

Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Sunday, August 31
Carlisle 10:00 am

Worship Leader: Rev. M. Gayle MacDonald
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Music Leader: Dr. Heather Olaveson
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*Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.*

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land:

Carlisle, Ontario



Carlisle United Church is situated on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This land is covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis, and the Inuit peoples.

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked on this land, in their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives. We acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. May we honour one another and honour life itself. We are all treaty people.

The Life and Work of the Church (Announcements)

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The light of this candle reminds us that the light and love of Christ is in our midst.
May its warmth remind us of the warmth of God's unconditional love.

Gathering Song: VU 401, v. 1 – Worship the Lord

Words: Fred Kaan 1972; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1977

Rev. Dr. Fred Kaan, who wrote the words to this hymn, published six collections of his hymns during his lifetime. Ron Klusmeier, current Music Director at Salt Spring Island United (Ganges, BC), composed the music for over 100 of Kaan's texts. Many thanks to the musicians of Golden Ears United for sharing their performance of this Kaan-Klusmeier creation.

[VU 401 Worship the Lord](#)

*Worship the Lord (worship the Lord),
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

- 1 Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one! R

Call to Worship:

We are called forth from our homes, our yards, our vacation places, our workplaces to come together as members of God's family, to honour God with our bodies, our spirits, our minds, and our hearts. We are called to worship and praise God, to respond to the love God showers upon us. Let us worship in joy!

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, you come among us in abundant joy,

unsettling truth,

deep consolation,

and powerful transformation.

Yours are winds of change, hastening us
toward a kin-dom of inclusion and justice
not yet known in this world.

Move and mould us.

Convert and transform us.

Through your many witnesses,

show us your way,

so that we may be a community

that embodies your love,

here and now. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU 574 – Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

Words: Robert Walmsley ca. 1900; Music: Adam Watson

Robert Walmsley (1831-1905) penned many of his hymn texts for the Manchester Sunday School Union and published 44 of them as *Sacred Songs for Children of All Ages* (1900). While his words are often sung to a tune by Adam Watson like we see in *Voices United*, they are just as frequently sung to an F.L. Wiseman melody, played here by organist Chris Lawton at Emmanuel United Reformed Church in Worthing, UK.

[Come, let us sing of a wonderful love - Emmanuel United Reformed Church, Worthing \(Compton organ\)](#)

- 1 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,

tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

2 Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

4 Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

Prayer for Grace:

Gracious God, too often we forget that it is you who abundantly supplies our needs. Thinking we have done it ourselves, we hoard our resources and gifts, or share them only with others in similar circumstances. We love to compare and feel that we are blessed and worthy. But you show us a different way.

**You invite us to share
not only with those we deem worthy
but with everyone.**

**You urge us to count not the cost,
but rather the blessings.**

You promise an everlasting abundance when we open our hearts and embody true hospitality.

**Forgive our smallness, God of Grace,
and help us to embrace
the kin-dom values of humility and generosity.**

Amen.

Assurance of Grace:

We are human. We forget. We hoard. We hold on. We make unfair comparisons.

**The God of creation knows
our human failings and loves us
in spite of them.**

God not only loves us, God also forgives us and encourages us to learn and improve.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sung Response: VU 401, v. 2 – Worship the Lord

Words: Fred Kaan 1972; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1977

[VU 401 Worship the Lord](#)

*Worship the Lord (worship the lord),
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

- 2 Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one! R

Prayer for Illumination

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Epistle: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 – *God is with us*

13:1 Let mutual affection continue.

13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

13:3 Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

13:4 Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

13:6 So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

13:7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

13:15 Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14 – *Invite the poor to your banquet*

14:1 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

14:7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable.

14:8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host,

14:9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

14:10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

14:11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

14:12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

14:13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

14:14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Response:

Let us ponder these words from the Gospel of Luke.

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Reflection

Hymn: MV 145 – Draw the Circle Wide

Words & Music: Gordon Light 1994

This energetic performance with vocals, piano, guitar, and percussion can be found on the 2015 album *The Common Cup Company Live, Vol. 2*. Anglican bishop Gordon Light, the composer of this hymn, is also a founding member of the musical group The Common Cup Company alongside Ian Macdonald.

Draw the Circle Wide

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song,

no one stands alone.

*Standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

- 1 God the still point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. R
- 2 Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. R
- 3 Let the dreams we dream be larger
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. R

Prayers of the People & Prayer of Jesus:

Sing into prayer: VU 661, v. 3 – Come to My Heart

Joe Pinson's 1979 hymn is performed by the Praise Singers of Windsor Park United Church in Winnipeg, including the lovely descant in the final verse.

["Come to My Heart"](#)

- 3 Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

Offering Prayer:

God we thank you for your generosity. We offer these gifts with open hands and open hearts, trusting that your love will transform them into acts of compassion, justice, and mercy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Offertory: VU 537 – Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands

Thanks to Cheryl Jackson and Crystal Schau, part of the music team at Transcona Memorial United in Winnipeg, for sharing their duet in this lyric video. The 1927 hymn was written by American Presbyterian minister and hymnographer Calvin Weiss Laufer and, in *Voices United*, is set to an older 19th-century tune by Neil Dougall.

[Your Work O God Needs Many Hands](#)

- 1 Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve
unless our gifts we share.
- 2 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.

Hymn: MV 209 – Go Make a Difference

Words & Music: Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek 1997

*This track can be found on the compilation album **Choose Christ 2009, Vol. 2**. Besides being one of the co-composers of this hymn, Steve is also performing it: that is his voice you hear featured, and I suspect it is also his guitar-playing!*

Go Make a Difference

*Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.*

- 1 We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
The love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world. R
- 2 We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world. R
- 3 So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.

Go make a difference in the world. R

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Sending Forth: VU 401, v.5 – Worship the Lord
[VU 401 Worship the Lord](#)

*Worship the Lord (worship the lord),
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

5 Now in response to the life you are giving,
help us, Creator, to offer our living,
seeking a just and a healing society,
worship and work must be one! R

Online Postlude: Psalm 23 (I Am Not Alone) | Goodness of God | Nothing I Hold On To

I stumbled across this musical gem this week: a music worship session by the All Saints Collective – a community of people based in the UK that "wants to glorify God through arts and creativity" – in collaboration with three other artists. In this particular "Worship with friends (live)" session, they give heartfelt performances of three pieces. Hope you enjoy!

[Worship with friends \(live\) | Psalm 23 | Goodness of God | I am not alone](#)

Liturgy Credits:

Celebrate God's Presence except for the following

From *Gathering*, Pentecost 1, 2025, used with permission:

- Call to Worship: written by George Allan, p. 37
- Opening Prayer: written by Jennifer Henry, p. 40
- Prayer for Grace (of Confession) and Assurance of Grace: written by Catherine Tovell, p. 44 (*adapted*)
- Offering Prayer: written by Sandra Jenkinson, p. 47 (*adapted*)