

Downtown United Church

July 25, 2021, Ninth 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:

Welcome & Announcements:

Call to worship (Responsive):

Power is at work

At work within us!

Power of the love

The love of God!

God can do more-

WAY more-

More than we can ask or imagine!

Glory be to God,

From the church, from the people!

Glory for all time,

every generation.

God can do more-

WAY more-

More than we can ask or imagine!

Now is the time to worship

Worship with all our heart, mind and soul!

Opening prayer (Responsive):

God of gentle rains and warm sun, God who encourages growth;
**we are creatures who sometimes grow quickly,
and sometimes get stuck.**

God of freedom, of liberation, of binding ropes being cut;
we are bound in ways we don't always understand or recognize.

God of exodus and exile and homecoming,
God who calls us to leave where we are and come home;
**help us to have the courage to make the journey
and to trust in the path.**

God of health and healing,
God who wants us to be made whole;
**we come as people who are wounded in body and in spirit,
people who seek healing.**

God who has laid out a way for us to live,
who has given us rules for living in community;
**we come as people who sometimes go astray,
people who stretch the rules.**

God of Grace,
we come as people who live through that Grace.
**And so we praise you for the growth,
we rejoice in being set free,
we dance along the path that leads us home,
we give thanks for the healing we have received,
we relax in the knowledge that we are forgiven
and we live as people of Grace. Amen.**

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

***Hymn: Love Divine, all Loves Excelling vu 333**

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Today's Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21

Shirley Cleave

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: More than we can Imagine

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn:** Now than we all our God VU 236

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart,
and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

* Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Holy Spirit, we give thanks for the blessings poured out and for the love we have received.
May the gifts that we offer be a blessing for many and a love offering for the world in your
name. This we pray. Amen

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

* Closing Hymn: may the god of hope go with us vu424

1 May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R

* Commissioning/Benediction

.Postlude

Announcements

**We extend our condolences to a number of families on the death of their loved ones:
To the family of Michael Crowther whose service will Monday here at St. Paul's at 2pm
To the family of Marg Allen for whom a private graveside service will be held
To the family of Mavis Sturgeon whose service will be on Monday at 2:00 at McAdams.**

Next week Services of Downtown Untied shift to Wilmot United the summer service time will continue to be 10:30am. Check out the e-news next week for details on in-person and digital worship options.

Seeing God Summer Challenge is ongoing. Take an opportunity this summer to open your eyes to God's gifts and presence in our lives. Get your copy on the Website at <http://www.stpaulsunited.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Summer-engagment-2021.pdf>