

**The United Church of Canada  
Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge**

**November 02, 2025**  
**Celebrating Reformation Sunday**



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**OCTOBER 31, 1517**

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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

### The Life and Work of the Church

#### 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

**Centring Music:** VU 661 (v. 1) – Come to My Heart

*Words & Music: Joe Pinson 1979*

**Scott Marroon performs Joe Pinson's 1979 hymn on his three-manual organ.**

Come to my heart Lord Jesus. The lyrics to the hymn "Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus" by Joe Pinson.

- 1 Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;  
teach me to walk in your way.  
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;  
come to my heart today.  
Give me the peace and joy  
that only you can bring.  
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;  
give me a song to sing.

#### **Call to Worship:**

God is our dwelling place from year to year, age to age.  
And yet, we become complacent, forgetting who we are.  
God reforms us

**and makes prosperous the work of our hands!**

God's life surges forth through creation, like grass that renews every morning.  
And yet we prefer to be dust, swept away in the wind of every new idea and new fad.

God reforms us

**and makes prosperous the work of our hands!**

God turns to us, and has compassion on us,  
so the great work of our lives manifests Christ's glorious love to the world.  
God reforms us

**and makes prosperous the work of our hands!**

**Prayer of Approach:**

Wondrous God:

Thirteen billion years ago your creative spark called creation into being.

Two thousand years ago you lit a spark of new creation in Christ.

Five hundred years ago your grace reignited the hearts of men and women with names like Martin Luther, John Calvin, Katharina Zell, Ulrich Zwingli, and Argula von Grumbach.

Just when we think all is settled, everything is finished, closed, your power and presence explodes onto the scene yet again, bringing newness, bringing life.

Fill us with your power and presence, O God, so we may, like our grandparents in faith, carry your truth, your beauty, and your justice to the world you so love—a world in such need. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Hymn:** VU 706 (vv. 1-3) – Give Thanks for Life

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1986; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906*

Led by organist and music director Brad Ratzlaff, the virtual choir of Trinity-St Paul's United Church in Toronto sings New Zealander Shirley Erena Murray's 1986 lyrics. These words are set to a 1906 tune by Ralph Vaughan Williams that features a walking bass line and two different harmonizations, one for unison stanzas and one for choral stanzas.

[Give Thanks for Life \(Ralph Vaughn Williams / Shirley Erena Murray\)](#)

- 1 Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,  
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,  
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 Give thanks for those who made their life a light  
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,  
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 3 And for our own, our living and our dead,  
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,  
a love not changed by time or death or dread,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

**Invitation to Prayer:**

An important outcome of the Protestant Reformation was the rediscovery of the doctrine of grace—the unmerited, unconditional love of God that reaches out to us

even before we reach out to God. And as the great Reformer John Calvin once wrote,\* the knowledge of God begins with knowledge of ourselves. To know ourselves is to know our places of brokenness. And to know God is to know that in Christ, God's love stretches so deep and wide that it infiltrates every broken place in our hearts and in our world. God knows the depth of our hearts and will never turn away or turn us away. So let's offer up our lives in confession, trusting that we can be honest before God and each other without fear. Let us pray.

(\*in *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*)

### **Prayer for Grace:**

Living God,  
You are the One who is always on the move,  
always creating and re-creating,  
always doing a new thing.  
And yet, we confess, O Lord,  
that our lives can become static,  
routinely paralyzed by doubt and fear.  
We remain ossified in patterns of greed,  
covetousness, and self-interest.  
We doubt your promises of abundant, everlasting life  
and so we live in dread of our neighbours,  
our friends, and our enemies.  
Our souls remain still.  
We do not love as you love.  
Nor do we live as you would have us live,  
with courage, generosity or the boldness of the gospel.  
So in the silence of our hearts,  
we offer up to you those things we have done and those we have left undone.  
(short silence)

Forgive us, O God.  
Renew us by your Spirit,  
and reform us with your compassion,  
remaking us more fully in to the image of Christ  
and as nimble servants of your reign.  
Amen.

### **Assurance of Grace:**

Friends,  
the good news of the gospel  
is that God's love in Christ stretches so deep and so wide  
that it infiltrates every broken place in our hearts  
and in our world.  
Our hatred is met with love,  
our cruelty is met with compassion,

our sins and our trespasses are met with forgiveness.  
It is greater than anything you have ever done  
or could do.  
Open your hearts to let the love of God in,  
because in Christ you are forgiven, freed, made new.  
Believe in this great good news.  
Amen.

**Sung Response:** VU 661 (v. 2) – Come to My Heart  
[Come to my heart Lord Jesus. The lyrics to the hymn "Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus" by Joe Pinson.](#)

2     Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;  
      teach me to walk in your way.  
      Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;  
      fill me with love today.  
      Give me the peace and joy  
      that only you can bring.  
      Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;  
      give me a song to sing.

**Prayer for Illumination:**

Holy One,  
We prefer you as an architect,  
whose desire is to construct for us perfect lives.  
And yet, the witness of the scriptures says otherwise.  
No, your Word is explosive; it is a live wire,  
one that electrifies all who are within range.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit  
shine yet more light forth from your Holy Word,  
shocking our hardened hearts back to life  
with your freely given grace.  
This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

**Readings from Our Christian Tradition**

**Psalm 46:** VU 770, refrain 2

**Epistle:** Romans 3:19–28

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it – <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup>It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

**Gospel:** John 8:31–36

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

**Response:** May God bless to our understanding these words from our sacred scripture.

**Reflection**

**Hymn:** VU 716 (vv. 1, 2, & 4) – My Life Flows On  
*Words & Music: Robert S. Lowry 1869, alt.*

The First-Plymouth Choir and congregation in Lincoln, Nebraska, sing this hymn accompanied by music director Tom Trenney. While *Voices United* attributes both music and lyrics to Robert Lowry, other sources such as Hymnary.org explain that the text first appeared in 1868 in *The New York Observer* with the title "Always Rejoicing" and attributed to "Pauline T.," and then in *The Christian Pioneer* without any attribution. A year later it was included in *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School* with "R.L." (Robert Lowry) acknowledged as composer and the spot for lyricist left blank. My Life Flows On, HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

- 1     My life flows on in endless song,  
      above earth's lamentation.  
      I hear the sweet, though far off hymn  
      that hails a new creation.  
      Through all the tumult and the strife,  
      I hear the music ringing:

it finds an echo in my soul –  
how can I keep from singing?

2    What though my joys and comforts die?  
      My Saviour still is living.  
      What though the shadows gather 'round?  
      A new song Christ is giving.  
      No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
      while to that Rock I'm clinging:  
      since Love commands both heaven and earth,  
      how can I keep from singing?

4    I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;  
      I see the blue above it;  
      and day by day this pathway smooths,  
      since first I learned to love it.  
      The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
      a fountain ever springing:  
      all things are mine since I am Christ's –  
      how can I keep from singing?

### **Prayers of the People & Prayer of Jesus:**

***Sing into Prayer:*** VU 661 (v. 3) – Come to My Heart

[Come to my heart Lord Jesus. The lyrics to the hymn "Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus" by Joe Pinson.](#)

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.

God of Grace and God of Glory,

On this Reformation Sunday, we give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us. For those who faced trouble and trial, and even death, for the sake of the message of your mercy and in the spirit of Pentecost, the right to hear and read the scriptures in their own languages.

We pray especially for those who now face trouble, trial, even death, for those members of the body of Christ who face persecution.

For your beloved children everywhere – regardless of tradition – who live under the threat of religious persecution.

For people, especially those of us who are Indigenous, who face the extinction of our own languages through neglect, oppression, or cultural pressure.  
We pray that all may hear the good news of the Prince of Peace in ways that resonate, and cause us to drop our weapons and defences for the sake of the kingdom.

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.

We pray that you may help us not only walk in the shoes of our forebears, but fill them.  
May all of us gathered here today be as captivated by the life you have given us in Christ that we are freed to reach our friends, neighbours, and enemies with your unconditional love.

God, we pray for the world you love  
in hope, and in trust, that we and your church might carry the light that has been passed down through the centuries,  
so we might be a beacon of your love to the world.

**Our Father. . . .**

### **Invitation to the Offering:**

The great Swiss theologian Karl Barth once said that grace and gratitude go together like heaven and earth. The Way of Jesus Christ is the life lived in gratitude for the God who has created us and claimed us as her own. In gratitude for God's gifts, let's give back to God our gifts of time, talent, and treasure for God's mission in the world. The offering will now be received.

### **Offertory:** MV 191 – What Can I Do?

*Words & Music: Paul Rumbolt & Michele McCarthy*

**Musicians of Golden Ears United perform this offertory in an arrangement by Alan Whitmore.**

[MV 191 What Can I do](#)

What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

### **Offering Prayer:**

Receive these gifts O God,  
use them to reform this community of faith  
as you remake the world in your image.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Service of Communion for All Saints** (Carlisle)

#### **Commissioning:**

Go out into the world,  
living in the light of Christ!  
By the power of the Spirit  
do all the good you can  
by all the means you can  
in all the ways you can  
in all the places you can  
at all the times you can  
to all the people you can  
as long as ever you can.  
(words attributed to John Wesley)

#### **Hymn/Sung Sending Forth:** VU 418 – Go Forth for God

*Words: J.R. Peacey ca. 1970; Music: Genevan Psalter 1551*

The pianist at St Mark's United Methodist Church in El Paso, Texas, injects so much energy into this sixteenth-century music with lyrics by British Anglican minister and school principal John R. Peacey (1896-1971). Most of Peacey's hymn texts were written during his retirement and were published posthumously in *Go Forth for God* (1981).

"Go Forth For God" - St. Mark's Traditional Choir

- 1     Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
      be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,  
      in God's good Spirit daily to increase,  
      till in the kingdom we see face to face.  
      Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.
- 2     Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
      strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;  
      help the afflicted; richly from above  
      God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.  
      Go forth for God, go to the world in love.
- 3     Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;  
      hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;  
      render to no one evil; Christ at length  
      shall overcome all darkness with his light.

Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.

- 4     Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,  
to serve God's people every day and hour,  
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,  
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

## **Benediction**

**Online Postlude:** When the Saints Go Marching In

Today also marks All Saints Sunday, so I offer a couple versions of the traditional-spiritual-turned-jazz-standard "When the Saints Go Marching In." The first is an incredibly spirited performance by the Howard Gospel Choir from Howard University in Washington, DC, and the second is an interesting behind-the-band view of Streetview Dixieclub, a seven-member band based in Austria.

[Howard Gospel Choir - When the Saints Go Marching In](#)

[Streetview Dixieclub - Oh When The Saints Go Marching In](#)

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## **Liturgy Credits:**

"[A Service for Reformation Sunday](#)" by Rev. Ryan Slifka, United Church of Canada, Worship Resources

[Service of the Table](#): "Celebrating Their Lives: Holy Communion for All Saints' Day" by Rev. Scott A. Ressen, United Church of Christ (adapted)