’ *(Leaning on the Everlasting Arms)***

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,

leaning on the everlasting arms;

what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,

leaning on the everlasting arms.

***Refrain***

***Leaning, leaning, (Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)***

***safe and secure from all alarms;***

***leaning, leaning, (leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)***

***leaning on the everlasting arms.***

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,

leaning on the everlasting arms;

oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,

leaning on the everlasting arms. ***Refrain***

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,

leaning on the everlasting arms?

I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,

leaning on the everlasting arms. ***Refrain***

*(Title: What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (Leaning on the Everlasting Arms) Text: Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929; Public Domain*

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**Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

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