



Date: September 20, 2026
17th After Pentecost
Grumbling and Groaning

Worship Leaders: Worship Committee

Musician: Linda Kneeland

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)

*****NOTE***** Pick up the printed announcements, the information for the following is outlined in more detail on them.

- **Church Cleaning** ~ September 24th ~ 9:30 am
- **October 06** ~ 9:30 am ~ Pie Making
- **Fall Supper** ~ October 25th 4:00 - 6:30
- **Options** ~ if you weren't at last weeks service please pick up the document outlining our options for getting a minister. They are on the desk outside the office.
- **Rural Ministry Conference** - October 2-4, hosted by the United Churches of Three Hills/Trochu, AB.

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.

Call to Worship

Let us lift our voices in praise.

Let us sing to the Creator of heaven and earth.

Let us praise the rock of our salvation.

We give thanks to the one who has created and is creating.

With all living things, let us bring adoration to our God,
who was, who is, and who always will be.

Let us worship God!

Frances Flook, Knox U.C., Kenora, Ont.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle as a reminder that God's goodness can be felt all around us. The sacredness of God's Creation is apparent to all who wish to be students of the Spirit.

Christine LeBlanc, East End United Regional Ministry, Toronto, Ont.

***Hymn ~ MV #122 This is the day**

Words and music: Bruce Harding, 2003, after Psalm 118:24 French trans. David Fines, 2005 Words and music copyright © 2003 by Bruce Harding, www.evensong.ca. LicensingOnline

Opening Prayer

In a world divided by so many possibilities and perspectives, Lord, help us to be a place of care and respect for others, even if our ways are strange to each other.

May your example, in Jesus, show us how to welcome strangers and bridge divides.

May your generous spirit inspire us to perceive the world as you perceive it:

evolving, and opening into a new day of unity, shared concerns, growing understanding, and wisdom.

May it be so. Amen.

Wendy MacLean, Brockville, Ont.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we sometimes carry the burden of our mistakes and they weigh us down: the times when we failed to be empathetic

listeners, when we hurt someone, when we've ignored your call to service in places that most needed it. It is easier for us to hide away from our failings rather than to face them directly, even when we know that addressing them is what is needed. We come to you in our brokenness. We come to you heavy-laden. We come to you seeking forgiveness and healing waters in the dry places of our lives.

Free us, God! Liberate us! Save us from the pain of the things we've said or done that harm others and your Creation. Notice the love that resides in us and call it to grow so that we may live in your light and love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

You are worthy of God's grace. Leave it all at the foot of the cross. Notice love in God's eyes. You are forgiven. God releases you from the guilt and the regret so that you may go forward and serve others. Hallelujah!

Éric Hébert-Daly, Executive Minister, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

***Hymn MV #30 It's a song of praise to the maker**

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Prayer of Illumination

Gentle God, your spirit touches the deepest places in our being. May your word coming to us through all of our senses provoke us to fall deeply in love with you. Let new insights rest gently within us, that we might be transformed. Open us to your healing, life-giving truth. This we pray, in the name of the Liberating Christ. Amen.

Laura J. Turnbull, while at Trinity U.C., Creston, B.C.

Scripture Readings:

- Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45
- Philippians 1: 21-30
- Matthew 20: 1-16

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

Words: William H. Parker 1885, Music: Fredrick Arthur Challinor 1903 © 1904 National Christian Education Council, 1020 Bristol Rd., Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LB, England. Reproduced with permission. Words, Music: National Christian Education Council. CCLI.

Congregational Theme/Story Time

Message

***Hymn ~ VU #664 What a Friend**

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

Invitation for Offering

Let us remember how fortunate we are. It is time to share what we are able, your offering will now be received.

***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

Your gifts have been showered upon us but your gifts are not for ourselves alone.

Your gifts are meant to be shared, a response of love, joy, and generosity.

Bless these gifts, and bless the givers and the recipients so that we may all know your love and grace. Amen.

Beth W Johnston, Collaborative Ministry, River Philip and Springhill, N.S.

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.

***Hymn ~ VU #425 God Dismiss us with your blessing.**

Words: John Fawcett. Music: from An Essay on the Church Plain Chant. Public Domain. N/A

***Commissioning and Benediction**

Go out into this new week, nourished by the grace of God. May God's love sustain you through the challenges you face and inspire you through the blessings you encounter. In every moment, may you bear the fruit of God's eternal love, offering up praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont.

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

Postlude