



Sunday, July 18, 2021  
~ Eighth Sunday of Pentecost ~  
Virtual Service

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Worship Team: Rev. Pirie Mitchell, Dan Leaver, Ben Chapman (from Mysterium Choir),  
Sheila Dinnin and daughter Julia

Music Team: Karen Schuessler, Hymn Leader: Rev. Pirie Mitchell  
Special Music: Mysterium

*In order to comply with Ontario's pandemic response, all components of the worship service are:  
1) recorded (without any congregation present) in the sanctuary,  
2) recorded by people in their own homes, or 3) recorded prior to the pandemic.*

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VU = Voices United hymnal

MV = More Voices hymnal

Music Credits: One License #A-738765

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<b>Prelude:</b> Air and Interlude (Bert Van der Hoek)	Karen Schuessler
<b>Welcome and Life &amp; Work of the Church</b>	Rev. Pirie Mitchell
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Rev. Pirie Mitchell

*Before we begin our service with the Call to Worship, permit me to say a few words about the theme of the service. This week we look at a perfect living scenario for the ancient faith ancestors. Their yard stick was the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm. I would suggest that most of us have lived in a world, despite its ups and downs, that has generally reflected generally good times for us. But when we look at the experiences of our first nations' brothers and sisters, we see their 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm has been yanked away from them through the experiences of the Indian Act and the Residential schools. I will use some of the experiences of our brothers and sisters in the Indigenous community as illustration.*

Down through Jewish and Christian history we have sought the proper way to live. For us in the Christian community we have depended on the lessons taught and learned by some, through the life experiences of a man called Jesus of Nazareth. Today we look at these lessons. Come let us join together through our collective practices of life and worship God.

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

O God, we know better. Life often gets in the way of the way we should do things. We come to you this morning more determined to connect with you wholeheartedly and with resolve and enter the world where Christ's lessons can be seen in the way we behave. Be with us we pray as we move to follow your son more closely. Amen

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Dan Leaver

**Indigenous Land Acknowledgement**

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Long before the presence of the Europeans in Canada there were people here who lived off the land with skill and respect. We acknowledge those people and the lands on which our church stands in London Ontario Canada as lands previously occupied by our indigenous neighbours: the Chippewa Nation, the Oneida Nation, the Delaware and Neutral nations and the Huron nation.

**Hymn:** For the Healing of the Nations

VU 678 verses 1, 2, 3

1. For the healing of the nations,  
God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward into freedom,  
from despair your world release;  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

**Learning with Children**

Dan Leaver

**Lord's Prayer** (in unison) (VU page 921)

Ben Chapman (from Mysterium)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## Readings

Scripture reading: Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Sheila Dinnin

Secular reading: The Perfect Life? By Ethel Gillespie

Sheila Dinnin

Scripture reading: Psalm 23

Sheila and Julia Dinnin

**Special Music:** Christ Has Broken Down the Wall (Mark Miller)

Previously recorded video by Mysterium with soloist: Matt Selman

**Message:** What's So Perfect?

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

**Hymn:** I am the Light of the World

VU 87 all verses

Refrain:

I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds have found  
their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun. (Refrain)
2. To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with warmth  
and good food,  
to feel the earth below, the sky above! (Refrain)
3. To free the prisoner from all chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see God's children everywhere! (Refrain)
4. To bring hope to every task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in an old person's heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth! (Refrain)

## Offertory Prayer

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Your continued financial support is most gratefully appreciated. <https://wesleyknox.com/givings/>

O God, your son's mission cannot survive without our gifts of talent and currency. Accept both of these gifts from us this morning and may they prove to be used judiciously in enhancing your son's mission for all people from this congregation. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Lord *the news of the day* has been shattering to us in the dominate society. It captures the injustices done to our brothers and sisters descended from the original inhabitants of this land. We are reminded that the Clovis people were the first to reach the Americas, about 11,500 years ago. They arrived here via the ancient land bridge caused by the last ice age from Siberia to Alaska. All Aboriginal peoples in North American are descended from them. The first Europeans to settle here were the Norse adventurers who built a settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows in NFLD in about the year 1000 CE. It was abandoned a few years later. Modern European settlement began in 1607 and 1608. We need to be reminded O Lord that your Clovis people have been here about 11 000 years longer than the Europeans and have much to teach us. Help us learn from them by our attentiveness to their needs and goals.

When compared to the rest of the world we live in a dream come true, but often causing a nightmare to others either less fortunate or those whose lands we took. We recognise the work being done by the United Church and the Government of Canada to bring about change and ameliorate past injustices. But the important question we need to ask ourselves: What were we doing, as an individual and congregation, to correct the past? Help us face this question honestly and with energy. Guide us we pray.

And finally, Lord, we pray for ourselves. Our church family has been through much over the past year and a half. We have not met as a people and we need that. We have not collected our energies for important and useful community projects. As we approach our re-opening in August help us look at a new canvas to paint with your son's colours. Help us reflect his teachings and spirit in our new church ventures. Remind us that things will never be the same. The future will brighten for us if we look at tomorrow with all the possibilities Christ has given us. Amen.

**Hymn:** Let Us Build a House

MV 1 verses 1, 4, 5

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive.  
Build of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

**Refrain**

**Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach  
Beyond the wood and stone  
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
And live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
Bear the image of God's face;  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

**Refrain**

5. Let us build a house where all are named,  
Their songs and visions heard  
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
As words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
Prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

**Refrain**

**Commissioning & Benediction**

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

We have a job to do. Let us depart from here knowing that you walk with us as we hold onto your son's teaching. We depart in hope and anticipation. Amen.

**Response** (in unison)

VU 298

**When you walk from here, when you walk from here,  
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.**

**Postlude:** All Are Welcome (Marty Haugen, arr. Mark Hayes)

Karen Schuessler