

Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Sunday, September 21
Season of Creation 3



The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. – Psalm 24:1-2

Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Sunday, September 21
Season of Creation 3

Kilbride – 9:30 a.m.

Carlisle – 11:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. M. Gayle MacDonald

Email: mgmacd@gmail.com; Cell: 289-442-8420

Music Leader: Dr. Heather Olaveson

Office Administrator: Andrea Osterroth McRae

Office: 905-689-8630

*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:

For Kilbride, Ontario:

We acknowledge the historical territory of the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

For 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 Inuit peoples.

Together:

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

Gathering Song: MV 21 – Open Our Hearts (x3)

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 2006

I invite you to sing along with Jean Strathdee as she leads the singing for her husband Jim's hymn on their 2007 collaborative album *Stand for What Is Right*.

Open Our Hearts

(Note: sing first 4 lines 3x. Then end with the line, "Open our hearts.")

Open our hearts,
open our minds.
Open our lives to you
O loving God. (x3)
Open our hearts.

Invitation to Worship:

Let us wake up to the presence of God in us and around us.

**Let us attend to the Word of God,
for us and for all people,
communicated through the voices of creation.**

Let us respond with everything we have and are.

**Come let us worship God, our Creator,
with praise and thanksgiving.**

Opening Prayer:

**From the earth we come and to the earth we will return. We are grateful
for your creation. May we walk good paths, O God,
living on this earth as brothers and sisters should; rejoicing in one
another's blessing,
sympathizing in one another's sorrows,
and together with you, renewing the face of the earth. Amen.**

Hymn: VU 198 – Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among

Words: Janie Alford 1979; Music: Thomas John Williams 1890

**This hauntingly beautiful arrangement by Marcell Silva Steuernagel is performed by
musicians of First Presbyterian Church in Clarksville, Tennessee. Notice how the
singer standing next to the handbell player is mimicking the striking bells by singing
sustained notes with a strong attack. Wonderfully done by all!**

Special Music at FPC: "Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us", Arr. by Marcell Silva
Steuernagel

- 1 Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,
 come with pentecostal power;
 give the church a stronger vision,
 help us face each crucial hour.
 Built upon a firm foundation,
 Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,
 still the church is called to mission
 that God's love shall be made known.
- 2 We would raise our hallelujahs
 for the grace of yesteryears;
 for tomorrow's unknown pathway,
 hear, O God, our humble prayers.
 In the church's pilgrim journey
 you have led us all the way,
 still in presence move before us,
 fire by night and cloud by day.
- 3 Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,
 give us words of fire and flame.

Help our feeble lips to praise you,
glorify your holy name.
God, all holy, Son and Spirit,
three in one: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas
now and through eternity.

Prayer for Grace:

The psalm tells us the world is yours and everything in it. We confess that it doesn't always feel that way. It feels more like ours and theirs. We see dominion over the earth was ownership instead of stewardship. We want to do the right thing, the faithful thing, but it is complicated. In the silence, speak to our hearts. Help us to see more clearly our responsibility as stewards of your creation. Help us discern ways we can act in accordance with that responsibility.

Silence for reflection

Amen.

Response:

Compassionate One, hear our prayer:
stretch out your hand in healing love.
**Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew your Spirit within us.**

Assurance of Grace:

God the Creator brings you new life,
forgives and redeems you.
Take hold of this grace,
and live your life in the spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Sung Response: MV 21 - Open Our Hearts (x3)

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 2006

[Open Our Hearts](#)

(Note: sing first 4 lines 3x. Then end with the line, "Open our hearts.")

Open our hearts,
open our minds.
Open our lives to you
O loving God. (x3)
Open our hearts.

Prayer for Illumination:

Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways:
in the song of a bird, in the babbling of a brook,

in the voices of our friends, in the hug from Mom or Dad, in the songs we sing, and in the stories of the Bible.

Speak to us now through the reading of scripture. Help us to hear your voice and follow the way of Jesus. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Hebrew Scripture: Amos 8:4-7

Those who trample the needy

8:4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
8:5 saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances,

8:6 buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

8:7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Serving God or wealth

16:1 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property.

16:2 So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.'

16:3 Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.

16:4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'

16:5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

16:6 He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'

16:7 Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'

16:8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

16:9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

16:10 "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.

16:11 If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

16:12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?

16:13 No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Response:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Hymn: MV 139 – True Faith Needs No Defence

Words & Music: Daniel Charles Damon 2004

The choir of Mountainside United Church in Montreal performs Daniel Charles Damon's revised 2004 hymn. Besides being an internationally published hymnist, Associate Editor of Hymnody for Hope Publishing, a retired ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, and a music teacher, Damon is also a jazz pianist. His website reveals that he can be found "tickling the ivories" every Friday and Saturday evening at Lara's Fine Dining, a restaurant in Richmond, California.

MV 139 - True Faith Needs No Defence

- 1 True faith needs no defence,
it echoes in the soul;
a faithful life gives evidence
of grace that makes us whole.
- 2 True faith, like music, soars
beyond cathedral walls;
on city streets and ocean shores,
from age to age faith calls.
- 3 Expect your faith to grow;
begin by being still,
and in the quiet come to know
God's living, breathing will.
- 4 To live the faith we find,
is all that love can ask;
to sing God's praise with heart and mind,
and rise to meet the task.

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus, a paraphrase p. 916 VU

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, Creator:

by your generosity we have received
all that we have and all that we are.

Grant that we may so use
the things which you have entrusted to our care,
that we may become more and more your children
in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: VU 271 – There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Words: Frederick William Faber 1854, alt.; Music: Johann Ludwig Steiner 1723

Although *Voices United* uses Johann Ludwig Steiner's GOTT WILL'S MACHEN, Frederick William Faber's 1854 text has been set to many different tunes, including John Zundel's 1870 tune BEECHER. You may recognize this melody from the hymn "God of Life" (VU 528). The hymn is performed by the choir and organist of Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Hymn 470 There's a wideness in God's mercy

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
 like the wideness of the sea;
 there's a kindness in God's justice
 which is more than liberty.
- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
 are more felt than up in heaven;
 there is no place where earth's failings
 have such gracious judgement given.
- 3 There is plentiful redemption
 in the blood that Christ has shed;
 there is joy for all the members
 in the sorrows of the Head.
- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter
 like a crowd of frightened sheep?
 foolish hearts, why will you wander
 from a love so true and deep?
- 5 For the love of God is broader
 than the measures of the mind,
 and the heart of the Eternal
 is most wonderfully kind.

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Sending Forth:

This live recording from a 2023 worship service at Village Community Presbyterian Church in Rancho Santa Fe, California, showcases Don Besig and Nancy Price's beloved choral benediction. In 1980 Don started collaborating with lyricist Nancy, one of his former music students, and together they have had nearly 400 original choral compositions published over the course of their long collaboration. What a team!

Go Now in Peace - Don Besig

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.

Online Postlude: How Great Thou Art

I hope you enjoy this newer version of an old favourite of many. This performance features Matt Reith, the bass singer of the bluegrass band Southern Raised, which hails from the Ozark mountains.

[How Great Thou Art - Southern Raised |Bass Singer Cover|](#)

Something to Think About

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make." – Jane Goodall

Photo Credit: Darla MacLean Audfroid, ©Darla MacLean Audfroid, 2020, used with permission

Liturgy Credits:

Celebrate God's Presence

Except for:

Prayer for Grace: mgm

From *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, 2019-20, used with permission: Invitation to Worship, written by Linda Pennock