



September 20, 2020

Creation 2

Life and Work of the Congregation

A Time of Quiet Preparation

WE GATHER

***Introit:** Gather Us In

MV 7

Gather us in, ground us in you. (2X)

Gather us in, gather us in, ground us, ground us in you

***Call to Worship**

One: Surely, God is in this place.

All: Help me notice.

One: The Spirit of God breathes life into all things.

All: The Spirit of God animates creation.

One: Holy, Holy, Holy,

All: The earth is filled with God's presence.

One: Holy, Holy, Holy,

All: God's creatures sing in praise.

Shalom: *We exchange a greeting of "shalom" – An ancient word of faith meaning peace, wholeness, wellness, blessing...*

Hymn: Jesus, Lover of My Soul

VU 669

*Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide, till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last.*

*Other refuge have I none; hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah! leave me not alone; still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head with the shadow of thy wing.*

*Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name, I am all unrighteousness:
false and full of sin I am, thou art full of truth and grace.*

*Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.*

*Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.*

Prayer of Invocation and Transformation *(unison)*

Creator God, we live and thrive on a planet that teems with abundant life. Open us to the miracle of the sunrise, to the radiant beauty of a flower, to the delicious tastes and aromas of our food, and to the rapturous pleasure of a deep, full breath of air. For in all these things you are present, filling us, nurturing us, and loving us – and our hearts are moved.

Standing in your light, hearts broken open, acknowledging our humanness, seeking transformation, savouring your Holy Presence, we pray...

(a moment of contemplation)

One: God hears, forgives, makes whole, renews, and loves. Breathe deeply of God's shalom, and be God's.

Hymn: Unfailing Love

*You have my heart, and I am yours forever
You are my strength, God of grace and power
Everything you hold in your hand
Still you make time for me I can't understand*

*Praise you God of earth and sky how beautiful is your unfailing love, unfailing love
And you never change God you remain the Holy One and my unfailing love, unfailing love*

*You are my rock, the one I hold on to
You are my song, and I sing for you
Everything you hold in your hand
Still you make time for me I can't understand*

Kids Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading – Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Message: A God-Shaped Hole

*I love you Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy my king, in what you hear. May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.*

*This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe, your holy presence, living in me
And I, I'm desperate for you. I, I'm lost without you*

*For the eyes of my heart, they're on you forever, they're on you forever
Jesus, I'm in love with you! Jesus, I'm in love with you! Jesus*

*And I love, I love, I love your presence. I love, I love, I love your presence
I love, I love, I love you Jesus! I love, I love, I love your presence*

WE RESPOND

Hymn: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart **VU 378**

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart, and make me love you as I ought to love.*

*I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies, but take the dimness of my soul away.*

*Have you not bid me love you, God and King; all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength and mind?
I see your cross: there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek you and O let me find!*

*Teach me to love you as your angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame,
the baptism of the heaven-descended dove, my heart an altar and your love the flame.*

Prayer (w/Lord's Prayer)

Offering

For all your goodness, God, thank you! For all your abundance, God, alleluia! Help us to use all you have given, with wisdom and compassion, that these gifts might bring healing and hope to your world, to this community, and to this congregation. Amen.

***Hymn:** I Need Thee Every Hour **VU 671**

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice but thine can peace afford.

*I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee.
O bless me now, my Saviour; I come to thee.*

I need thee every hour; stay thou near by; temptations lose their power when thou art nigh. R

I need thee every hour, in joy or pain; come quickly and abide, or life is vain. R

I need thee every hour; teach me thy will; and thy rich promises in me fulfil. R

***Benediction**

***Closing:** May the Blessing of God Be Upon You **VU 429**

May the blessing of God be upon you. May God's love light all your way.

May the grace of Christ enfold you and peace around you stay.

May the Spirit of God dwell within you. May you live in joy each day.

Food Drive - Tuesday, September 22nd from 9 am – 1pm

Accepting donations of food for the Simcoe Hall Settlement House this week! Plus a focus on agencies who specifically support women, Denise House and Bethesda House. So, if you wish, you can write a cheque to Faith United, in support of these agencies. We will of course be following COVID safety protocols such as distancing, hand sanitizer, masks, no cash involved, cleaned surfaces and pens, etc.

Joyful Noise and Youth Group Gatherings – TODAY!

Joyful Noise meets at 1 PM and Youth Group at 7 PM. Can't wait to see you all. If you did not receive the Zoom login info, please email childrenandyouth@faithunited.ca.

Rev. Larry's Office Hours In The Church Building - Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. He will be available for conversations (pastoral or otherwise) with anyone. The Sanctuary will also be available for those who might want to come and sit quietly and pray in our worship space. There is also a labyrinth available for prayerful walking (socks required). Access to the building will be strictly controlled – the door will be locked until Rev. Larry lets you in, and the only spaces available will be the foyer, the foyer washroom, and the sanctuary. All other rooms in the building are closed for now.

Finances - If you are already on PAR (pre-authorized remittance), THANK YOU! We encourage you to continue to make your financial offerings to the church. Bills and salaries still need to be paid. Another way to make your offering is by clicking the "Canada Helps" donation button on our website. Please do what you can to continue to support our ongoing mission and ministry together.

ECO Regional Council Prayer Cycle - White Lake: Bethesda

Faith United Mission Statement

We believe in a loving and forgiving God, shown to us through Jesus Christ, creation, the bible, and the community of believers.

Therefore we will:

- strive to provide a spiritual home that is openly welcoming, nurturing and safe whatever a person's ability/disability, age, ethnicity, exceptionality, gender identity, sexual orientation, or social or economic circumstance;
- seek to become disciples of Christ growing in faith through worship, study and prayer;
- risk sharing our resources with local and global neighbours in response to God's call;
- be committed to the responsible use and care of all that God has entrusted to us;
- encourage all who gather here to participate freely in the life and work of this church.

Let our actions reflect our faith.

Minister: Rev. Dr. Larry Doyle B.Mus, B.Ed, M.Div, D.Min
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Doug Snell B.A, M.Div
Music Facilitator: Zeljka Colic B.Mus
Children, Youth & Young Family Leader /
Office Administrator: Stacey Tremblay
Custodian: Nyron Broomes

