**October 22nd, 2023 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on October 22nd, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship October 22nd, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858523329?pwd=UUpVdCtkTDB0MWhTVkhjSmxvWjFnUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**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:**

**+12042727920,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**+14388097799,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# 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: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i)

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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 22nd -28th 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, October 15th, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/my6XZXVX04c**](https://youtu.be/my6XZXVX04c)

1. **………………………………**
2. **Coming Events** *(save these dates)*

**Oct. 22 Town Hall Meeting following Worship**

1. **Oct. 25 Book Study *“A Zoom Conversation with the authors”*** *(Sanctuary)*

Oct. 28 Roast Beef Dinner at St. Luke’s parish hall *(corner of Bishop & Mary; call Ruth 226-755-3319 for tickets - $25)*

Nov. 4 Menno Singers ‘Now I lay me down to Peace,’ First United Church (Waterloo) at 7:30 pm.

Nov. 9 Trillium United Church – Aging Well *(an interactive workshop with Ruth Thompson, lunch to follow)* 10:30 - Noon

**Nov. 5 Worship followed by fellowship time** *(remember a loved one who has passed away since Nov. 5, 2022, please sign their name on the list on the table in the narthex. You are also invited to bring a photo of them to be placed in a special display.)*

Nov. 18 Christmas Bazaar

Dec. 8 Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol

Dec. 17 Pulled Pork Lunch & Silent Auction following Worship

***bold print indicates that the events are being held here at St. Peter’s***

1. **The Life of St. Peter’s for the week of Oct.22 - 29, 2023**

Monday 6:00 pm TOPS - R.F.F. *(Art Room)*

Tuesday 7:00 pm Scouts - R.F.F. *(Scout Room, Art Room, Fellowship Hall)*

Wednesday 2:00 pm Meaningful Conversation *(Parlour)*

1. **7:00 pm Book Study *“A Zoom Conversation with the authors”*** *(Sanctuary)*

Thursday

Friday

Saturday **1:30 pm Choir Practice** *(Sanctuary)*

Sunday **10:00 am Worship Service** – A passage **1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29** *(Rehoboam and the need for*

1. *servant leadership; the kingdom is divided)*
2. *(R.F.F. – Request for Facilities)*

**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 know

Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.

**………………………………**

Help us support the **Cambridge Food Bank** by bringing a canned good or non-perishable item to church with you. We have a collection basket in the narthex, and every donation helps enable the food bank to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. We appreciate and thank you for your help in filling the basket as there is a very real and urgent need.

**………………………………**

**Aging Well:** November 9, 2023 – Increase your Health Span on a budget. An interactive workshop with Ruth Thompson, holistic Nutritionist and Author. Trillium United Church 10:30 am – Noon (Lunch to follow).

**………………………………**

**Book Study**: **Our Home and Treaty Land** **During the month of October** - “Tuesday October 3, 10 & 17 at 7:15, and Wednesday October 25 at 7:00” 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.

**………………………………**

**Trillium United Church Women Fall Luncheon:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 11:30 am – I pm. Cost: $20 (limited tickets). Proceeds to UCW Outreach Projects. Come & Enjoy *(pulled pork on a bun, coleslaw, dessert, tea/coffee)*. 519-653-6601.

**………………………………**

**Bless this Night – Vespers ’23:** Evening Prayer Honouring God's Holy Darkness with interfaith & cross-cultural Storytellers for adults & children. Sundays at 5:30 pm at Martin Luther University College. **Nov. 12**: 2 pm Racial Justice Dialogue, 4 pm potluck, 5:30 Vespers; Nov. 19: 2 pm Print Making Workshop, 4 pm potluck, 5:30 pm vespers. Kids are invited to wear pajamas.

**………………………………**

**All Saints Sunday – November 5th, 2023** – a time when we remember those who have gone before us. Your loved one need not have been a congregational member to be included in our remembrances. A candle will be lit in their memory during the regular worship service. You are also invited and encouraged to bring or send a photo of a loved one to be laced in a special display. The photo can be of anyone, whether they died last year or longer ago. These precious souls remain in our hearts. Please sign their name on the list, or call the church office at 519-653-4721

**………………………………**

**Menno Singers** and artistic director Brandon Leis present ‘Now I lay me down to Peace,’ at First United Church (16 William St, Waterloo) on Saturday, November 4 at 7:30pm. The concert features the Faure Requiem, the Thompson Peaceable Kingdom and 3 Nocturnes by Elder. $25 Adults. $5 Children/Students. Tickets available on-line or at the door (cash or credit)  [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com/" \t "_blank)

**………………………………**

**Weekly Bible Study**: This will take place on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Art Room, beginning November 1, 2023. Everyone is welcome!

**………………………………**

**Meaningful Conversation**: You are invited to meet with Pastor Laura in the parlour at 2:00 pm.

**………………………………**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

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

**Assisting Minister: Helga Morrison**

**Reader: Austin Dykstra**

**Welcome remarks**

**Call to Worship:**

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

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

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.*

**Land Acknowledgement**

P: Knowing that you are always present with us, it is with good and grateful hearts that we speak these words:

***C: We acknowledge that the land upon which we live, work, play, and worship, is the same land upon which the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Attawandaron (or Neutral) peoples first lived, worked, played, and prayed to Creator. Unlike us, they revered the land, calling the earth upon which they stood, Mother Earth. They cared for the earth as they would care for their mother. Let us take an example from our Indigenous forbears and neighbours, and show gratitude to our Mother Earth. May we be ever mindful of what she has provided for us, even to the next seven generations.***

**Gathering Hymn: ACS # 979 ‘Making Their Way’**

1 Making their way down through the ages,

sinners and saints have heard God's call:

wealthy and poor, powerful, lowly,

Jesus' disciples, one and all.

Gathered for worship, offering thanks,

the greatest with the least

have come to share this feast.

2 Making their way all the world over,

Christians assemble on this day,

hearing the Word, sharing the Banquet,

learning to walk in Jesus' way.

Members of Christ, united in love,

they seek our God to know,

and so together grow.

3 Making our way season by season,

pilgrims, we journey till life's end,

traveling light, sharing the riches,

caring for stranger as for friend,

till in the joy of longing fulfilled,

together we will come

to our eternal home.

*(Title: Making Their Way; Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939; Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: A. Valerius, Nederlandtsch Gedenclanck , 1626; arr. Adrian Engles, 1906-2003; Arr. © 1967 Gooi en Sticht, BV, Baarn, The Netherlands, admin. OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**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 Confession**

Blessed be God,

the one who forms us,

☩ Jesus who bears the cross,

the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

***C: Amen.***

Let us bow before God in humility,

confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,

***C: you have revealed the ways of justice,***

***yet we fail to follow you.***

***We are overwhelmed***

***by the world’s violence and suffering.***

***We are afraid to risk what we have***

***for the sake of others.***

***For the harm we have caused,***

***known and unknown, forgive us.***

***For the unjust demands we place on others***

***and your creation, forgive us.***

***For the ways we turn away***

***from you and our neighbor, forgive us.***

***Lead us back to you***

***and set us on the right path;***

***in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.***

***Amen.***

Beloved in Christ,

God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God’s compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

***Amen.\****

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**Theme Time**

**Prayer of the Day:**

Holy One of Israel, King David worked hard to return the Ark of the Covenant to Israel so that the people could honor you in your house of worship. Receive our praise in this house of worship, as we rejoice in your presence. Amen.

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

**Acclamation: ELW # 682 ‘To God Our Thanks We Give’**

To God our thanks we give,

to God our thanks we give,

to God our thanks we give,

our thanks to God we give.

*(Title: To God Our Thanks We Give; Text & Music: Botswanan traditional, as taught by Daisy Nshakazongwe; tr. I-Loh, b. 1936;*

**Reader**:

A passage **from 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5.** 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)**

All the Israelite tribes came to David at Hebron and said, “Listen: We are your very own flesh and bone. 2In the past, when Saul ruled over us, you were the one who led Israel out to war and back. What’s more, the Lord told you, You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will be Israel’s leader.

So all the Israelite elders came to the king at Hebron. King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.

David was 30 years old when he became king, and he ruled for forty years. He ruled over Judah for seven and a half years in Hebron. He ruled thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem.

Once again David assembled the select warriors of Israel, thirty thousand strong. David and all the troops who were with him set out for Baalah, which is Kiriath-jearim of Judah, to bring God’s chest up from there—the chest that is called by the name of the Lord of heavenly forces, who sits enthroned on the winged creatures. They loaded God’s chest on a new cart and carried it from Abinadab’s house, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab’s sons, were driving the new cart. Uzzah was beside God’s chest while Ahio was walking in front of it. Meanwhile, David and the entire house of Israel celebrated in the Lord’s presence with all their strength, with songs, zithers, harps, tambourines, rattles, and cymbals. (CEB)

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

**Engaging with the Story**

**2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5**

The people want a king. For generations they’ve lived under the rule of the judges, but they’ve grown weary of the uncertainty and instability of this kind of leadership. They want a king who will judge them and lead them and fight their battles for them. And all the other nations around them have kings, so why can’t they have a king too?

At first God tries to talk them out of it. After all, they already have a king. God is their king. A mighty king who led them out of slavery in Egypt to this land where they are now free! And God warns them that kings aren’t all they’re cracked up to be. Through his prophet Samuel, God warns the people that they will be beholden to their king, like slaves to a master.1 But the people insist. And so, reluctantly, God anoints a king. The first king, Saul, does alright for a while, but when he disobeys God, David is anointed king in his place.

At first David seems like a strange choice. For one, he’s only a boy at the time of his anointing. And his resume contains only two skills: shepherd and musician. But it doesn’t take long for his courage and leadership to show forth when, in that first moment of glory, the young David faces down the giant Goliath. As David grows in wisdom, experience, and years, he eventually becomes a leader who is able to keep the twelve tribes of Israel united as one.

Even though God may not be keen on the idea of humans needing ‘kings’ – or ‘queens’ – the reality is that it is human nature to yearn for someone to step up and provide leadership. We long for a leader who will unite and lead us.

As a society, we need some kind of governing system to bring order to our communal life. Certainly we could have long debates about what kind of political system is the best one. In the western world no doubt democracy is the winner – what Abraham Lincoln called, “government by the people, for the people.”2

But even in democracies, we need leaders to help make decisions for our common welfare. And for as many examples of brave and good leaderships moments, there are leaders who experience moral or ethical failings. Because that’s the thing about human leaders. Any leader – whether king or queen, president or prime minister – because they are not God, will never be perfect.

David most certainly had his flaws and moral failings. Most notably, his taking of Bathsheba and orchestration of her husband Uriah’s murder. A soldier in David’s army, David has Uriah placed on the front lines of battle and then orders the troops to pull back so that Uriah is killed.

David most certainly had his flaws and moral failings, but that’s not his whole story (which is true for any of us). In his better moments, David was also a leader who pointed the people to God. A leader who put God at the centre of their communal life. Which is what we see happening in today’s story.

One of David’s first acts as king is to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. This is the ornamented box that holds the Ten Commandments – God’s Words for the people. At one point the ark had been captured by the Philistines and when it was re-captured the ark was kept safe on a farm on the outskirts of the kingdom. Now David wants to bring the ark back to its rightful place - at the centre of the people.

This is David at his best. In this moment, David doesn’t take the glory for himself, but leads his people in praise of God – who is their true King. God, who is ever faithful, no matter how many times the people mess up or go astray. God who sees the people through every up and down.

God is our ruler, but we still need human leaders. Even here in the church. We have pastors to provide spiritual leadership and guidance. And in our Lutheran polity, we have a congregational council who oversees the life and activities of our congregation, and to ensure “that everything is done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the ELCIC.”3

Pastors and council members are not perfect; we are human. Sometimes we make mistakes, but we do the work that has been entrusted to us, as faithfully as we can. And I can assure you that you have a council right now that has been busy looking for what God is up to in our midst. These are leaders who are seeking to faithfully discern what God is calling us to do and be in this moment, in this place.

At the start of worship this morning there was a call for a congregational meeting in two weeks time. If you’re curious – and I hope you are – you’ll have to stick around for the town hall meeting following worship to find out more. And I hope you do, in person or on zoom. And this invitation isn’t only for those who fit the definition of ‘member,’ but for any here who consider themselves part of this community and are interested in our future.

From today’s Town Hall meeting there will be something for us to discern together over the next two weeks. And in our discernment, I think we would do well to keep King David’s best moment – this moment of glorifying and praising God – in mind.

When it comes to making a decision for the life of our community, it’s not about what council wants – or about what you want or I want. At the centre of our life as the church, it’s about what God wants for us. God, who is ever faithful to us.

No matter the obstacles in our path, as disciples and followers of Jesus, we are called to praise and glorify God; to put God at the centre of all that we do. May the Spirit help us to do just that in this moment, and each moment to come. Amen.

1 1 Samuel 8:11-17

2 <https://www.bookbrowse.com/expressions/detail/index.cfm/expression_number/600/government-of-the-people-by-the-people-for-the-people>

3 <https://elcic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/ModelConstitutionandBylawsforCongregations2017.pdf>

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 859 ‘Praise to the Lord, the Almighty’**

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!

My heart is longing to offer up sweet adoration.

Melody make; dulcimer, harp, now awake.

Sound forth your praise, ev'ry nation.

2. Praise the Almighty, o'er all life so wondrously reigning,

and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen? All that is needful has been

sent by God's gracious ordaining.

3. Praise the Almighty, who prospers your work and defends you;

see from the heavens the showers of mercy God sends you.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do;

Infinite Love here befriends you.

4. Praise the Almighty! In wonder my spirit is soaring!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises outpouring.

Let the amen sound from God's people again,

gladly forever adoring.

*(Title:**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty; Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. composite; Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress. Music: Ernewerten Gesanbich, Part II, Stralsund, 1665; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A:Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace, **C:** **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through King David for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of our elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace, **C:** **hear our prayer.**

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering especially we pray for Maria and each one of the beloved children on our prayer list. We also lift up to you now, aloud or silently in our hearts, those known to us in need of your power and presence…. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace, **C:** **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. God of grace, **C:** **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our siblings in Christ: the people of Knox Presbyterian Church and their pastor Bill Bynum. For the people of St Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Kitchener and their pastors Sebastian and Carey Meadows-Helmer, and Scott Knarr. Bless their ministry and unite us in your call to serve. God of grace, **C:** **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our council: Dave, Heide, Alex, Lorre, Lynda, Jennie, Donna, and Barb. We are grateful for their leadership and ask that you would sustain them in body, mind, and spirit. God of grace, **C:** **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under CCLI, License # 11098609. All rights reserved.)*

**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.\***

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**

**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)***

**ELW # 486 ‘God Extends An Invitation’**

**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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**ELW # 486 ‘God Extends an Invitation’**

God extends an invitation

to the table of creation,

where there's wine and light and bread.

Here we gather in thanksgiving

and we offer all our living.

Here the feast of life is spread;

here the feast of life is spread.

*(Title: God Extends an Invitation; Text & Music: Miria T. Kolling; Spanish and English tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923; Spanish and English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.; 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: 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 # 885 ‘Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow’**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*(Title: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow ; Text: Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.; Public Domain; Music: 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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