

## Sunday, September 7, 2025 – Order of Service

**Welcome** This is a place where all are welcome. Never doubt that you are included in God's love. You are under the umbrella of His protection. You are safe here. Welcome to all. And welcome to our guest Minister, whom most of you know. Diane Macpherson.

**Lighting of Christ Candle** You are a child of God. If you are ready and willing, God is too. The candle is lit, step into the light.

### **Acknowledgement of the Land** -by Peter Chynoweth

This land on which we gather is the Traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Chonnonton, Haudenosaunee, and Leni-Lenape peoples. As a congregation, we worship God our Creator on this territory and acknowledge with respect the thousands of years of ceremony and relationship that are etched in footprint, fire, and faithfulness on the soil and in the water that surrounds us.

### **Ministry of Music** **Pass It On**

### **Announcements**

### **Hymn of Praise** **Joyful, Joyful We Adore You**, VU #232

Joyful, joyful, we adore	All Your works with joy	Always giving and	Mortals, join the mighty
You,	surround You,	forgiving,	chorus,
God of glory, Lord of love;	Earth and heav'n reflect	Ever blessing, ever blest,	Which the morning stars
Hearts unfold like flow'rs	Your rays,	Well-spring of the joy of	began;
before You,	Stars and angels sing	living,	God's own love is
Op'ning to the sun above.	around You,	Ocean-depth of happy	reigning o'er us,
Melt the clouds of sin and	Center of unbroken	rest!	Joining people hand in
sadness;	praise;	Loving Father, Christ our	hand.
Drive the dark of doubt	Field and forest, vale and	Brother,	Ever singing, march we
away;	mountain,	Let Your light upon us	onward,
Giver of immortal	Flow'ry meadow, flashing	shine;	Victors in the midst of
gladness,	sea,	Teach us how to love	strife;
Fill us with the light of	Chanting bird and flowing	each other,	Joyful music leads us
day!	fountain	Lift us to the joy divine.	sunward
	Praising You eternally!		In the triumph song of life.

### **Call to Worship:**

L: We've come to worship God,  
P: **who loved us before we were yet born,**  
L: who knows us even better than we know ourselves,  
P: **whose presence never leaves us,**  
L: and whose love for us never ceases.  
P: **Let us worship the Lord!**

### **Gathering Prayer**

L: Faithful God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving,  
P: **deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have shown toward us, Your people.**  
L: When we call out to You, You answer.  
P: **When we are exhausted, You give us the strength to go on.**  
L: When we find ourselves in trouble,  
P: **You are there, standing beside us.**  
L: And so, we come before You with gratitude and praise,  
P: **offering You the worship of our hearts and lives.**  
L: Open our eyes to see and know You here among us;

**P: open our ears to recognize Your voice.**

L: And then send us out from here,

**P: to live and work in the world as Your faithful disciples.**

L: God, you know us better than we know ourselves.

**P: You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations, our sins.**

L: Forgive us when we live as though You have no part in our lives,

**P: When busyness becomes our focus, rather than You.**

L: Forgive us when we can find time for pleasure, but not for You.

**P: Guide us in the way You would have us live.**

L: This we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### **Gathering Hymn     God of the Bible, MVU # 28**

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel, hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come, you are our centre, daylight or darkness, freedom or prison, you are our home.	Refrain Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change. Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.	God in our struggles, God in our hunger, suffering with us, taking our part, still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit, feeding, sustaining, from your own heart. Refrain	Those without status, those who are nothing, you have made royal, gifted with rights, chosen as partners, midwives of justice, birthing new systems, lighting new lights. Refrain	Not by your finger, not by your anger will our world order change in a day, but by your people, fearless and faithful, small paper lanterns, lighting the way. Refrain	Hope we must carry, shining and certain through all our turmoil, terror and loss, bonding us gladly one to the other, 'til our world changes facing the Cross. Refrain
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### **Offering Invitation & Prayer**

### **Children's Ministry & Prayer**

#### **Lord's Prayer** (spoken)

*Children Leave for Sunday School*

### **Scripture Reading**

**Psalms 139: 1-16** For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

### **Message – My Favourite Things**

Key verse – verse 16 - All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

- This Psalm tells us that God is every present, wherever we go, always looking over us.
- Not only that, but God has ‘ordained’ all of our days, even before they happen.
- Acknowledging that there will be days when we question what is happening in our life and want to cry out to God, “Why, God, why?”
- Yet, even in those times, we can draw strength, comfort, peace, and hope, from the knowledge and the belief – that even in the midst of the worst days – God is there – God has laid out my days and holds our lives in His hands
- God has not left our days to chance – to some type of roulette wheel of life
- No, God, is there – writing the pages of our book of life..
- My prayer for you is that you also may find strength, comfort, peace and hope in knowing that all the days **of our lives are written in God’s book before one of them came to be.**

## Prayers of the People

### Parting Hymn *Will Your Anchor Hold*, VU # 675

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life, when the clouds unfold their wings of strife? When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain, will your anchor drift, or firm remain?	Refrain: We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll; fastened to the Rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s love.	It is safely moored; 'twill the storm withstand, for 'tis well-secured by the Savior's hand. Though the tempest rage and the wild winds blow, not an angry wave shall our boat o'erflow. Refrain	When our eyes behold through the gath'ring night the city of gold, our harbor bright, we shall anchor fast by the heav'nly shore, with the storms all past forevermore. Refrain
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## Benediction

## Choral Amen

## Extinguishing of the Christ Candle