

**ZOOM Worship for August 29, 2021  
14th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Territorial Acknowledgment and Announcements**

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississauga of the Credit First Nations. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibway and other allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in their community, and to share and respect Mother Earth.

**Announcements**

**Centering Music: "Hush! Hush!" MV 167**

Hush! Hush!

Hush, all God's children.

Hush, won't you listen

Somebody's callin' my name. Hush!

Hush, all God's children.

Hush! Somebody's callin' my name.

Hush! won't you listen.

Hush! Hush!

Hush, all God's children.

Hush, won't you listen.

Somebody's callin' my name.

Oh my Lord, oh my Lord,

What shall I do? (What shall I do?)

**Call to Worship:**

Eric Hebert-Daly, Ottawa, Ontario

One: When we gather it is a prayer.

Two: When we share our lives with one another it is a prayer.

One: When we support one another it is a prayer.

Two: When we share our concerns, our gratitude, our work, our offerings it is a prayer.

One: Let us celebrate all that God gives us as we pray together, love one another and worship God together. Let us pray:

**Opening Prayer:**

One: However desperate we feel, however grim the challenges,

Two: your Spirit, O God, buoys us up.

One: You are the Lord of our life,

Two: constant in compassion, full of surprises.

One: Refresh us, restore us,

Two: renew our commitment to you and to the Way of Jesus,

One: through whom we pray and continue to pray together:

**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 glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen

**Opening Hymn: "Holy Spirit, Hear Us" VU 377**

Holy Spirit, hear us,  
help us while we sing;  
breathe into the music  
of the praise we bring.

Holy Spirit, shine now  
on the book we read;  
light its holy pages  
with the truth we need.

Holy Spirit, prompt us  
when we bow to pray;  
speak within and teach us  
what we ought to say.

Holy Spirit, help us  
daily by your might,  
what is wrong to conquer,  
and to choose the right.

**Scripture reading: Ephesians 3: 1 - 21****Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly

places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

### **Prayer for the Readers**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Choir: "Thankful"**

### **Reflection: "My Prayer for You"**

#### **Hymn: "Our Parent, by Whose Name" VU 555**

Our Parent, by whose name all parenthood is known,  
who in your love proclaims each family your own:  
direct all parents, guarding well,  
with constant love as sentinel,  
the homes in which your people dwell.

O Jesus, who, a child within an earthly home,  
with heart still undefiled did to adulthood come:  
our children bless, in every place,  
that they may all behold your face,  
and knowing you may grow in grace.

O Spirit, who can bind our hearts in unity,  
and teach us so to find the love from self set free:  
in all our hearts such love increase,  
that every home, by this release,  
may be the dwelling place of peace.

### **Offering Invitation:**

One: We are living, breathing messages of God's love for the world.

Two: This is our work of faith and our labour of love and our steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ.

One: Like the earliest Christians we are here because of the commitment and faith and generosity of others who shared the good news of the gospel in their time.

Two: So we turn now, in our time, and share our faith and our commitment through our envelope, PAR and online givings to support the ministry of Applewood United and the United Church of Canada through the Mission and Service Fund in Christ's name.

**Prayer of Dedication:** Laura Turnbull, Penticton, B.C.

One: Ever-giving God, you lavish us with great abundance.

Two: Grace, comfort, and eternal life are priceless gifts.

One: Empower us to herald the truth in word and action.

Two: May these offerings be only a small part of our commitment to your way of extravagant sharing.

One: Bless all they represent as you sanctify us in your love. Amen.

**Music for Reflection: "All Night and All Day"**

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: "One More Step Along The World I Go" VU 639**

One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me: R

As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know: R

Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough,  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you: R

You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me,  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.

**Commissioning:** Sandy Ferguson, Edmonton, Alberta

One: In the midst of a world filled with clamour and boasting,

Two: may our faithful presence be for others a quiet moment filled with the love of God

One: that reveals the good news of the kingdom of God

Two: to those who are searching for hope.

One:

**Choral Benediction : "Olde Irish Blessing"**

## Reflection “My Prayer for You”

### “MY PRAYER FOR YOU”

(Scripture: Ephesians 3: 1 - 21)

Each week you and I bring to mind and lift up in prayer the well-being of people and situations in the world. I trust that when we separate you continue to pray for these people and situations.

I try to impress upon young people in confirmation classes the importance of prayer and that prayer isn't just about asking. We look at prayer together using the **ACTS-s model**.

**A is for Adoration.** At Christmas we sing “O come let us adore him. . .” It is easy to adore a baby but our adoration for God and Christ needs to continue at all times.

**C is for Confession.** Confession is found within the recital of The Lord's Prayer but to live close to God and one another we need to confess when we do things that hurt, alienate, break relationship with God, others and the earth.

**T is for Thankfulness.** Expressing our gratitude to God and one another contributes to healthy living. Without thankfulness our enjoyment of the world shrinks into cramped self-indulgence and the unscratchable itch of never having enough – Ted Loder.

**S is for Supplication.** Presenting our requests for ourselves and others to God. A small “s” has been attached to ACTS for **Surrender**. Praying like Jesus “**Thy will be done.**”

What we need more than wealth, more than health, more than an easier life, is a sense of God's presence, to be filled with the love of Christ, to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit within us.

Prayer is opening our lives to God. When we commit ourselves to praying, when we live with an understanding that God surrounds us, everything changes. We lose the delusion that we are in charge, that we are the centre of the universe. We see the world, ourselves and others differently. We realize that we are part of something really big. Even life after life.

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is an excellent prayer. I want to echo that prayer for each of you this morning with the assistance of material from Dr. Keith Price, Montreal.

1. Pray that no matter what takes place around you, you will not be shaken. You will be able to stand firm and reflect the dependability and trustworthiness of God.
2. Pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts – permeate your being – through faith. It is not our ability nor our reasoning capacity that brings us faith and assurance. It is God's grace.
3. Pray that as a result of Christ dwelling in you, you be rooted and grounded in love. Rooted and grounded in love we find ways to stand firm in adversity, to respond in love in the face of hate and to extend the hand of fellowship to those with whom we deeply disagree. i.e. Martin Luther King, Jr., Gerald Vanderzande of Citizens for Public Justice, Toronto
4. Pray that you may grasp the love that Christ has for you. An awareness of the depth of Christ's love for us gives us strength and the ability and desire to respond and act as Christians. When you know something of the love of Christ for you what other response is there but to love Christ, yourself and others more fully.
5. Summing it all up, I pray that you be full of God. That God and interacting with God be a big part of your everyday life and define who you are.

As I mentioned earlier, if we recognize that God surrounds us and we converse with God, we see ourselves and the world differently. When we're weary from responsibilities with family, work, church, our vision of God leads us back to life. When harsh realities break into our lives, when we're feeling broken, we pray knowing that God is willing to put us back together again. i.e. Australian gentleman on the Camino, owner of a souvenir shop in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, Rev. Dale Lang – Taber, Alberta, Rev. Jamie Holtom – Brampton 2015 Citizen of the Year, Rev. Jamie Strickland – Hamilton, Ontario.

God can do far more than we can even begin to imagine. **Soul Surfer** is the autobiography of Hawaiian surfer Bethany Hamilton. Her story has been made into a movie. She came to Toronto in 2011 to share her story. Bethany and her husband came in third in the Amazing Race 2014.

Bethany, while a teenager, was attacked by a tiger shark while surfing. The shark bit off her arm. People nearby staunched the wound and saved her life.

Bethany mourned the loss of her arm. Bethany is part of a family that seeks to live out their faith and they are surrounded by a church family. Those around her do not attempt to explain the tragedy but offer her the love and support of God.

Her father put a handle on her surf board and she returned to competitive surfing but gave up when she lost.

Some time later, Bethany accompanied her church youth group on a service project to assist Thai survivors of the well-known Indian Ocean Tsunami. While in Thailand she was able to help a boy fearful of the water because of the Tsunami get back into the water again.

Upon her return to her home in Hawaii Bethany returned to surfing competitively. A reporter asked her what she would do if she had a chance to undo the loss of her arm. Her response was that she would still lose it because she can embrace more people with one arm than her former self could with two arms.

The apostle Paul, Dale Lang, Jamie Holtom, Jamie Strickland, Bethany Hamilton are not isolated examples. Some of you in our midst today can testify to this reality. God is able to work in all kinds of circumstances and situations far more than we can think or imagine.

God's grace and gifts are for the sake of God's glory in the world, in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

August 29, 2021

By: Rev. Dale Burkart

Dedicated to Jude Strickland ['Sorrow and joy all tangled up': Family says final farewell to 11-year-old Jude Strickland | CBC News](#)