



Date: July 9, 2023
Sixth after Pentecost
Theme: Rebekah's Faith

Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon
Musician: Dave & Barbara-Lynn Goodwin
Audio/Visual: Amy
(*: Please, stand if you are able.)

Musical Prelude:

Greetings

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

Response: And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements (Care & Concerns)

- **Your free** 8X10's are available for pickup after worship service, or from the office during office hours. If you ordered pictures, your 8X10 will be mailed with your picture order.
- **Roy Klaus's** celebration of life service will be held at Stettler United Church on July 15 at 11:00 am
- **Rev. Kwon** will be away next Thursday to participate as a panel member for the "Engage Difference" session of the program.

Acknowledgement of Territory

ALL: God calls us to live with respect and care for all our relations in creation. For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples of this area have tended the earth, and we give thanks for such diligence. We covenant to live and work together, sharing this land in peace and respect as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows.

Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane AB

Call to Worship

The divine Spirit calls us to worship.

We will put our worries on the back burner. We rejoice in this opportunity to be still, to pray, and to praise. We are glad of the chance to meet friends and fellow church members. We are encouraged by the scripture stories of compassion. We are challenged to find fulfillment as we put faith into action.

The divine Spirit has called you to worship. Rejoice and be glad.

Written by David Sparks, Summerland, B.C. Gathering, Pentecost-1 2023, 37. Used with Permission.

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Christ candle is lit. The light flickers and flames, vulnerable and small.

We come seeking the light of Christ, yet we too often falter on the path. We come stumbling and tripping, reaching out for a steadying grip. As we reach, we touch one another, discovering strength in one another.

The Spirit whispers to our hearts, to our longing, to our seeking, encouraging, inspiring, daring, uniting, and equipping.

The Christ candle is lit and our spirits respond with similar tiny flickers. Reaching out for signposts to guide us, we gain a perspective of all those flickers among us, the light of Christ in our midst.

Written by Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont. <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/christ-candle-lit-light-flickers-and-flames>

Hymn *Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

VU#245

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Opening Prayer

Great Spirit, receive our prayer.

We come seeking your understanding and your compassion.

As nomads, we come seeking, wandering through the waste of a society that celebrates the lives of the famous while ignoring others whose lives are scattered on the debris pile of a wanting world.

We come seeking your understanding and your compassion.

Nomads all, we seek the knowledge found in the message that tells of a realm of compassion, that opens up a new way of being in which all are cared for, valued, and respected.

We come seeking your understanding and your compassion, Great Spirit, for in you, we live. You breathe life into our very being. Open us to your mindfulness, Great Spirit, that we might be your blessing in this world. Amen.

Written by Jim McKean, while at Severn Shores U.C., Severn, Ont. Gathering, Pentecost-1 2023, 39. Used with Permission.

Prayer of Confession

ALL: Gracious God, thank you, not only for the forgiveness you offer to us but also for being with us when we feel far from home. Help us, O God, to offer the same forgiveness and hospitality to others as you do to us.

(a time of silence)

Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's love shows no boundaries. God's forgiveness is deeper and wider than we can imagine. God's mercy is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Written by Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane, Alta. Gathering, Pentecost-1 2023, 45. Used with Permission.

***Hymn Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom MV#10**

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Prayer of Illumination

ALL: To come into Holy Presence is not to come without wonderings about why some things are as they are. So come to us in our wonderings, God of Rebekah. Companion us. To come into Holy Presence is not to come free of conflict within our lives and relationships. So come to us in our tensions, God of Esau and Jacob. Untangle us as we receive your word today. Amen.

Written by Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane, Alta. Gathering, Pentecost-1 2023, 49. Used with Permission.

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 24:58-67: Rebekah welcomes Isaac as her husband.

Matthew 11:16-19, 28-30: My yoke is easy; my burden is light.

Hymn *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* VU#357 (verse 1)

(being seated)

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Congregational Theme/Story Time

Message Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon

***Hymn *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts* VU#472**

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Invitation for Offering

***Offering Hymn *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* VU#541.**

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Offering Prayer

All that we have is from you, Creator. With these gifts, we seek to be like you: creating a world where love is known, sharing the goodness of beauty and kindness, blessing our neighbours with our faith in action. Bless these gifts and may they be a sign of our co-creating ministry in your name. Amen.

Written by Wendy MacLean, Brockville, Ont. Gathering, Pentecost:1 2023, 50. Used with Permission.

Prayers of the Gathered Community

The Lord's Prayer

ALL: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for

thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

***Parting Hymn *Take My Life and Let It Be* VU#506**

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***Commissioning and Benediction**

***Threefold Amen (Unison) VU#967**

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Postlude: