



Are you a  
**HEARER**  
or a **DOER?**



**Welcome to Worship!**

Sun August 29, 2021, 10:30 am

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood  
United Churches

Join us on Zoom or our YouTube  
channel: **CFG Worship**

**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Lionel Ketola  
and Pastor Steven Loweth

OneLicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Words of Welcome

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

There was a man named Jesus, who brought healing and new life to all whom he met. And he said **“I am the light of the World”**.

### **Acknowledgement of the Land**

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the history, spirituality and cultures of the First Nations who are the traditional custodians of the land where each of us is gathered today. Their relationship with the land remains central to their lives.

**God of new life, ground us in love and justice so we can work toward reconciliation and fulfill our treaty obligations with Canada’s First Nations peoples. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: VU # Open My Eyes that I May See**

**VIDEO**

<https://youtu.be/O0-CAf0Z-yw>

*Permission: Golden Ears United Church,*

**Prayer of the Day**  
*Shakespeare, p. 69*

*Source: Prayers for an Inclusive Church, Steven*

**God of unclean hands,  
touching those  
rejected by the world,  
despised by the religious:  
guide us from false purity  
that hides our misshapen hearts;  
lead us to the joyful feast  
in which all are renewed;  
through Jesus Christ, the beauty of God's face. Amen.**

### **We Gather Around God's Word**

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.**

#### **James 1:17-27**

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this:

to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word                      **Thanks be to God!**

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

**Hymn:            VU 661            Come to my Heart Lord Jesus            The Masked Bandits**

**Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 15                      Chris Brunelle                      VIDEO  
<https://youtu.be/xcHARZjY-9k>                      *Used with Permission*

### **Mark 7:1-23**

<sup>7</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” <sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come.....

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word                      **Thanks be to God!**

Reflection: Pastor Steve

**Hymn: VU # 672    Take Time to be Holy                      VIDEO**  
<https://youtu.be/WblkcQYxdp8>

**Minute For Mission  
Invitation to the Offering**

- Video message: UCC Moderator Richard Bott

**Sung Doxology: VU 541** Praise God From Whome All Blessings Flow  
The Masked Bandits

**Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts**

Loving God,  
you are the source of every good thing;  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
May your living Spirit use the gifts that we offer  
to breathe healing, hope and new life into our broken world;  
through Jesus, the giver of life. **Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

Tender God, for our deepest and most holy longings we pray:

**Renew us O God.**

For all who wander, who hunger, who thirst; for all who are ill, unemployed, or  
struggling in any way:

**Renew us as a people of service and compassion**

For this planet, our earth home:

**Renew our will to be healers of creation**

For this and every nation, especially the people of Afghanistan, Cuba, Haiti, and  
countries struggling to obtain COVID vaccines

**Renew in all people the will for good and the longing for peace and reconciliation.**

Healing One, we remember all who have asked for our prayers:

*Intercessions are offered*

All of these prayers we offer in Jesus' name, who brings us your restoring presence, and  
who taught us to pray: **God our Mother and Father in Heaven ...**

**Closing Song:** Go Make a Difference MV 209

<https://youtu.be/i1rM3FIWC-c>

**Blessing:**

God of every blessing,  
as we journey into this summer day,  
may we be empowered to be doers of your word –  
through lives of love, compassion and justice for all your beloved creation.

And may the blessing of God:  
Surprising Creator,  
Compassionate Healer  
and Renewing Spirit  
be with us now and always. Amen.

**Sung Dismissal:** Go Now in Peace *Permission: Trinity United Church, Kitchener*

## Church News and Announcements

### *Worship News & Schedule through to Labour Day Weekend*

***Thank you to Marilyn Elphick and the Fairbank United Church Zoom team for leading us in worship on Sunday July 25 & Sunday August 15 when Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve were away. Your gifts and leadership were much appreciated!***

Sunday Aug 29, 10:30 am - Regular Zoom Worship – with Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve

***(Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve are on vacation from August 30 – September 6, inclusive).***

**Sunday Sept 5<sup>th</sup>**

**NO Worship Service** on Labour Day Sunday

Sunday Sept 12, 10:30 am

Regular Zoom Worship with Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve

## Goodwood United Church - Weekly Programs & Meetings

**The Knit-Wits: Wednesdays at 10:00 am.** This is **Goodwood United Church's weekly ZOOM group** for Knitting, crochet and other needle craft. This group facilitates our congregation's **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. They will keep you in stitches! To find out how to connect with this group on Zoom, contact Shirley Baster.

**Thursdays at 10:30 am – Join us for our Thursday Zoom Check-in & Bible Study.** Enjoy a chance to connect with our church community and share stories, laughter and support for this online gathering, which is followed by our weekly bible study.

**Our Friday Morning Book Study** will resume in the fall, with a new book. Contact Rev. Lionel with your suggestions for book themes / titles that our group can read!

**Joint Church Re-Opening Committee:** Next meeting: **Wed Sept. 15, 7 pm.**

## Claremont United Church - Weekly Programs and Meetings

**Wednesdays at 10:00 am – Join us for our Online Zoom Check in**  
Enjoy a chance to connect with our church community and share stories, laughter and support for this online gathering.

**Joint Church Re-Opening Committee:** Next meeting: **Wed Sept 15, 7 pm.**

**Our Friday Morning Book Study has concluded for the summer.** We will resume in September with a new book. Send Rev. Lionel your ideas for new books for us to read together in the Fall!

### **DISCERNMENT PROCESS – CLAREMONT UNITED CHURCH'S FUTURE**

At its last meeting, Claremont United Church's Board has voted to begin a Discernment process which will use the "wisdom circle process" to discern what our future as a congregation could look like! This is a very exciting process to begin, as we seek the Spirit's guidance about our future shape & ministries. ***This process will begin soon.***



Join us for **Worship on our YouTube channel - CFG Worship**

- Join us for worship either on Zoom, or on YouTube, Sundays at 10:30 am
- Watch past services uploaded to our YouTube channel

Go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search **CFG Worship**.

## Continued Financial 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 online banking. **Here is where to send them:**

For **Claremont United** send to: [treasurerucuc@outlook.com](mailto:treasurerucuc@outlook.com)

For **Goodwood United** send to: [goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com)

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

THANK  
YOU!