

Downtown United Church

June 27th, 2021 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.
At the points marked * - those who are able are invited to stand.

A joining of Wilmot and St Paul's United Churches for the building up of the saints.

THE PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude:

Greeting (Responsive):

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

And also with you.

Lighting the Christ Candle (Responsive):

Welcome & Announcements:

Call to Worship (Responsive):

God seeks to gather us in,

The lost and the lonely,

The broken and the breaking,

The tired and the aching

Who long for the nourishment found in Christ.

Gather us in,

The done and the doubting

The wishing and wondering

The puzzled and pondering

Who long for the company found in Christ.

Gather us in,

to meet, to greet

be given a seat

be joined to the vine

be offered new wine,

become like the least

be found at Christ's feet.

Gather us in!

Opening Prayer

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

***Hymn: Come O fount of every blessing 559**

- 1** Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

- 2** Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.

- 3** O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: Where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn:** God is here 389

- 1** God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

- 2** Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

- 3** Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

- 4** God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

*** Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

Together we have always been able to do more than we could alone. Being faithful stewards is part of what drove our founding churches to union, We are now not only stewards of this legacy but also the resources at hand. Over all that we faithfully give let us pray.

Loving God,

you have blessed us with the gift of time,

you have uniquely gifted us, with talents to share,

you have given us the resources to cover all worldly costs.

We ask that you bless the individual gifts we give.

Guide us to the truth that you provide us with an abundance beyond our need.

Help us to be good stewards as we respond to your call, to give as we have received.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

*** Closing Hymn: Blest be the tie that binds 602**

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds
 our hearts in Christian love;
 the unity of heart and mind
 is like to that above.**

- 2 Before our Maker's throne
 we pour our ardent prayers;
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
 our comforts and our cares.**

- 3 We share each other's woes,
 each other's burdens bear;
 and often for each other flows
 the sympathizing tear.**

- 4 This glorious hope revives
 our courage on the way;
 that we shall live in perfect love
 in God's eternal day.**

*** Commissioning/Benediction (Responsive):**

We go from this gathered community
to a world where so many are isolated

We go from this place of refuge and refreshment

To a world that is thirsting for a home

We go from this place back to a hurting world

But we go strengthened and renewed, empowered to make a difference.

So Go to share the connection and love that you have found far and wide.

Knowing that the we are not alone,

that God our creator, redeemer and sustainer is with us always.

Postude