

# Café Church

Third Sunday in the Season of Giving

Sunday, October 19, 2025

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

### WELCOME

Pam Fitch

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Wendy Bergeron

Today and every day we gratefully acknowledge that we live and worship on the traditional unceded, unsundered land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Peoples.

Indigenous teachings about time, treasure, and talents emphasize stewardship, reciprocity, and interconnectedness – how individuals use their gifts and resources in service to their community and the natural world. Time is seen as cyclical and interconnected, not a commodity to be owned but a sacred gift to be shared in balance with the needs of all beings. Talents are spiritual gifts to enrich the collective, with specific skills and knowledge valued for their contribution to the community's well-being and continuity. Treasure includes not only material wealth but also the abundance of the land and water, which must be shared sustainably, with generosity fostering a balanced and thriving community.

## CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER

Friends, do you have your coffee or your tea?

Found a seat? Got comfortable?

**We're ready to seek the best in God and one another.**

Friends, we're here to share stories and aspirations.

**We're here to celebrate the gifts  
of time, talents, and our lives' treasure.**

Blessed are you, God of all Creation.

We come to you with open hearts and minds,  
for guidance in our deliberations.

Give us the strength and wisdom as we journey,  
to use our talents to complete the tasks  
that have been entrusted to us.

We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

**In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great family of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In him shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.**

**Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be;  
all children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christ-like souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

## REFLECTION

When you think about stewardship, the first thing that comes to mind is probably money, and while that's certainly important, it's not the whole story. Biblical stewardship is often described as the three T's – time, talent, and treasure.

Stewardship is more than our treasure. God gives us many gifts, including time and talent, and we're called to give back a portion of them if we're to be truly faithful stewards. We've been given skills and talents that God wants to use for his kingdom. Paul, as Brad read, lists the many skills and talents that God has given.

So, with that in mind – are you giving back a portion of your talents to God's kingdom? You might not think you have any talents to contribute, but that's never the case. We all have skills and abilities that God can use.

It's probably not a coincidence that when Jesus called the 12 disciples, many of them own and operated businesses as tradesmen and commercial fishermen. It would only be reasonable to assume that the disciples used their contacts and past relationships to spread the news about Christ.

So we all have God-given talents. Are you good with children? Those skills can be put to use in the children's church or babysitting for a single parent in your neighbourhood who needs a break. Maybe you're good at repairing cars, or you're a great cook, or you like to paint. Or maybe you have time you can spend with an elderly shut-in down the street.

Putting time and talents to work for others not only fulfills your calling for stewardship, but it also provides a great witnessing opportunity by reflecting the love of Christ. So don't think you have nothing to give. God can use just about anything to advance His Kingdom. If you're generous with your time and talents as well as your treasure, you'll no doubt one day hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful steward. Enter into the joy of your master."

## INTRODUCTION TO OUR FIRST CIRCLE CONVERSATION

Marsha Hay-Snyder

### **First Circle Conversation**

What do you love about GSJ? What Keeps You Here?

## GIFT OF MUSIC

## **Second Circle Conversation**

What roles/tasks have you taken on in the past?

### **INVITATION TO GIVE**

**OFFERING HYMN**      Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands

VU 537

**Your work, O God, needs many hands  
to help you everywhere,  
and some there are who cannot serve  
unless our gifts we share.**

**Because we love you and your work,  
our offering now we make:  
be pleased to use it as your own,  
we ask for Jesus' sake.**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Here we are, God, as your beloved family,  
as people who love the risen Christ,  
as those who are woven together as one by the Spirit's power.  
Take what we offer: our hearts, our living, our time, our talent, and our treasure.  
May you so bless what we give that we become transformed for love —  
a love that fosters good news for the broader fabric of this world. Amen.

## **Third Circle Conversation**

What keeps you from volunteering now? What could you do now?

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**    Your Will Be Done

MV 151

**Your will be done, be done on earth. (*repeat 3 times*)  
Your will be done on earth. Your will be done on earth.  
*Repeat***

## PRAYER OF JESUS

HYMN For the Faithful Who Have Answered

VU 707

**For the faithful who have answered  
when they heard your call to serve,  
for the many ways you led them  
testing will and stretching nerve,  
for their work and for their witness  
as they strove against the odds,  
for their courage and obedience  
we give thanks and praise, O God.**

**Many eyes have glimpsed the promise,  
many hearts have yearned to see.  
Many ears have heard you calling  
us to greater liberty.  
Some have fallen in the struggle,  
others still are fighting on.  
You are not ashamed to own us.  
We give thanks and praise, O God.**

**For this cloud of faithful witness,  
for the common life we share,  
for the work of peace and justice,  
for the gospel that we bear,  
for the vision that our homeland  
is your love - deep, high, and broad -  
for the different roads we travel  
we give thanks and praise, O God.**

## SENDING FORTH

God bless this morning for you,  
in your rising and journeying,  
opening your eyes to the beauty  
around you, in places and faces;  
opening your ears to the sounds  
of chatter, traffic, and birdsong;  
opening your heart to the world

in which you move and breathe,  
with so many possibilities within it,  
of which your life is one small part.  
Go from this place knowing you are never alone...

**AMEN (SUNG)**

Merritt in G

**MUSIC TO SEND US FORTH**

## **End of Worship - Beginning of Service**

Thank you to all who participated in today's service – you stand among the saints of GSJ!  
Please join us in Fraser Hall following the service for coffee and fellowship.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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More information on the following events is available in our e-update or contact Jennifer ([admin@glebestjames.ca](mailto:admin@glebestjames.ca)) and she can help. The e-update is available online or you can sign up to get it by e-mail.

**Women's Intergenerational Group, today @ 12 Noon**

**Labyrinth Walk, today, 3-5 pm**

Monday Crafts @ Judy's, 1-4 pm

Monday Meditation, weekly at 8 pm on zoom

Check Mates – weekly on Tuesdays, 10 am (Sanctuary)

Nattering Knitters – weekly on Tuesdays, 1:30 pm (Lounge)

Men & Friends' Potluck, October 29th, 5:30 (Fraser Hall)

### **Photo Directory**

We look forward to having you included in our new photo directory!

[Book Online](#) or call 1-888-769-7339, Ext 1 for Brenda.

### **Next Sunday**

We welcome a representative from the Centretown Community Food Centre.

Please bring an offering of food for the Food Centre.

<b>Congregational Meeting – November 5<sup>th</sup></b>
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Please save the date - November 5, starting at 7:15 pm, for our next in-person  
Congregational Conversation. More details to follow.