



Thornbury, Ontario
Grace United Church
Bold. Nurturing. Liberal. Christian.

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<https://youtu.be/eLf-0jEDakQ>

or <https://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live>

Sept 13, 2020 ~ 10:30 AM ~ 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Leading us today in Worship

Minister: Rev. Thérèse Samuel

Music Director: Dr. Christopher Burton

Lay Leader: Phyllis Fleming

Scripture Reader: Shirley Woolner

~ Leader: regular font ~ **All: bold font** ~ *Sung words: bold italics*

1 We Join One Another to Worship God

Worship Byte 1 <https://youtu.be/5rm0bIKPir0>

PRELUDE Little Prelude in D Major J.S. Bach

GREETING (2 Cor 13:14)

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

And also with you.

WELCOME

Creation Time CALL TO WORSHIP MV 130 Rise Up, Rise Up
Sung 2x

Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.

Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.

Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.

Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.

Come, Let us worship.

PRAYER

God of all time,

You acted with mercy and, through your servant Moses,

**led your people Israel out of bondage.
Send your power among us now
to make us wise and humble:
wise enough to know what you call us to do,
and humble enough to answer your call
and to trust in you.**

**This we pray
in the name of the one who walked among us
in the fullness of your presence
with wisdom and humility,
Jesus the Christ.**

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Exodus 14:19-31 God parts the sea for the Hebrews.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God we admit we do not always know what to make of certain stories in scripture.

Like this one. Triumph for the Israelites came with tragedy for their captors.

But their captors were also part of your creation.

We know you do not want us to wish harm to others.

We confess those times when we wish ill on another.

It might come in a moment of frustration- if he hurts himself, then he will know what he's doing wrong.

It might come from utter desperation – nothing seems to get through to her so I hope she fails so she learns.

It might be a long held bitter pain – I have been hurting for years because of them, so I hope they feel this kind of pain, too.

Whatever it is, help us to seek the good, always.

Help us to celebrate your love for us shown in the triumph of good over evil.

Help us also to lament with you the demise of any who suffer, even if it might be the result of their own ill-intent, or misplaced choices.

Help us to also be gentle with ourselves, and one another,
to turn from wrong-doing,
and to remember that you suffer with all who suffer.

God you are all power and all love, you are with us.
So we pause in silence to notice anything which we
regret: Thoughts, words and deeds which we wish to
release to you, the God who hears our prayers and
answers with love. We offer our regrets...

Silent Prayer

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God who delivered Israel from captivity in Egypt,
delivers us from the bondage to our mistakes and mis-
steps, our ill intentions and our unintentional wrongs.
In Christ, we are freed to do right on the next day.
God's love is with us always. Thanks be to God.

HYMN VU 651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1.
***Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.***
2.
***Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.***
3.
***When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.***

2 God Speaks, We Listen

Worship Byte 2 <https://youtu.be/9Yhif5FqzCo>

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As we prepare to listen for what the Bible is saying to us,
let us pray:

**Creator, we pray, as we ponder your word,
bless us with your wisdom and grace
that we may join your Spirit's dance,
and be moved to live in the way of your Christ.**

Amen.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 18:21-35 *How many times must I forgive?*

RESPONSE:

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

TIME OF PREPARATION

*In the sermon time, our shared task is not to listen to what the preacher has to say,
but to listen for what God is saying
to us and through us as we reflect on scripture.*

Let us pause, and invite the Spirit in prayer through music.

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION

Would You Bless Our Homes and Families

SERMON "Let Forgiveness Flow"

HYMN MV 89 Love Is the Touch

1.

*Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

2.

*Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

3.

*Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once a gain;
love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

4.

*Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod;
God is where love is, for love is of God.*

3 We Join God in the World

Worship Byte 3 <https://youtu.be/JSJwOuowEF8>

PROFESSION OF FAITH A New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created
and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114 (NRSV)

Refrain

Mighty is our God, source of our hope.

When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a
people of strange language,

**Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel God's dominion.**

The sea looked and fled;

Jordan turned back.

**The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.**

Refrain

Mighty is our God, source of our hope.

Why is it, O sea, that you flee?

O Jordan, that you turn back?

O mountains, that you skip like rams?

O hills, like lambs?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

who turns the rock into a pool of water,

the flint into a spring of water.

Refrain

Mighty is our God, source of our hope.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We are in the presence of the Holy God.

who has created the universe

who has given us life and love and beauty.

Be filled with the knowledge of this love,

mighty and merciful,

grand and gracious,

terrific and tender.

Now, in the presence of God and,

in the presence of one another across time and space,

name those things for which you are grateful.

Offer them to God as prayer,

in the silence of your heart

and if it will help you offer your prayer,

speak it out loud or write it down, or type it in the chat.

Silent Prayer

We are in the presence of the Holy God
who loves all the Creation that God has made.
All that is broken, God wills to be healed.
All that is hurting, God wills to be eased.
All that is shaken, God wills to be calmed.
All that is dying, God wills to have life eternal.
Now, in the presence of God and,
in the presence of one another across time and space,
name those things that bring you concern:
people, places, struggles, uncertainties, worries and
needs.
Offer them to God as prayer,
in the silence of your heart
and if it will help you offer your prayer,
speak it out loud, or write it down, or type it in the chat.

Silent Prayer

God, Merciful and Mighty,
you who brought Israel out of bondage,
you who brought forgiveness through the Christ
you who work wonders through your Spirit
hear our prayers and answer in love.
May we be so tuned in with wisdom and humility
that we receive your answer.
This we pray in Jesus name. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken, traditional words, VU 921)*

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
*Think of one person with whom you would like to share the peace
of Christ. You can also share the peace by typing in the chat box.*

OFFERING *We honour all the ways we give as we dedicate our offering.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF

**God, with gratitude for your gifts to us,
we offer back to you
from the gifts we have been given.**

**Like Moses, who gave the gift of leadership
to bring his people out of bondage,
We offer the gifts that you have given us
and that you call us to give back to you
and to the world you love.**

**Accept all the gifts we give for the service of your
church, for the sharing of your love, for the coming of
your realm of healing and peace.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY Sonata #3, 2nd Mov't S. Prokofiev

A single stone placed in the offering plate honours all our gifts.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN VU 288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1. *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!*

2. *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.*

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!*

3. *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 thy blessings provide.*

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!*

SENDING

Go knowing that the power of God
opens before you the path to wholeness.
Go with the forgiveness of God
on your hearts and on your lips.
Go with the goodness of God
filling you until you tremble with hope.
Go in love. Go in peace.

SUNG BLESSING *Go Now in Peace*

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, * within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.***

* alternate words: watching from above

POSTLUDE Sonata in e minor 1st Mov't F. Haydn

COFFEE HOUR *Join us via Zoom for community time.
The Zoom Link was sent in the eblast.*

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HYMNS and SUNG VERSES

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