

Sunday, October 19, 2025 - World Food Sunday

Welcome Welcome here, to this holy place, where we gather as a family to worship our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Welcome!

Lighting the Christ Candle As we light this candle, may the light it emits be spread throughout the world, reaching far corners and dark places.

Acknowledgement of the Land We acknowledge that our area has been inhabited and cared for by Indigenous Neighbours and Friends for countless generations, and we honour their ongoing contributions to our community and environment.

Announcements

Hymn of Praise Halle, Halle, Halle, VU # 958 (repeat 3 times, each time a little faster)

Halle, halle, halle-lujah

Halle, halle, halle-lujah

Halle, halle, halle-lujah

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Introduction of Theme: World Food Sunday

Today is World Food Sunday. Interesting that this Sunday is celebrated the week after our Thanksgiving Sunday – a day when we gather with family and friends to give thanks for a bountiful harvest and all the comforts that we enjoy in our lives. Sadly, not everyone enjoys all of those comforts. In the teachings of Jesus, we learn that to share, to be kind, and to love one another are the ultimate instructions we have been given. Our collection of funds and goods for Grace Café, in St. Thomas, demonstrates how Dunwich UC shares.

Psalm 145:15-16 (KJV)

All living things look hopefully to you, and you give them food when they need it. You give them enough and satisfy the needs of all.

Matthew 25:35

I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes.

Call to Worship -by Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial UC, Oakville, ON.

L: The call to worship resounds in our lives,

P: vibrating in our hearts, stirring the comfort of our days.

L: We are called out:

P: challenged to recognize the shortcomings in our lives by our God who is always merciful and forgiving.

L: We are called upon:

P: encouraged to serve our compassionate God, to acknowledge the injustice in our world and to seek to push back against it.

L: We are called in

P: invited to worship our generous God, whose arms are always open, whose embrace is always waiting to enfold us in love.

L: Come, let us answer the call.

Gathering Prayer -by Beverly Brazier, MacDermott UC, Pool's Cove, NL

O Great Dreamer, you dreamed up the stars in the sky. You dreamed up that magic baby smell and the way cream sinks into coffee. You dreamed up the crunch of fall leaves and jazz music. You dreamed up wisteria and evergreen and the pure magic that is a six-foot-tall sunflower. And in the midst of all of that, you dreamed up a dream for your people - a dream of hope and justice, a dream for hearts wide open both to the world's suffering and to the world's beauty. So today, as we read scripture, we ask that you would plant that same dream in us. Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds so that we may notice what you notice, and dream what you dream. Gratefully, we pray. Amen.

Gathering Hymn/ I Am the Dream, MVU # 106

I am the dream and you the dreamer.	I am the bell and you the silence.	You are the word and I the echo.
I am the song and you are the rhyme.	You are the yearning I cannot curtail.	You are the leader and I am the led.
You are the tune sung in ev'ry silence.	I am the blest and you the blessing.	You are the joy and I the laughter.
You are the now in the endless stream of time.	You are the wilds in which I lose my trail.	You are the Rock on which I lay my head.

Ministry of Music His Mercy is More

Children's Ministry

Story Somebody sneezed and I said, "God bless you!" Why did I say that? Do you think that a blessing is a good thing?

I'm going to taste this cookie then share with you. Would you be thankful if I gave you a cookie with a bite out of it? Do you feel blessed? Do you like this gift?

Here are some butterflies. Do they make you smile? Take one. Now you might feel more blessed than if you received a half-eaten cookie? These butterflies are a blessing because a blessing isn't just any old gift. It is a good gift that can be useful or delightful or entertaining. It makes you feel good inside and helps you know that the other person cares. When we receive that kind of a gift, it is a blessing. God gives us lots of blessings—like butterflies! Can you think of any other blessings we get from God?

It all comes from God; that's a blessing. Whenever you feel sad, or lonely, or you think you've done something wrong, or someone has done something wrong to you, God is with you. We can't see or touch God, but God is with us - always. And that's a blessing! And you know what? When you do something nice for someone else, *you* are a blessing to them! Would you like to be a blessing to someone else today? Take another butterfly so now you have two. First, we're going to offer a prayer (*or sing a song together*), and then, as you go to Sunday school I invite you to give one of your butterflies to someone you'd like to offer a blessing to today. You can keep one butterfly, if you wish, or give it away as well. Either way, you are a blessing to your family, friends, and all the people around you.

Prayer-by Gord Dunbar, Kincardine PC, Kincardine, ON

(*This is the Lord's Prayer as a "repeat-after-me" prayer for young children.*)

Hey, God! You are everywhere. You are in everyone. Put peace in our hearts. Put love in our actions. Give us and everyone food to eat. Hold us when we do bad things. Hold others who do bad things to us. Protect us when it's scary. Teach us to do good things. Thanks God. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer -sung

Children leave for Sunday School

Offering Presentation & Prayer -adapted from Laura J. Turnbull, Penticton, BC

Welcoming God, you invite us to share. You have filled us with generous spirits. We give with tender hearts, aware of the need around us. We share these offerings so that your good news might be experienced. We ask you bless monetary offerings in this offering plate and through PAR for your local church and for Mission & Service. We also ask a blessing on the gifts we have for Grace Café today. May they be used to make life a little better for those who need help. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 18:1-8 -Good News Bible

The Parable of the Widow and the Judge: Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to teach them that they should always pray and never become discouraged.

"In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. And there was a widow in that same town who kept coming to him and pleading for her rights, saying, 'Help me against my opponent!' For a long time the judge refused to act, but at last he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, yet because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it that she gets her rights. If I don't, she will keep on coming and finally wear me out!'"

And the Lord continued, "Listen to what that corrupt judge said. Now, will God not judge in favour of his own people who cry to him day and night for help? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will judge in their favour and do it quickly. But will the Son of Man find faith on earth when he comes?"

Psalm 112:4-9a -Good News Bible

L: Light shines in the darkness for good people,

P: for those who are merciful, kind, and just.

L: Happy is the person who is generous with his loans,

P: who runs his business honestly.

L: A good person will never fail;

P: he will always be remembered.

L: He is not afraid of receiving bad news;

P: his faith is strong, and he trusts in the Lord.

L: He is not worried or afraid;

P: he is certain to see his enemies defeated.

L: He gives generously to the needy,

P: and his kindness never fails.

Hymn Who Is My Mother, MVU # 178

Who is my mother, who is my brother?	Differently abled, differently labelled,	Love will relate us; colour or status	Bound by one vision, met for one mission
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:	Widen the circle round Jesus Christ:	Can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:	We claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people born from the Gospel	Crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,	Family failings, human derailings	Here is my mother, here is my brother,
Sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.	All come together round Jesus Christ.	All are accepted round Jesus Christ.	kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Message *Mike Toth, Grace Café, St. Thomas*

-Grace Café started 12 years ago. Ginny, who was instrumental in getting it started gave a "roll-up-the-rim" cup to a street person and prayed with that person. From there it grew. Today, the café serves 80-110 meals a day and The Annex, next door, is a resource centre that serves those who are seeking help with addiction to street drugs. Grace Café and The Annex feed anyone who is hungry and help anyone who asks for help

-more towards end of the month as money runs out and government cheques come in the first of the month

-not all are unhoused -Grace Café is a community -helping others help others -some have to choose between paying rent or eating so come to Grace Café for a meal

-street drugs are a problem in every town large and small

-area churches are very generous with support and money but the difficulty is some cannot be "fixed"

-scourge of street drug abuse -drugs aren't the problem but the solution -an escape from reality or mental health issues or pain -uses are 'self-medicating'

-The commandment to "love the Lord with all your heart" is the first and greatest commandment, as stated by Jesus in the Bible -second is to Love your neighbour

-donations are welcome and will be put to good use -open for anyone who needs something -shelves are nearly empty right now and cold weather is coming -so thank you for all of these donations

-at The Annex -time lapse from street, when ask for help, through de-tox to 90-120 day wait for treatment bed in a facility

-in last 6 months, have helped 55 clients, more men than women

-approximately 140 unhoused/couch surfing people in St. Thomas today, down about 75% from what it was -St. Thomas has some housing for those who need -Indwell is building -a private builder whose apartment building was rented entirely by the City of St. Thomas for unhoused -and the new tiny home village will help even more

-so many heartbreaking stories, sobriety and recovery is key, we do not judge -everyone welcome

Prayers of the People *-adapted from W. Bruno, Little Current & Sheguiandah UC, Little Current, ON*

Holy One, you know the world has so many distractions for us. We don't always hold up the commandment to love one another. It's not because we ignore it on purpose, but because we are busy, or overwhelmed with other

needs, or not thinking clearly from our intense emotions. Draw our attention back to you and back to living in love.

(a time of silent prayer)

When the richest amass billions from the work of others, when individuals gather more than they'd ever need, remind us of your way, which doesn't build another barn to store the harvest but shares with all so no one goes without.

(a time of silent prayer)

Receive our prayers today for peace, for love, and for mercy in Gaza and Israel, in Ukraine and Russia, in Syria, and all the other places in the world where peace is not known at this time. Receive our prayers for peace, for love, and for mercy, Receive our prayers for peace, for love, and for mercy, in this world that is heavy with conflict and war.

(a time of silent prayer)

We ask you to guide our leaders as they make decisions; we ask you watch over our community of Dunwich and the farmers here who are now beginning their harvest. May they have fruitful days and plentiful harvests.

(a time of silent prayer)

It almost feels wrong to bring our own concerns to you. They may seem little compared to these atrocities. Yet, you ask us to bring everything to you in prayer. This isn't a competition for the most awful thing. This is a relationship. This is a friendship. This is a holy family. And so, as your children, we bring to you our personal concerns, for ourselves and for others.

(a time of silent prayer)

Thank you, Loving One, for attending to us. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for weeping with us. Thank you for rejoicing with us. Thank you for never, ever, letting us go. We are not alone. We pray in the name of our Lord, Jesus. Amen

Parting Hymn **Let All Things Now Living**, VU # 242

Let all things now living	By law God enforces,	With praise and thanksgiving to God
A song of thanksgiving	The stars in the courses	ever living,
To God our Creator triumphantly	And sun in its orbit obediently shine;	The tasks of our everyday life we
raise;	The hills and the mountains,	will face.
Who fashioned and made us,	The rivers and fountains,	Our faith ever sharing, in love ever
Protected and stayed us,	The depths of the ocean proclaim	caring,
By guiding us onto the end of our	God divine.	Embracing God's children of each
days.	We, too, should be voicing	tribe and race.
God's banners are o'er us,	Our love and rejoicing;	With your feast you feed us, with
Pure light goes before us,	With glad adoration a song let us	your light now lead us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the	raise:	Unite us as one in this life that we
night;	'til all things now living united in	share.
'til shadows have vanished and	thanksgiving,	Then all may the living with praise
darkness is banished,	To God in the highest, hosanna and	and thanksgiving
As forward we travel from light into	praise!	Give honour to Christ and the name
Light.		that we bear.

Benediction & Commissioning -by Bob Root

And the blessing of God, who made us in love, who made us for companionship, who made us to enhance and strengthen the world, go with us as we leave this place into all the places life calls us to be.

We do not go alone. We go, loved and blessed, to be a blessing. Amen.

Choral Benediction **Bread for the Journey**, MVU # 202

Bread for the journey,
food for the way.

Cup of God's blessing,
tomorrow, today.

Choral Amen & Candle is Extinguished