



Date: September 13, 2026

Worship Leaders: Worship Committee

Musician: Barara-Lynn & Dave Goodwin

Audio/Visual: Holly McKenzie or Nora Nixon

(*: 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 Back & Announcements (Care & Concerns)

- **It's September...** meaning the small groups will start again. If you haven't confirmed your start date with the office, please do so ASAP. Thanks
- **LUV2READ ~** September 24 at 7pm. Please enter the church through the NW doors. First Book "Finding Flora" by Elinor Florence Copies of this book are now available at the public library.
- **Options** for getting a minister

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

Gathering Hymn *I'm Gonna Live so God can use me. VU 575*

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: African-American spiritual. Arrangement: © 1987 Estate of Wendell Whalum, c/o Mrs. Clarie G. Whalum, 2439 Greenwood Circle, East Point, GA 30344, USA. Used by permission. Words: Public Domain. Arrangement: Estate of Wendell Whalum, c/o Mrs. Clarie G. Whalum N/A

Call to Worship

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

In a world of war

We search for peace.

In a world of confusion

We searched for calm.

In a world of pain

We search for healing

In a world of isolation

we search for communion.

Communion with each other

and communion with God

Let us search together

and let us worship our God

Richard Bott, Vancouver, B. C.

Lighting the Christ Candle

In a time of change and confusion,

we need a source of unwavering light.

In a time of transition and change,

we need a light to show us the way.

May the light of Christ be this light for everyone of us.

May it shine in our hearts all of our days.

Opening Prayer

Creator God, we come today, grateful for a summer together: A summer that has gone by too soon. A summer that began with promise but, for some here and across the country, was filled with difficulty, disaster, challenges, and loss. We come here today, together in worship, to give thanks for having endured a great deal together. We are present here today as brothers, sisters, and siblings in the Body of Christ. We are stronger because of our

challenges, wiser for our scars, and more compassionate for our losses. For this we give thanks. Amen

Deborah Ambridge Fisher, Forest Hill you. U.C., Fredericton, N.B.

Hymn *Take my life and let it be* VU #506

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal 1874. Music: Unknown. Descant: © 1980 enThusia Enterprises, 146 Fincham Ave., Markham, ON L3P 4A9.

Words, Music: Public Domain. Descant: enThusia Enterprises. N/A

Prayer of Confession

God in heaven, you have provided your children with many wonderful gifts. But there are times when we may get so caught up in the busy-ness of our own day-to-day living that we forget to stop and breathe a simple word of thanks.

Forgive me, God, when I forget to whisper, "Thank you."

God in heaven, as we travel through life, there are times when we are so happy to have received your gifts of grace that we may forget that the gifts came from you.

Forgive me, God, when I forget to whisper, "Thank you."

(a time of silent prayer)

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Receive the good news! The assurance of God's love for you—you are forgiven! The greatest gift of all was bestowed upon all of us when God sent Jesus Christ, God's own beloved Son, to live with us and to die for us. So, know that you are loved by God, you are forgiven by the holiness of Christ, and you are assured of that forgiveness always by the grace of the Holy Spirit. And now you can whisper, "Thank you!" Amen.

Diane McKenty, Grey Street U.C., Winnipeg, Man.

Prayer of Illumination

We are going to sing *Open My Eyes* VU 371

Words, Music: Clara H. Scott 1895. Public Domain. N/A

Scripture Readings:

- Psalm 114

- Romans 14:1-12
- Matthew 18:21-35

Hymn *Jesus bids us shine VU 585

Words: Susan Warner 1868. Music: Edwin O. Excell. Public Domain. N/A

Congregational Theme/Story Time Sue Stratulate

Message Mary-Lou Manson

Hymn *Will You Come and Follow Me. VU 567

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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.

Invitation for Offering

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

Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674. Music: Genevan Psalter 1551. Public Domain. N/A

Offering Prayer

Here are our gifts, O god.

As the saints did before us, so we live by the faith that is ours as fully as we can.

And we share the gifts you have given us, for the good of all, for the good of all creation.

Receive these gifts, bless them, use them and use us to be your presence everywhere. We pray in Jesus name. Amen

***Hymn May the God of Hope Go With Us. VU 424**

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven. Music: Charles Crozat Converse. Public Domain. N/A

***Commissioning and Benediction**

Let us go from our time of worship together, renewed and restored in the light of Christ. May the sights and sounds of the Creator's work fill us with the new understanding that we are always surrounded and encircled by the Creator's presence. Seeking the source of compassion and care, go out into the world refreshed in the spirit and energized by God's call to share comfort and hope. Reminded that all good that surrounds us is sent from a source emboldened by the Spirit of the living Christ to, go forth to be God's presence in the world.

Now may the love of God surround you, the grace of the Holy Spirit enfold you, and the work of Jesus, our friend, encompass you this day and always.

Jim McKean, Severn Shores U.C., Severn, Ont.

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

Postlude