Sunday, October 4, 2026 - Order of Service
World Communion with Pastor Don Macpherson

Lighting of the Christ Candle *-by Jim McKean, while at Severn Shores UC, Severn, ON*
L: As we light this candle, may its warmth symbolize the love that radiates from our very being.
P: This candle represents the light of the soul.
L: It also represents the light of life, the light of Christ, that sparks us into a place of grace.
P: As we light this Christ candle, may its light be an inspiration for our worship this day.
The candle is lit.

Welcome *-by Mary Anderson, Glen Abbey UC, Oakville, ON*
Welcome to worship. However you enter into worship today, come! Come whether you are troubled, grieving, or anxious about health, family, or finances, or whether you are celebrating, excited, and happy. May the peace of God, who surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds during this time of worship. May you know God's Spirit is with you as we sing and pray.

Acknowledgement of the Land *by Anne Morrisey*
Dear Loving God, we acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional lands of the Anishinabek, Attawandaron, Haudenosaunee, and Lenapewauk. Today we celebrate World Communion Day, and You have invited us to Your table. As with any occasion when we are invited to someone's table, we come with gratitude and we come with a humble spirit. We come to Your table seeking a deeper relationship with You, our God, Your Son, the Prince of Peace, and the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. We come looking for friendship and reconciliation with Your other guests, especially when those relationships with Your other guests have been broken. In this moment, we ask You to guide our hearts to show love and respect to all of Your children and help us appreciate and take care of Your creation.

Passing of the Peace *This Passing of the Peace was written by Fern Gibbard, Penticton U.C., Penticton B.C. We found it in the Gathering Magazine, Pentecost 1, 2023 and adapted it to reflect our recent tradition of not shaking hands, but exchanging the Sign of Peace, nonetheless.*
Passing the Peace is a Christian greeting that acknowledges the presence of Christ in each of us. After all, we are children of God. It's not necessary to shake hands, a simple smile and a nod to your neighbour with a few words conveys the message well enough. To greet each other with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you", allows the walls that divide us to be broken down. In this spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation, we are at peace with God. Let us now turn to each other and say, "The peace of Christ be with you," and reply, "And also with you."

Introduce Pastor Don Macpherson Blessed beyond measure as Husband, father, father-in-law, and papa
- Retired in 2022 after many years of service in the United Church - 13 years at Pearce Williams, 7 years at a 3-point pastoral charge in Lambton, and 18 years at the Suburban pastoral charge
- Loves spending time with family, reading, and doing woodworking projects
- Loves rooting for Jays, Leafs, Raptors, and everything our grandkids are doing

Please welcome Pastor Don Macpherson.

Call to Worship
L: From the north and the south, from the east and the west, God calls us to gather.
P: We come from different places, speaking different languages, but sharing one faith.
L: Today, across the globe, a great multitude breaks bread and pours the cup.
P: We join our hearts with our siblings in Christ around the world.
L: At this table, there are no strangers, only children of the same Creator.
P: We are many members, but we are one body.
L: Come, let us taste and see that the Lord is good.
All: Let us worship God together in unity and peace!

Ministry of Music ***Let the Song Go 'Round the Earth***

Gathering Prayer **Gracious and Almighty God, Creator of the ends of the earth, We gather in Your presence today with hearts full of praise and gratitude, marveling at the vast and beautiful mosaic of**

Your creation. You are great enough to hold both the world and the tiny new-born in your hands. We come today full of praise and wonder that you became one of us and showed us how amazing your love is for us, through Your Son, our Saviour and Lord, Jesus the Christ. In His name we come to offer ourselves and our worship. Amen and amen.

Gathering Hymn ***He's Got The Whole World In His Hands***

He's got the whole world in His hands,	He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,	He's got the sun and the moon, in His hands,	He's got the tiny little baby in His hands,	He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,	He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,	He's got the sun and the moon, in His hands,	He's got the tiny little baby in His hands,	He's got you and me, sister, in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,	He's got the wind and the rain in His hands,	He's got the sun and the moon, in His hands,	He's got the tiny little baby in His hands,	He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.	He's got the whole world in His hands.	He's got the whole world in His hands.	He's got the whole world in His hands.	He's got the whole world in His hands.

Children's Ministry Presented with a small globe, the children were asked to find their homes in this big world. This task was impossible because the globe was very small. With the help of a magnifying glass, the children could find Ontario Then one child was asked to spin the globe and pick a country anywhere. China was chosen and examined with the magnifying glass. Pastor Don explained that we were going to take Communion in a few minutes and that there would be people in China taking Communion today as well, as we celebrate World Communion. N this big wide world we have many things in common with people all over the world, even in China, because in every country there are people who worship the same God we do.

Prayer Lord, thank You for Your goodness, Your protection, and the simple gifts of each new day. Fill my heart with a spirit of thankfulness. In Jesus' name, Amen."

The Lord's Prayer
Children leave for Sunday School

Prayer of Confession
L: We now bow in prayer to the One who knows us, loves us and rescues us from sin and death. Today, alongside a great multitude of sisters and brothers across every continent, island, and time zone, we respond to Jesus' timeless invitation to come to the Table. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have allowed geography, language, culture, or division to obscure our view of Your reflection in one another. We confess our limits, and our failures to appreciate your universal church. As we prepare to share this one bread and one cup, pull back the curtain of our local sanctuaries and reveal the global family to which we belong.

P: Unstop our ears to hear Your name praised in many languages. Open our eyes to see that Your table is large enough for all, with no one being the greatest or the least. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon believers gathered around the world. In the glorious name of Jesus, we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance Jesus invites us to this table of forgiveness. May this sacred meal mend our brokenness, renew our strength, give us hope and bind us together as one Body - united in God's grace, committed to the peace of Christ, and sent out to love and serve in God's world in the powerful and unifying name of Jesus Christ.

Offertory Prayer Gracious God, we thank you for your provision of all things good. We ask you to bless ourselves, our time, our talents and our treasure as we dedicate them for your purposes and for your glory. Amen

Scripture Reading
Psalm 42:1-8 - A maskil of the Sons of Korah.
As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all

day long, “Where is your God?” These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God. My soul is downcast within me; therefore, I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon - from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me - a prayer to the God of my life.

Hymn *As The Deer Pants For The Water*, VU # 766

As the deer pants for the water
So, my soul longs after you
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you

Refrain
You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield;
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you.

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye.
Refrain

You're my friend, and You are my brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything!
Refrain

Scripture Reading

John 6:22-35

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

Jesus the Bread of Life

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”
Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”
Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”
Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”
So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”
Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.” Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Message *The Table of the Lord: A Place Where DEEP calls to deep*

In our reading from Psalm 42, we are encouraged by this lament. The writer begins with these words, “As the dear longs for water, so my soul thirsts for the Living God.” It is obvious that the psalmist is reflecting on a very lonely and sorrowful time. It could have been meant for an individual or for the Hebrew nation.

It is about a time of spiritual dehydration. When we face troublesome times, when we are going through a dark valley, when our soul is plagued with things like grief, fear, guilt, shame or sorrow, we wonder if there is anyone we can trust to share the pain. As Christians, we are not exempt from trouble but this psalm is a reminder of several things when deep calls out to DEEP. In other words, when our soul is in a hopeless situation and we call out to the One who is greater than the valley that we find ourselves in.

The Psalmist preaches to his soul saying, “O my soul, why are you so downcast within me…put your hope in God. Here are few things we need to remember.

1. Holy grief. Times of hardship are used by God to get our attention. “I say to God, My Rock, why have you forgotten me? This is an amazing paradox… when two opposites are used to describe what we are going through in light of who God is.
2. Recall past spiritual mountain-tops while trapped in a current valley. Remember those times when God strengthened you to help you out of the valley.

3. Remember this story of Jesus walking on water? Peter gets out of the boat and goes out walking on water too but then he takes his eyes off Jesus and onto the waves and begins to sink. 'Save me Jesus', he cries out. And Jesus takes him by the hand and together they walk to the boat. "deep cried out to Deep.
4. The Table of the Lord is a place where DEEP calls out to deep. Deep within our soul looks to God because we have known God personally and within the scriptures of One who is DEEP. The mysteries of who God is are revealed in Jesus. The table of the bread and cup are about calling out to us to believe and trust and share openly and honestly with what is causing unrest in our souls. It is a wonderful reminder that Jesus understands the valley you are in and he knows your thirst for God pull us up, strengthen us and heal us and give us hope.

Psalm 23:6 "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me."

Hymn ***Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah***, VU # 651, (verse 1)

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me 'til I want no more;
Feed me 'til I want no more.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Blessing of the Bread and the Cup

Lord Jesus, we praise you and thank you for this table reminding us of your love and your grace…that you suffered and died upon the cross for our sins. And by your resurrection, you are alive forevermore. Thank you for the bread and the cup. Bless them to strengthen our faith and lead us to be your faithful followers, as you shall across our world of believers. Amen.

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he too bread, gave thanks, broke it and said, "this is my body given for you, as long as you eat it, remember me."

And likewise after the meal, he took the cup, gave thanks and said, "This is my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins, as long as you drink it, remember me."

People come forward to receive the bread (the body of Christ) and then by intinction receive the "wine" (The blood of Christ)

Hymn ***Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah***, VU # 651, (verse 2)

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.

Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

Prayers of the People

L: Gracious and loving God, we come to You with open hearts. You know the troubles we face and the weight we often carry. Thank You for meeting us in every valley with Your faithful love. Teach us to long for Your Word, to remember Your presence, and to embrace the hope You give. Lord, strengthen those who feel weary. Speak peace to restless minds and bring comfort to hurting souls. Help us to trust Your promises when life feels uncertain. Lift our eyes toward You, the God who never fails.

P: As we go, fill us with fresh courage to be beacons of Your light in a dark and weary world. Lead us by Your Spirit and anchor our hope in Christ alone. We praise You because we know You promise to carry us through anything we face. In Jesus' name, Amen

Benediction Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

And now may the grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you and the Holy Spirit keep you now and forever. Amen

Choral Amen

Extinguish the Christ Candle