

## October 5, 2025 - World Communion Sunday

### Welcome & Announcements

#### Creation Connection *Creation Prayers: Sustain me!*

If ever there was a time to drink in God's beauty in the northern hemisphere, now is it! Please set aside meaningful time to commune with nature, as a spiritual practice, noticing the small beauties in nature, including the way so much of the living world changes and retains beauty in new forms, even as it dies or sleeps. Ponder this majesty, pray in its midst, whether it is the northern lights, the brilliant colours of the changing leaves, the flights of migrating birds overhead, or the darkening of the colours of the cardinals and finches. All natural change is gorgeous, but change is inevitable.

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

L: As we light this Christ candle, we remember that Jesus is the light of the world, and we are called to let our light shine before others, bringing hope and love into the darkness."

**All: We will let Christ's light shine through us in all that we say and all that we do. Amen**

**Prayer of Confession** Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. We look at a world undone by strife, torn by violence, separated by hatred. Yet you call us to walk the way of peace. Forgive us, O Lord, for refusing to follow you on this path because the cost is too high, the direction too confusing, the conditions too harsh. Forgive us for our complacency. Grant us clarity of vision to understand something clearly at last and the strength to walk behind you. In the power of your Spirit we pray, Amen

#### Assurance of Forgiveness -from Luke 1, Presbyterian World Resource for World Communion Day

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

#### Gathering Hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness, VU # 288

Great is thy faithfulness, God	Refrain	Summer and winter and	Pardon for sin and a peace
our Creator;	Great is thy faithfulness!	springtime and harvest,	that endureth,
There is no shadow of turning	Great is thy faithfulness!	Sun, moon, and stars in their	Thine own dear presence to
with thee;	Morning by morning new	courses above	cheer and to guide,
Thou changest not, thy	mercies I see;	Join with all nature in	Strength for today and bright
compassions, they fail not;	All I have needed thy hand	manifold witness	hope for tomorrow
As thou has been thou for	hath provided.	To thy great faithfulness,	Wondrous the portion thy
ever wilt be.	Great is thy faithfulness, ever	mercy and love.	blessings provide.
	to me!	Refrain	Refrain

#### Call to Worship

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,

**P: Bless God's Holy Name.**

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget God's benefits,

**P: who forgives all our iniquity, who heals all our diseases,**

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, who redeems our life, who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. Bless the Lord, O my soul, who satisfies us with good as long as we live so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's. Bless the Lord.**

#### Ministry of Music As a Parent

**Children's Ministry** Redeemer - Ruth and Naomi -From For Such a Time As This, stories of women from the Bible.

#### Dedication of New Communion Set, Bookmark, and Pulpit Scarf

*Blessing by Rev, Larry Schneider:* This new communion set is being presented to Dunwich United Church by our Worship Committee, through the unique interaction between our church and others, as a less weighty alternative for our use in this sacrament, offered by old hands and arms.

This new bookmark is graciously accepted to be used in our sanctuary's Bible, to more beautifully mark our place in God's Word. We give thanks for this gorgeous crimson Antependium, gifted to our church by Anne McPhail. Anne will tell us of its history and origin.

On behalf of the congregation and Council of Dunwich United Church, I bless, consecrate, and accept these elements which will enhance our worship and services. Thanks to all who have been involved in their acquisition and gifting, and let all glory be to God, in whose son's name, Jesus, we add them to our worship life.

Acceptance by Council Chair Jackie Littlejohn.

**Hymn** *Jesus Calls Us*, VU # 562

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild restless sea, Day by day his clear voice sounding, Saying, "Christian, follow me."	Long ago apostles heard it By the Galilean Lake, Turned from home and toil and kindred, Leaving all for Jesus' sake.	Jesus calls us from the worship Of the vain world's golden store, From each idol that would keep us, Saying, "Christian, love me more."	In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these.	Jesus calls us by your mercies, Saviour, may we hear your call. Give our hearts to your obedience, Serve and love you best of all.
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**Offering Invitation & Prayer** Believe it or not, you are the answer to someone's prayers. When you share your gifts, today and every day, you bring hope and comfort to people. Thank you for giving generously now.

Generous and loving God, help us to see where there is a need and to fill it. Bless these gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scripture Readings**

*Lamentations 3: 19-26*

Remembering my affliction and misery, the wormwood and the gall, my soul has them still in remembrance and is humbled in me. This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, proclaims my soul; therefore, I will hope in Him. The Lord is good to them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

*Luke 17:5-10*

And the apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you might say unto this sycamine tree, 'Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea;' and it should obey you. But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I believe not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

**Hymn** *All Who Hunger*, VU # 460

All who hunger, gather gladly; Holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, All around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.	All who hunger, never strangers; Seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast. E that once were lost and scattered In communion's love have stood. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.	All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who from this table Live their lives in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
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**Message** *Of God's Mercy and Our Duty*

God's grace, His gracious blessing of life, joy, love and hope, fill and overflow our very essences. God is the source of all that we are, all that we know and believe, and all that Creation is and will ever be.

And yet we humans too often take credit for our own roles in this holy realm, this miraculous and complex existence, here on what we often call 'this mortal plane,' where we both come into existence from God's eternal being, and into which we return at our deaths, fulfilling the promises made at our baptism.

Humility. I frequently use this word in my messages, calls to worship and prayers with you, because it is only with deep and earnest humility that we can fully come to praise, study and participate in God's loving embrace.

Humility. In all of scripture, when any person comes into God's presence, we see that pride and belief in one's own greatness, are set aside, and the human being approaches with modesty, meekness, and a kind of shyness.

Meekness is defined as "strength under control," involving humility, gentleness, and a willingness to submit to God's will and serve others, not as weakness or timidity. It is an active quality that requires self-control and trusts God to provide and work in His timing. Jesus exemplified meekness by exercising his power with gentleness and service rather than dominance, and the Bible promises that the meek will "inherit the earth" by receiving God's promises and living with peace in the future kingdom. In Matthew 5:5 Jesus says, blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. The word for meekness here is not about personality or voice volume. It is about self-control and obedience. Here, a meek person is someone who puts their own desires aside as they seek to follow God.

In our readings from Scripture today from the Book of Lamentations – lamentations are literally the passionate expression of grief or sorrow and weeping. The book of Lamentations demonstrates the purpose and power of turning to God, laying out our complaints, asking him for help, and choosing to trust. It not only serves as a memorial to the destruction of Jerusalem, but it also shows us how to pray when the dark clouds of suffering roll in.

When we consider our trials and tribulations, we are urged to remember to have hope. “It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”

In Matthew 5:5 Jesus says, blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. The word for meekness here is not about personality or voice volume. It is about self-control and obedience. Here, a meek person is someone who puts their own desires aside as they seek to follow God. In the seventeenth chapter of Luke, Jesus tells the apostles that in order to increase their faith, they must set their ego and pride aside, and accept that, “We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.” Too many people of faith believe and are taught that all of the goods, worshiping and gifts which we give are to our own honour and glory, and put the church and the congregation and especially the leaders up on a pedestal. Huge mega-churches and mega-egos are constructed and inflated, leaving the humble word of Jesus to love our fellow human beings and be servant to them in the dust, but even worse than that, discredited and dehumanized because of their poverty, skin colour and culture.

As we approach the Lord’s table this day, and always, let us truly come with a repentant heart, thankful for Jesus’ sacrifices for us, and the spirit of love which is available to all who but ask, having set aside their selfish natures to be more like the selfless Lord. The words of constitution and welcome which I will speak next call us to commune together with one another, so that we might collectively commune with the Holy Spirit, in a supreme act of remembrance of Jesus’ gift to us all. Amen.

## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### **The Invitation**

Welcome to the feast of the Lord. All who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to join in this meal. Christ invites all his people who trust in Christ as their Savior to dine at his table, where he will feed them with himself by the Holy Spirit. Come to receive all the benefits and blessings of his atoning death, his life-giving resurrection, and his ascended lordship. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord, are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.

### **The Thanksgiving***please stand as you are able*

**L:** Lift up your hearts.

**P:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**L:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**P:** **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

**L:** With joy we praise you, gracious Father, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us - even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

**P:** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Prayer** With joy we praise you, gracious Father, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us - even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming opened to us the way of salvation and whose triumphant return we eagerly await. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name. We thank you, our Lord, for the hope this meal gives us, that Jesus will return as triumphant King, that the dead will be raised, and that all people will stand before his judgment. We face that day without fear, for you, our Judge, are our Savior. May our daily lives of service aim for the moment when the Son will present his people to the Father and God will be shown to be true, holy, and gracious.

### **The Words of Institution**

**L:** We give thanks to God the Father that our Saviour, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until He comes again. At his last supper, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, He took the cup after supper and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me.” For whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

**P:** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## **The Prayer of Consecration**

L: Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray,

**All: Our Father in heaven . . . Amen.**

### The Communion

L: Take, eat, remember, and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. Take, drink, remember, and believe that the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

### Thanksgiving

**Psalm 103** VU # 825

L: Bless God, my soul, and all my being, bless God's holy name.

**P: Bless God, my soul, and forget not all God has done for you.**

L: Bless God, who forgives all your sin, who heals you in all your infirmities,

**P: Who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and love,**

L: Who fills your life with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's

**P: Who works righteousness and justice for all who are wronged.**

L: O God, you showed your ways to Moses, your deeds to the children of Israel.

**P: You are compassionate and merciful, slow to anger and extravagant in love.**

L: You will not always accuse nor do you keep your anger for ever.

**P: You have not dealt with us according to our sins nor punished us according to our wickedness.**

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love toward those who fear you.

**P: As far as the east is from the west, so far have you put away our sins from us.**

L: As a father has compassion for his children so you have compassion for those who fear you.

**P: As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us, O God.**

L: For you know how we were made.

**P: You remember that we are dust. Bless God, O my soul.**

### Prayer after Communion

**All:** Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

### Parting Hymn One Bread, One Body, VU # 467

Refrain	Gentile or Jew,	Many the gifts	Grain from the fields,
One bread, one body,	servant or free,	Many the works,	Scattered and grown,
one Lord of all,	Woman or man,	One in the Lord	Gather to one,
One cup of blessing	No more.	Of all.	For all.
which we bless;	Refrain	Refrain	Refrain
And we, though many,			
Throughout the earth,			
We are one body			
in this one Lord.			

### Commissioning & Benediction *by Rev Gord, posted on Worship Offerings*

Grain, which once was scattered over the fields, was brought together to feed us today. Grapes pulled from the vine and squeezed to give us drink today. Now our time of worship and feasting draws to a close. Now we are dispersed like that grain off to give the food of life to a hungry world. Now we who have shared the Banquet of Hope, go out as people connected to the vine, go out to bring the juice of life where the world has been drained dry. As people who have been fed, go now to feed the world. As those who have been given hope, bring hope in place of despair. May God help us to do so. And always remember that we are never cut off from the Source. The Bread of Life, the True Vine is with us always. And so, we always share in Hope's Banquet. Thanks be to the One who hosts the banquet! Amen.

### Choral Benediction God Says, MVU # 172

God says, "Be still so you may hear  
The words I whisper in your ear.

If you will listen, you will know  
I'm with you always where you go."

### Choral Amen