

**ZOOM Worship for September 5, 2021
15th 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 Nation. 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: "Listen God is Calling" MV 97

Listen God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

Call to Worship:

One: We come to celebrate where your word touches our lives.
Two: We come in confessions and praise
One: To hear your Word and share our concerns,
Two: To rededicate ourselves and receive the strength and nourishment to go forth and live the life you give.
One: We come in the name of Jesus Christ.
Two: We welcome Christ's presence.

Written by Ralph Taylor and Ann Morwood. Gathering Summer/Autumn 1998. Used with permission.

Opening Prayer:

One: Holy God, powerful and faithful one,
Two: we come to your sanctuary, this Sabbath day,
to hear your word of truth.
One: May our faith be challenged.
Two: May our faith be empowered.
One: May our faith be provoked.
Two: May our faith be encouraged.
One: May our faith be called into action.
Two: May our faith give us courage to act. Amen.
Written by Nora Bedress. Gathering Summer/Autumn 2009. Used with permission.

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: "How Deep the Peace" MV 95

How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed.

Scripture readings:

John 8: 1-11

While Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir."^[b] And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Music for Reflection: "Bridge of Light"

Reflection: Faith Harm Reduction and the Opioid Crisis - Philip Longum

Hymn: "Amazing Grace" VU 266

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Offering Invitation:

One: For every good gift God we give thanks.

Two: We now offer before you a symbol of our gratitude
so that they may be a blessing for many others.

Written by Rob Fennell. Gathering Summer/Autumn 1999. Used with permission.

Prayer of Dedication:

One: Take these offerings we pray; accept them and use them.

Two: And accept us, we pray, and use us:

One: Use us in our strength and our weakness;

Two: Use our laughter and our tears; use our voices;

One: Use our anger and our indignation; use our love;

Two: Use us, heart and mind, body and soul.

Written by Curtis Tufts. Gathering Summer/Autumn 1999. Used with permission.

Prayers of the People:

- One: Creator God, we thank you for the guidance and direction you constantly give us. We pray for those who feel alone and forgotten, those who are searching for a closer relationship with you.
- Two: We pray for those who need recovery from illness, mental or physical, drug, alcohol or other addictions and we thank you for those who work on the front lines to bring your comfort to those who need it.
- One: We pray for those we know in hospital and long-term care, in nursing homes, and shut in at home.
- Two: We think of all the areas of the world where there is war, violence, suppression, acts of terrorism and hatred. Hear our prayers for victims of conflict and an end to the use of violence as a political tool.
- One: We think of all the towns, cities and countries affected by climate change who are experiencing floods, fires, hurricanes and extreme weather conditions.
- Two: We pray for all those we hold close in our hearts at this time. As followers of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" VU 288

Great is Thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion they blessings provide. R

Commissioning:

- One: Go into the world to pray without ceasing.
- Two: We go filled with the Spirit's vision.
- One: Go into the world to pray through your actions.
- Two: We go in the name of Jesus the Christ.
- One: Go into the world to pray by your heart.
- Two: We go blessed by God's grace.

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Musical Postlude: "Bridge over Troubled Water"