

**NOTHING
CAN
SEPARATE
US
FROM
GOD'S
LOVE.**

Welcome to worship!

Sunday July 26, 2020

8th Sunday after Pentecost

***A joint online Zoom worship Service with:
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches and
Guests***

***Worship Leaders: Pastor Steven Loweth & Rev. Lionel Ketola
Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809***

Announcements & Today's Worship Theme

We Gather to in Joyful Celebration

Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who embodied God's love and compassion in such surprising ways. And he said: **I am the light of the world**

Acknowledgement of the Land

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us are gathered today. We pay my respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed in God's mercy and grace.
Let us give thanks for the gift of our baptism.

Water is poured into the font

We give thanks to you O God
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
In love you created a world of unimaginable beauty and diverse goodness.

We praise you for the waters you provide for the earth:
for snow and dew, for oceans and wells,
for the rain that nourishes plants and trees,
for the streams that enliven the animals, great and small,
for Lake Ontario and Lake Skugog; for the Black River and the Don River.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At a river your son Jesus was baptized by John and anointed by the Holy Spirit.
By water and the Word you claim us as your beloved daughters and sons.
With all creation, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

At this font we pray:
Renew in us the Spirit of our baptism.
Our roots are dry: shower us with divine blessing.
Our fruits need moisture: renew us for vibrant growth.
Shower us with your living Spirit
and fill our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

All honour and praise are yours, God of life.
You, O God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
You are the Water we crave;
You, O God, are Rain and River and Fountain.
Fill us with your abundant life, now and always.
Amen.

Opening Hymn: We Praise You O God

VU 218

Video

[Prayer of the Day](#)

Holy Spirit:
With astonishment,
we see that you renew our strength constantly.
Help us not to forget your presence
Through life's diversity
So that we, this morning,
can renew our gratefulness
and sing for your love. Amen

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Scripture Hymn Neither Death Nor Life

Marty Haugan

VIDEO

Refrain

**Neither, death nor life, nor angels nor rulers,
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,
neither height, nor death, nor all of creation,
can ever separate us from the love of God
poured out in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

[We Joyfully Respond to the Good News](#)

Hymn of the Day: I Am a Child of God MV 157

VIDEO

1. I am a child of God,
I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God,
I am a child of God.

2. I am an endless prayer,
I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer,
I am an endless prayer.

3. I am an angry voice,
I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice,
I am an angry voice.

4. I am a cry for peace,
I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace,
I am a cry for peace.

5. I am a song of joy,
I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy,
I am a song of joy

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts

God of life in all of it's wonder and mystery,
you created our world filled with beauty and diversity.
With joy we offer you all that we are, along with these gifts.
Bless all that we offer today and every day.
May these gifts help bring healing and wholeness to our world.
We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Prayers for the People

The Apostle Paul tells us that the Spirit of God prays for us
“with sighs too deep for words”.

Through the Life-Giving Breath of God,
we are given all that we need.

Let us breathe deeply—
inhaling the good gifts that God provides,
and exhaling all of the things that we need to release.

Let us breathe in strength. (Pause for breath...)
And, let us exhale our exhaustion. (Pause for breath...)

Let us breathe in the freedom of the Gospel. (Pause for breath...)
And, let us exhale all that holds us back. (Pause for breath...)

Let us breathe in a new sense of direction. (Pause for breath...)
And, let us exhale the paths we no longer want to use. (Pause for breath...)

Let us breathe in hope. (Pause for breath...)
And, let us exhale self-doubt. (Pause for breath...)

Let us breathe in God’s unconditional love. (Pause for breath...)
And, let us exhale distrust and hate. (Pause for breath...)

God in Your Love, Hear our Prayer

We now bring our community and worldly prayers to you.....

God in Your Love, Hear our Prayer.

Holy Spirit, let us feel the mighty rush of your presence in this place.
Blow away our fears and worries, and help us to breathe in your gifts of new life.

Closing Hymn: I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

VIDEO

Blessing and Commissioning

What can separate us from the love of Christ?

Can hardship, or distress, or persecution?

No, in all of these things, we are surrounded by God's grace and upheld by God's mighty and sustaining Spirit.

So let us go forth

with the assurance

that we are not alone - God's Spirit journeys with us – always!

May the blessing of God:

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit

be with us now, and always.

Amen!

Sung Blessing: I See Your True Colours

Video

Dismissal:

One: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

Next Sunday's Readings:

August 2 - Nineth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 12

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Online Zoom Book Study Group (Claremont & Goodood United): Our 6 week book study has completed! Stay tuned for our upcoming Fall session to study Rev. Lenny Duncan's book: "Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S." It's an excellent, challenging and thought-provoking exploration of anti-racism and white privilege.

.....Announcements continued on next Page

Joint Church Re-Opening Committee: (Goodwood and Claremont): Thurs July 30, 6:30 pm, on Zoom.

Session Meeting for Claremont United Church: Wed July 29, at 7:30 pm, on Zoom.

Goodwood United Church: Online Check-in: Tuesdays at noon, on Zoom. Once our check in time has come to a conclusion, the group will proceed with our weekly Bible Study / “Conversations about Life”, so feel free to join us for this as well.

Claremont United Church: Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon - Join us for a Zoom drop in meeting Everyone is invited to join us for these “virtual Brock Café” gatherings to connect with each other and check in with our congregational community.

Continued Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation’s ongoing ministries during this time.

- Offerings can be **mailed to the church address** itself
- **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
- You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your bank. *next page.*

For e-transfers to **Claremont United**, sent it to: treasureruc@outlook.com

For e-transfers to **Goodwood United**, send it to: goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation’s ministry.



Find us online! Check out our websites!

Check out our church websites for **new updates** during this time, including Sunday devotions, and information about coping with stress during COVID-19.

www.claremontunitedchurch.com

www.goodwoodunitedchurch.com



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