** Erindale United Church**

 *embracing, proclaiming and practicing the Gospel*

 \*Please stand if you are able.

 Please join in the responses printed in bold type

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost August 3, 2025**

**♫ Prelude**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Welcome and Life of the Church**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

We light a candle-

to shine a light that also lives within us, a light

that calls us to share the love of Christ in every

corner of the world.

**We give thanks for the meaning and purpose**

**Jesus offers to our living, calling us to bring**

**healing, hope, justice, and reconciliation to**

**others.**

**\*Call to Worship**

All of you who have a deep and abiding faith,

you are called!
All of you who are seeking God,

you are called!
All of you who have doubts and questions and an

emptiness within,

you are called!

All of you who cannot believe and trust in God,

you are called!

You have come here at God’s call, to worship, to

praise, to learn, to reach out, perhaps to receive

and accept the grace and the love of God this very

day.

Let us worship together, all of us, just as we are!

**♫ \*Opening Hymn:** “All Beautiful the March of Days” VU530

**Opening Prayer**

**Gracious God, you come among us in abundant**

**joy, unsettling truth, deep consolation, and**

**powerful transformations. Yours are winds**

**of change, hastening us towards 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**

 **The Lord’s Prayer**

*As followers of Christ, we pray as we’ve been taught, saying, “Our Father…”*

**Prayer for Illumination**

Today’s scripture is a challenging one at

the best of times, and even more so in our current

times and circumstances.

We will need the spirit of Christ to cast some light

on how to make sense of this scripture.

Thankfully, we have the light of Christ shining

among us, and we can declare:
**This we know! We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

**Scripture**

Ecclesiastes 1:2-18

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message** “Put Meaning back into your Meaningless Life” Rachel Nott

**♫ \*Hymn:** “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” VU703

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

…Together we pray:

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,

always.

**Thanks be to God for such undeserved grace.**

**Offering Invitation**

There is a time for everything,

 and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance

a time to keep and a time to throw away,

a time to love and a time to hate,

a time for war and a time for peace.

Now is the time we give our morning offerings.

**♫ \*Offertory Hymn:** “Grant Us, God, the Grace” VU540 **Grant us, God, the grace of giving,**

**With a spirit large and free,**

**That ourselves and all our living**

**We may offer faithfully.**

**\*Dedication of Our Offering**

There is a time for planting…

**and, Loving God, you have planted with us**

**the seeds of compassion, the seeds of faith**

**formation, the seeds of justice, the seeds of hope.**

There is a time for harvest…

**and, Loving God, you have harvested with**

**us new friends, a renewal of faith, courage**

**to confront the powerful, and strength for**

**the journey.**

Accept our offerings as symbols of our thanks.

**Amen.**

**♫ \*Hymn:** “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” VU560

**\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

Go forth from here, picking up and carrying

with you what you need to engage the struggles

and challenges of life.

Cast off the armour of past ages and old ways

that are no longer life-giving.

Trust in God and you will find abundant life.

Amen!

**♫ Postlude**

**Scripture**

**First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2-18 (NIV)**

**2** “Meaningless! Meaningless!”

 says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!

 Everything is meaningless.”

**3** What do people gain from all their labors

 at which they toil under the sun?

**4** Generations come and generations go,

 but the earth remains forever.

**5** The sun rises and the sun sets,

 and hurries back to where it rises.

**6** The wind blows to the south

 and turns to the north;

round and round it goes,

 ever returning on its course.

**7** All streams flow into the sea,

 yet the sea is never full.

To the place the streams come from,

 there they return again.

**8** All things are wearisome,

 more than one can say.

The eye never has enough of seeing,

 nor the ear its fill of hearing.

**9** What has been will be again,

 what has been done will be done again;

 there is nothing new under the sun.

**10** Is there anything of which one can say,

 “Look! This is something new”?

It was here already, long ago;

 it was here before our time.

**11** No one remembers the former generations,

 and even those yet to come

will not be remembered

 by those who follow them.

**12** I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. **13** I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! **14** I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

**15** What is crooked cannot be straightened;

 what is lacking cannot be counted.

**16** I said to myself, “Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.” **17** Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

**18** For with much wisdom comes much sorrow;

 the more knowledge, the more grief.

**Second Reading: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 (NIV)**

**10** Whoever loves money never has enough;

 whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.

 This too is meaningless.

**11** As goods increase,

 so do those who consume them.

And what benefit are they to the owners

 except to feast their eyes on them?

**12** The sleep of a laborer is sweet,

 whether they eat little or much,

but as for the rich, their abundance

 permits them no sleep.

**13** I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:

wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,

**14** or wealth lost through some misfortune,

so that when they have children

 there is nothing left for them to inherit.

**15** Everyone comes naked from their mother’s womb,

 and as everyone comes, so they depart.

They take nothing from their toil

 that they can carry in their hands.

**16** This too is a grievous evil:

As everyone comes, so they depart,

 and what do they gain,

 since they toil for the wind?

**17** All their days they eat in darkness,

 with great frustration, affliction and anger.

**18** This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. **19** Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. **20** They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

**All Beautiful the March of Days**

1. All beautiful the march of days,

As seasons come and go;

The hand that shaped the rose has wrought

The crystal of the snow,

Has sent the silvery frost of heaven,

The flowing waters sealed,

And laid a silent loveliness

On hill and wood and field.

2. O’er white expanses sparkling pure

The radiant morns unfold;

The solemn splendours of the night

Burn bright through the cold;

Life mounts in every throbbing vein,

Love deepens round the hearth,

And clearer sounds the angel hymn,

Good will to all on earth.

3. O God, from whose unfathomed law

The year in beauty flows,

Yourself the vision passing by

In crystal and in rose;

Day unto day declare thro’ speech,

And night to night proclaim

In everchanging words of light

The wonder of your name.

**In the Bulb There Is a Flower**

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;

In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,

Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

2. There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;

There’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,

Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;

In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,

Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower, Natalie Sleeth*

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**O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee**

1. O Master, let me walk with thee

In lowly paths of service free;

Teach me thy secret, help me bear

The strain of toil, the fret of care.

2. Help me the slow of heart to move

With some clear, winning word of love;

Teach me the wayward feet to stay,

And guide them in the homeward way.

3. Teach me thy patience, still with thee,

In closer, dearer company,

In work that keeps faith sure and strong,

In trust that triumphs over wrong,

4. In hope that sends a shining ray

Far down the future’s broadening way,

In peace that only thou canst give,

With thee, O Master, let me live.