

**July 6, 2025 – Order of Service**  
**Trusting Jesus in a Wild World**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Acknowledgement of the Land** We acknowledge that we are gathered this morning on the traditional territory of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Delaware Nation of Moraviantown, Munsee-Delaware Nation, and Oneida Nation of the Thames. We also acknowledge the historic presence of other First Nations here and across Turtle Island. We thank our Indigenous forebearers for their care of this land.

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**L:** *"In the beginning, when God created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness . . . Then God commanded, "Let there be light" and the light appeared."* (Genesis 1:1-3) The light of this Christ candle reminds us that the light of Christ, which leads us in this wild world, can bring light to thousands of others if and when we share it.

**P:** **Jesus leads us so let us trust him.**

**Praise Hymn** **I'm Gonna Live So**, VU # 575

I'm gonna live so (live so)	I'm gonna work so (work so)	I'm gonna pray so (pray so)	I'm gonna sing so (sing so)
God can use me	God can use me	God can use me	God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, any time! (anytime!)	Anywhere, Lord, any time! (anytime!)	Anywhere, Lord, any time! (anytime!)	Anywhere, Lord, any time! (anytime!)
I'm gonna live so (live so)	I'm gonna work so (work so)	I'm gonna pray so (pray so)	I'm gonna sing so (sing so)
God can use me	God can use me	God can use me	God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, any time! (anytime!)	Anywhere, Lord, any time! (anytime!)	Anywhere, Lord, any time! (anytime!)	Anywhere, Lord, any time! (anytime!)

**Call to Worship**

**L:** You call to us in this wild world

**P:** **to join you on a journey, Loving God.**

**L:** As we prepare to follow you, you call to us and we try to listen.

**P:** **Help us to hear your voice in the hustle and bustle, to listen to you and trust in you always.**

**L:** We are not alone; our faith companions go with us.

**P:** **You are our guide; we have nothing to fear.**

**L:** As we gather here this morning, settle our minds to focus on you.

**P:** **Let us gather now to worship God.**

**Gathering Prayer** Creator God, we live in a wild and troubled world which often seems dark. We ask you be with us in this morning and in the days ahead. Surround us with your light and calming spirit, keeping us on the right path in trusting you always. Amen

**Responsive Psalm** Psalm 66: 1-7, VU # 784

**L:** Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

**P:** **Sing to the honour of God's name; make glorious the praise of God.**

**L:** How awesome are your deeds! So great is your strength, your foes wilt before you.

**P:** **For all the world shall worship you, shall sing to you and praise your name.**

**L:** O come and see what God has done, a work that is awesome to all earth's children.

**P:** **God turned the sea into dry land; they crossed the river on foot.**

**L:** There, we rejoiced in God, who rules in power forever,

**P:** **whose eyes keep watch on the nations. Let not the rebellious lift up their heads.**

**Gathering Hymn** **I Am the Light of the World**, VU # 87 (Verses 2, 3, 4)

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.	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	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	To bring hope to every task you do, To dance at a baby's new birth, To make music in an old person's hear, And sing to the colours of the earth! Refrain
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### **Offering Invitation & Prayer** by Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters PC, Nipawin, SK

The needs are great and the resources seem to be few . . . yet God's grace can and does multiply our effort so that the gift meets the need.

Let us pray: In this time of uncertainty, giving God, be to us a comfort and prompt us to be of comfort to others. We ask for your blessing on these gifts and on the large and small gifts of caring we share with others in the days and weeks ahead. Amen.

### **Children's Ministry**

Music Video: **Hey, Hey, Hey** (from 2025 VBS)

Story: **Be You**, by Peter H. Reynolds (to be read by Faith with pictures on screen)

Read aloud video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06StNCMcJw0>

Prayer: Dear God, You are a God of Children, You call us towards you to learn, instead of hiding us away. You give us a gift of wonder, a beautiful curiosity for Your Creation. You came to Earth not as a powerful being, but as a child. You are a God of Children. Be with us as we find our way in this wild world. Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer (sung)**

### **Scripture Readings**

#### **Isaiah 66:10-14**

Rejoice with Jerusalem; be glad for her, all you that love this city! Rejoice with her now, all you that have mourned for her! You will enjoy her prosperity, like a child at its mother's breast. The Lord says, "I will bring you lasting prosperity; the wealth of the nations will flow to you like a river that never goes dry. You will be like a child that is nursed by its mother, carried in her arms, and treated with love. I will comfort you in Jerusalem, as a mother comforts her child. When you see this happen, you will be glad; it will make you strong and healthy. The you will know that I, the Lord, help anger those who obey me, and I show my anger against my enemies. The Lord will come with fire. He will ride on the wings of storm to punish those he is angry with. By fire and sword he will punish all the people of the world whom he finds guilty – and many will be put to death.

#### **Galatians 6:7-10**

Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. You will reap exactly what you plant. If you plant in the field of your natural desires, from it you will gather the harvest of death; if you plant in the field of the Spirit, from the Spirit you will gather the harvest of eternal life. So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith.

### **Prayer of Illumination** by Karvin Boivin, Bells Corners UC, Ottawa, ON

L: Today's scripture passage is a challenging one at the best of times, and even more so in our current times and circumstances – a wild world for sure! We need the spirit of Christ to cast some light on how to make sense of our world. Thankfully, we have the light of Christ shining among us, and we can declare:

**P: This we know! We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

## **Message** *Trusting Jesus in a wild world.*

As you can see, some decorating has begun for our Vacation Bible School which starts tomorrow. The theme this year is “True North – Trusting Jesus in a wild world.

We have over 40 children registered to be here every morning. So, let’s look at what they will be learning.

A glance at the headlines reveals a world in turmoil; seemingly spinning out of control. Whether political, financial or human interest, we find little in the news that fails to inflict grief or further anxiety upon our bedraggled hearts. Now more than ever, learning how to trust God in a chaotic world becomes indispensable.

Learning how to trust God in a chaotic world invites us to “press pause” in various ways and areas of our lives. Recently, an on-line seminar offered by UCC discussed Mis-information and dis-information. Perhaps you participated and learned to distinguish the truth from fiction and fantasy. We are bombarded by so much information every day on the radio, the television, social media, the press, even by Hollywood. If you believed everything you hear, you would believe:

- A specific brand of lotion will rejuvenate your skin to wrinkle-free.
- The Toronto Maple Leafs will win the Stanley Cup this year.
- The current president of the USA is the best president ever.
- The one whose fingerprints were on the weapon was not really guilty.
- No matter how outnumbered you are in a martial arts fight, your foes will patiently wait to attack you one-on-one until you have knocked out their predecessors.

It is a chaotic and wild world we live in – where the rules seem to change every day and leaders aren’t always the best at leading. So who can we trust? Your neighbour, our Minister?

You can trust Jesus! That’s the lesson our VBS children will be learning this coming week. No matter what is happening around you, trust Jesus. He is always listening and hears even those silent “God, help me” prayers. There’s a picture Sharon has used on our FaceBook page of a sheet of lined paper with the words “Dear God” at the top, followed by wet spots created by falling tears then the word “Amen”. God hears even those prayer tears. He is listening!

Wait, trust, and remember that God loves you. You can trust Him to sustain you, provide for you and be with you even in the midst of your chaos. Jesus guaranteed His followers that they would face hard times (John 16:33), but He promised that He would always be with them (Matthew 28:20).

To cultivate a complete trust in God, focus on cultivating a relationship with Him through prayer, scripture, and reflection. So, I ask you to consider these four steps:

- Cultivate a Relationship: Deepen your relationship with God through prayer, scripture study, and worship. Engage in intentional time with Him, seeking to know His character and will.
- Seek Truth: Read and study God's word to gain a deeper understanding of His truth and character. Look for patterns, promises, and guidance in scripture to help you trust Him.
- Practice Gratitude: Cultivate a heart of gratitude for God's blessings and provision, even in difficult times. Focusing on the good things in your life and seeking to acknowledge God's work in your circumstances can strengthen your trust.
- Surrender and Trust: Practice surrendering your anxieties and worries to God, knowing that He is in control. Lean on Him in times of uncertainty and trust that He will work all things for your good.

Learning to recognize God and what He has for us in each divine moment He offers. We acknowledge the belief that God is with us always. Trust brings peace. “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed” Deuteronomy 31:8. Trusting in Him unlocks peace and a sense of calm that will help you through your toughest times. This we know! We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen

**Prayers of the People** Creator God, be with us in these wild times of improbability and indecision. As we are surrounded by hesitation and vagueness, help us wrestle with how to respond and trust in you. Show us your compassionate and prophetic love and let us share it around the world.

We grieve for the loss of life in so many parts of the world and for a world that values some lives more than others. We confess that we who profess to follow Jesus have been unable or unwilling to obey the command to love one another. Help us be your hands and feet in our changeable world.

Help us as we listen carefully to hear the adjustments we need to make in our own lives so we can follow you and trust you in our chaotic world.

We give thanks for and offer support to the peacemakers and bridge-builders and those who fight hatred and fear with love and understanding. We give thanks for those who guide us, young and old, daily. We also give thanks for those faithful witnesses who speak truth to power and call for conversion to Jesus' way of love. We are called to imagine what new hope and complete trust might look like in a world not filled with such uncertainty.

God, we ask you be with the leaders and children at Vacation Bible School in the week coming. This is an opportunity to bring the message of trust and your love to so many who otherwise do not hear this message. Give the leaders strength and patience; give the children open ears and eyes to receive your message.

And now, in the silence of our hearts, hear our personal prayers. (time of silence)

We ask all of this in Jesus' name. Amen

**Parting Hymn** **We are Pilgrims**, VU # 595, (Verses 1, 3, 4, 5)

We are pilgrims on a journey,	I will hold the Christ-light for you	I will weep when you are weeping,	When we sing to God in heaven,
Fellow travellers on the road;	In the night-time of your fear;	When you laugh I'll laugh with you;	We shall find such harmony,
We are here to help each other	I will hold my hand out to you,	I will share your joy and sorrow,	Born of all we've known together
Walk the mile and bear the load.	Speak the peace you long to hear.	'til we've seen this journey through.	Of Christ's love and agony.

**Benediction** *adapted from Laura Turnbull, Penticton, BC*

As we go now out into the wild world around us, let us go confidently yet humbly, knowing the God of life, who loves us beyond measure is with us, guiding us. Let your trust in him be strong and true. Be blessed in the name of the Creator, Son, and Spirit.

**Choral Amen**