** Erindale United Church**

 *embracing, proclaiming and practicing the Gospel*

 \*Please stand if you are able.

 Please join in the responses printed in bold type

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 31, 2025**

**♫ Prelude**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Welcome and Life of the Church**

**Lighting of the Christ and Fellowship Candles**

**\*Call to Worship**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Sing aloud to God who is our strength!

**Raise a shout of joy to the God of all generations!**

For our God feeds us with the finest wheat;

**with honey from the rock God will satisfy.**

Let us worship the Lord our God,
**For God has done great things for us, and so we bring God praise.**

**♫ \*Opening Hymn:** “Though I May Speak” VU372

**\*Opening Prayer of Praise and Confession**

**O God, to you we offer our sacrifice of praise,**

**for we know that the fruit of lips that confess your name**

**and the produce of lives that share and do good**

**are a pleasing sacrifice to you.**

**We come, therefore, with thanksgiving in our hearts,**

**for we know that through Christ**

**we are invited to your heavenly feast**

**and made fit to come by his sacrifice of obedience and love.**

**Bless now with your presence,**

**this gathering of prayers and singing,**

**of reading, proclaiming, and hearing your word,**

**of acting with love and generosity to you**

**that all the glory may be yours**

**and we may partake of it now, always, and in eternity.**

Gracious God,

we confess that we often fall short of following Jesus Christ

and bearing his likeness.

**We find it hard to see in ourselves**

**the trappings our society admires and serves**

**—power, wealth, and access—**

**that forget love for our neighbour.**

You have shown us what matters most in life,

but we are distracted by our worries

and busy with things that do not matter.

We fail to see our allegiance to the dangerous idols in our lives

and instead support systems that survive and thrive on greed and abuse.

**Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us grace to amend our foolish ways,**

**so that we may glorify your holy and matchless name.**

**In Jesus’ name, we pray, amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Beloved in the Lord, this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance: *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ…”* (Rom. 5:1).To all who turn to the Lord then, he says, ‘your sins are forgiven.’ He also says, ‘Follow me.’

**Thanks be to God!**

 **The Lord’s Prayer**

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

**Prayer for Illumination**

O God, still in us, the worries of the world to listen for your wisdom spoken by prophets, poets, and apostles. Move in us and among us by your Spirit so that in their words, we meet your Living Word, Jesus Christ, your Living Word, in whose glorious and powerful name we pray, amen.

**Scripture**

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Luke 14:1,7-14

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**  Rev. Nicholas Forrester

**♫ \*Hymn:** “Lord, You Give the Great Commission” VU512

**Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Supplication**

God of all times and all people,

on this Labour Day weekend,

we thank you for all the skill and talent with which you bless your people.

Thank you for what we have accomplished through the work we do,

and for what each one of us contributes to the well-being of our community.

Inspire us to work together on the challenges we face

and surprise us with the solutions to problems that once seemed overwhelming.

God, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Today, we pray for all those who labour in difficult situations:

for children who work in terrible conditions and are paid very little;

for migrant workers who must labour far away from their families;

and for all those who are underpaid or unjustly treated in their workplace.

God, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who cannot labour:

for those who are unemployed or underemployed;

for those who have become injured on the job or too sick to keep working;

for those who are denied the opportunity to earn a living because of war or discrimination.

God, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who labour in our community.

for those who must work today and tomorrow instead of enjoying this long weekend;

for those who must work several jobs in order to care for their families;

for those who work at jobs we wouldn’t to do ourselves because they are messy or unpleasant.

God, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

And on this Labour Day, O God,

we offer gratitude for laws that protect children,

for health and safety practices that prevent tragedies in the workplace,

and for generations before us who advocated for vulnerable employees,

fair wages and equal opportunities.

Thank you for the work that goes on behind the scenes,

delivering things we enjoy and services we rely on.

**Help us to look beyond these things**

**to picture the faces of those whose work provides for all our needs.**

**Through their faces, let us see your face,**

**Creator and Sustainer of all that is.**

**In Jesus’ name we pray, amen!**

**Offering Invitation**

**♫ \*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**

**♫ \*Hymn:** “Go, Make a Diff’rence” MV209

**\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58). As you go, may God go with you, my friends. Amen!

**♫ Postlude**

**Acknowledgements:** Respectfully adapted from the following resources:

The United Church of Canada @ https://www.united-church.ca/worship; The Presbyterian Church in Canada @ https://presbyterian.ca/worship/; United Church of Christ Worship Ways @ https://www.ucc.org/worship\_worship-ways; Spirit Networks @ http://www.spirit-net.ca/sermons/year-a-sermons.php; and The United Methodist Church Ministry Matters @ https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/.

**Scripture**

**Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 2:4‒13 (NIV)**

**4**Hear the word of the Lord, you descendants of Jacob, all you clans of Israel. **5**This is what the Lord says: “What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. **6**They did not ask, ‘Where is the Lord, who brought us up out of Egypt and led us through the barren wilderness, through a land of deserts and ravines, a land of drought and utter darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives?’ **7**I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable. **8**The priests did not ask, ‘Where is the Lord?’ Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols. **9**“Therefore, I bring charges against you again,” declares the Lord. “And I will bring charges against your children’s children. **10**Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: **11**Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols. **12**Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror,” declares the Lord. **13**“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

**Gospel Reading:** **Luke 14:1,7‒14 (NIV)**

**1**One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched…. **7**When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: **8** “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. **9** If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important. **10**But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests. **11**For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” **12**Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. **13**But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, **14**and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**Though I May Speak**

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,

And have the gift to all inspire,

And have not love, my words are vain,

As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2. Though I may give all I possess,

And striving so my love profess,

But not be given by love within,

The profit soon turns strangely thin.

3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,

Our spirits long to be made whole.

Let inward love guide every deed;

By this we worship, and are freed.

*Though I May Speak, Hal Hopson*

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**Lord, You Give the Great Commission**

1. Lord, you give the great commission:

“Heal the sick and preach the word.”

Lest the church neglect its mission,

And the gospel go unheard,

Help us witness to your purpose

With renewed integrity;

With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us

For the work of ministry.

2. Lord, you call us to your service:

“In my name baptize and teach.”

That the world may trust your promise,

Life abundant meant for each,

Give us all new fervour, draw us

Closer in community;

With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us

For the work of ministry.

3. Lord, you make the common holy:

“This my body, this my blood.”

Let us all, for earth’s true glory,

Daily lift life heavenward,

Asking that the world around us

Share your children’s liberty;

With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us

For the work of ministry.

4. Lord, you show us love’s true measure:

“Father, what they do, forgive.”

Yet we hoard as private treasure

All that you so freely give.

May your care and mercy lead us

To a just society;

With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us

For the work of ministry.

5. Lord, you bless with words assuring:

“I am with you to the end.”

Faith and hope and love restoring,

May we serve as you intend,

And, amid the cares that claim us,

Hold in mind eternity;

With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us

For the work of ministry.

*Lord, You Give the Great Commission, Cyril Vincent Taylor/Jeffery W. Rowthorn*

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**Go, Make a Diff’rence**

**Refrain:**

*Go make a diff’rence. We can make a diff’rence.*

*Go make a diff’rence in the world.*

*Go make a diff’rence. We can make a diff’rence.*

*Go make a diff’rence 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 diff’rence in the world.

**Refrain**

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 diff’rence in the world.

**Refrain**

3. So let your love shine on,

Let it shine for all to see.

Go make a diff’rence in the world.

And the spirit of Christ

Will be with us as we go.

Go make a diff’rence in the world.

**Refrain**

*Go, Make a Diff’rence, Steve Angrisano/Tom Tomaszek*

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