

Sunday, - August 10th, 2025 – Guest Minister Rev. Paul Estabrooks

LIGHT CHRIST CANDLE-by Lori VanSantvoort-Jansekovich, Broadway UC, Thunder Bay, ON

L: We light the Christ candle each week, as a reminder that the presence of Jesus guides our lives.

P: We celebrate this light of Jesus as the love that transforms how we live our lives and that challenges us to seek justice and peace for all.

L: The candle is lit.

WELCOME -by Sandra Litt, St. James UC, Waterdown, ON

L: All are welcome in this place. Let us journey as one in the light of Love.

P: We are one in this space, in this building, in this community. We are one through the generations, through song, through word, and through worship. We are one just as we are. All are welcome here.

INTRODUCTION of Rev. Paul Estabrook

MUSIC VIDEO Night of a Million Miracles

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE HYMN **I, The Lord of Sea and Sky!** VU # 509

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?	Refrain Here I am, Lord, is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.	I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain, I have wept for love them; They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain	I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them; My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide, 'til their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain
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CALL TO WORSHIP -by Heather McClure, Wesley UC, Montreal, QC

L: We gather in the love of God to worship, hoping to find some new way of knowing our God.

P: We come seeking you, O God.

L: We gather in the love and fellowship of one another, offering our friendship, care, and support, ready to serve.

P: We come seeking you, O Jesus.

L: We gather in awe of a holy, loving presence, yearning for an experience beyond ourselves.

P: We come seeking you, Holy Spirit.

L: Come now, worship and experience the Holy, alive in the presence of God, working in Christ Jesus, and living in the mystery of the Holy Spirit.

GATHERING PRAYER -by Wendy McLean, Brockville, ON

Meet us here, Holy One, in this Sanctuary of time and space that we have set apart in our week as an opening for your Spirit into our hearts and homes. In a world that is aching and divided, may our prayers be a gentle and soothing gift, offered in your name and in the spirit of your gathered ones across time and space. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN We Are Pilgrims, VU # 595

We are pilgrims on a journey, Fellow travellers on the road; We are here to help each other Walk the mile and bear the load.	Sister, let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace To let you be my servant too.	I will hold the Christ-light for you In the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long to hear.	I will weep when you are weeping, When you laugh I'll laugh with you; I will share your joy and sorrow, 'til we've seen this journey through.	When we sing to God in heaven, We shall find such harmony, Born of all we've known together Of Christ's love and agony.	Brother, let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace To let you be my servant too.
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OFFERING PRAYER -by Francis Flook, Emo/Devlin PC, Emo, ON

God has given to us – beyond our imagining. We have received new life and new hope. Let us then respond as is right. Let us offer our gifts and ourselves in service of God's mercy and grace.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Story Old Turtle / Who is God to You?

Prayer Dear God: We know that You are different for everybody. And yet, You are the same ... You are love. We humbly ask You to help us reach out our hearts to show love, compassion, and respect for all people. We thank you for the opportunity and privilege to worship You in public and, without fear, are free to celebrate our common love for You. O Father in Heaven, please help us carry the true spirit of Your love to the world so that we can be worthy of being called Your children. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER-Spoken

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 1:2-4, A Rebellious Nation

Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." Woe to the sinful nation, a people whose guilt is great, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.

Hebrews 11:1-3 & 8, Faith in Action

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

MESSAGE Rev. Paul Estabrooks – "Call to Me" Project Pearl – Request from Christians in southern China for 1 million Bibles – 1980

We did not know how to do this. We operated on Jeremiah 33:3

"While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the word of the Lord came to him a second time: 'This is what the Lord says, he who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it - the Lord is his name: Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'" - Jeremiah 33:1-3 (NIV)

Jeremiah received this word from the Lord while imprisoned. He wasn't in a place of comfort or clarity — he was confined, cut off, and likely weary. The nation of Judah was under siege, and the future looked bleak. Yet right in the midst of darkness and captivity, God spoke a Word of powerful hope and invitation:

"Call to me and I will answer you."

It's easy to believe that God only speaks in peaceful places. But here we see Him reaching out in the middle of chaos, reminding us that He is not limited by our circumstances.

God identifies Himself as the Creator — the One who made and established the earth. That's important. He's reminding Jeremiah (and us) that the One we are being invited to call upon is not small, distant, or powerless. He is the God who formed the universe, and He's offering not only to listen but to respond.

But not with ordinary answers. "I will show you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

This is an invitation to deeper revelation — to insights beyond human understanding, to hope that defies logic, to plans and purposes that only God can see from His eternal vantage point. But the key is simple and clear: "Call to me."

A. We began to call on the Lord asking for guidance.

B. GOD'S RESPONSE:

1. People – 2 key men who guided us through the process – navy consultant and a captain
2. Plan – God gave Captain Tinsley the entire plan one night in a dream
3. Provision -Each step of the plan met resistance of some sort but God overruled every one
4. Protection – We spent two hours at the beach in China unloading the Bibles unhindered

The God who created the universe is waiting for us to call on Him. He doesn't promise instant escape from our trials, but He does promise revelation, presence and purpose in the midst of them.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE -by Gord Dunbar, Kincardine PC, Kincardine, ON

In the heat of summer, a breeze comes, refreshing, restorative, relaxing. It feels like your breath, O God, a blessing: redolent with fragrant flowers, painted in rainbow colours vibrant and alive, tasting of sweet strawberries and of tart rhubarb, whispering the fluid motion of gentle waves.

For that breath, blessing, and restoration, we give silent thanks. (*silent prayer*)

As we pray, we remember, however, times when the breeze strengthens in force. In the shelter of our homes, a gale, a storm is still frightening, furious, forceful. It feels like a threat, a challenge not only to life but to faith: the chaos and tragedy of the scenes we encounter in the news, situations playing out around the world that bring heartache and pain.

The stormy threat comes in our own country: drought and flooding, wildfires and the poor air quality that comes with them. As we worry and wonder, there are times we feel abandoned. There are times we feel helpless and out of control. Each concern feels like another crushing wave in the storms of life.

We yearn for your presence. We need to be saved! Help us! (*silent prayer*)

In our prayer, in our communion with you, O God, we find those storms calmed, those waves subside, those worries wash away. The still point comes as you equip us with what we need to reach out to others.

The breeze whispers again, but it whispers a challenge, and it whispers of opportunity. That is why we are gathered, to be gifted in Christ's name with what we need to bring hope and possibility even within the storms, which will always arise. It is, indeed, our blessing and our hope.

Thank you for the direction and for the encouragement to make a difference. Amen.

PARTING HYMN *Go to the World*, VU # 420

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.	Go to the world! Go into every place.	Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;	Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,	Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.	The nights of tears give way to joyous day.	For I am with you 'til the age shall end,
Baptising as the sign of our rebirth.	Go seek God's presence in each time and space.	As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.	When all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!	Hallelujah! Hallelujah!	Hallelujah! Hallelujah!	Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

BENEDICTION -by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, First Lutheran, Rugby & Leeds, North Dakota

God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you day by day. May God's peace, God's joy, God's presence be with you in every stage of your life's journey. Amen.

EXTINGUISH CHRIST CANDLE We extinguish the flame on this Christ Candle, but we carry Jesus' light into our daily life. We remain guided by the life of Jesus and accept His challenge to live our lives as He lived His, seeking justice and peace for all. Amen.

CHORAL AMEN