** Erindale United Church**

 *embracing, proclaiming and practicing the Gospel*

 \*Please stand if you are able.

 Please join in the responses printed in bold type

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 14, 2025**

**♫ Prelude**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Welcome and Life of the Church**

**Lighting of the Christ and Fellowship Candles**

**♫ Introit** “Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake” J. Hilton

**\*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.**

O God, you have searched us and known us.

**You know when we sit down and when we rise up.**

You discern our thoughts from far away.

**Before a word is on our tongues, Lord, you know it completely.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for us,

and so, we humble ourselves in worship.

**In this hour, search us and know our hearts, O God,**

**and lead us in the way everlasting.**

**♫ \*Opening Hymn:** “When All Your Mercies, O My God” VU219

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

**Almighty God, humbly we come before you this morning with an offering of praise and thanksgiving in our hearts and on our lips, for you are worthy of all praise from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. The heavens declare your righteousness, and the skies proclaim with all of creation the works of your hands. Marvellous are your works, O God — too marvellous to exclaim! It is good to praise you and make music to your holy name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Here, in your presence, let your Holy Spirit move us to a place of holiness in you.**

**Gracious and loving God,**

**we find it difficult at times to place our trust in you.**

**Too often, we rely on our own strength,**

**our own plans, our own devices,**

**rather than trusting in your hand to hold us,**

**your love to sustain us, and your wisdom to see us through.**

**Forgive us, Holy God. Help us turn to you when we are lost,**

**so that we might find our way home.**

**Forgive us of every offence we commit against you and each other.**

**Help us put our trust in you, so that the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus may shine in our lives for all to see. In Jesus’ name, we pray, amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Beloved in the Lord, this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance: *Jesus said, “there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” We can then rejoice in God’s amazing grace and mercy, for it is for us, too, who confess and repent.* 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…”*

**♫ \*Hymn:** “We Are Marching” VU646

**Message for All Ages**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Gracious God, you who are the Light of the World: illumine our beings now as we listen to your word, written and spoken. Open our ears to hear your word, our eyes to see your word, our minds to understand your word, our hearts to accept and embrace your word, and quicken our spirits to obey Jesus Christ, your Living Word, in whose glorious and powerful name we pray, amen.

**Scripture**

Luke 15:1-10

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**♫ Anthem** “A Woman and a Coin – The Coin Is Lost”

**Message**  Rev. Nicholas Forrester

**♫ \*Hymn:** “Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love” VU574

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

Ever seeking God,

we come before you in prayer,

for you have sought us out and claimed us as your own.

Thank you for showing us how precious we are to you

through the life and love of Jesus Christ.

In our prayers, we name before you other precious souls and situations.

With your Spirit, seek them out.

God of mercy,

**Draw near to all who need you.**

We pray for those who feel lost in life:

those who are frightened or anxious,

those who are struggling with addiction or mental illness,

and those who are lonely or despairing:

May your reassurance and comfort find them.

God of mercy,

**Draw near to all who need you.**

We pray for those who have wandered away:

for those separated from their families by conflict or distance,

for those whose relationship with the church is broken or forgotten,

and for those who have given up on the future in despair.

May your healing and mercy find them.

God of mercy,

**Draw near to all who need you.**

We pray for those who feel forgotten:

for those who think that they are worthless or unloved,

for those who believe that their sins are too great to forgive,

and for those who are convinced that not even God can love them.

May your love and grace find them.

God of mercy,

**Draw near to all who need you.**

Ever watchful God,

you keep seeking out wandering sheep and lost coins,

the lives of all who are precious to you.

Thank you for your attentive love

and your patient compassion for us all.

May we rejoice with you when any lost soul is embraced,

and never substitute our judgment of them for yours.

God of mercy,

**Draw near to all who need you.**

**In Jesus’ name we pray, amen!**

**Offering Invitation**

**♫ \*Offertory Hymn:** “O God beyond All Praising” VU256, v. 1

 **O God beyond all praising, we worship you today**

**And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;**

**For we can only wonder at every gift you send,**

**At blessings without number and mercies without end:**

**We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,**

**We honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.**

**\*Dedication of Our Offering**

**♫ \*Hymn:** “Amazing Grace” VU266

**\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word” (2 Thes. 2:16-17). As you go, may God go with you, my friends. Amen!

**♫ \*Sung Response** “May God’s Sheltering Wings”

**♫ 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**

**Gospel Reading:** **Luke 15:1-10 (NIV)**

**1**Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2**But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” **3**Then Jesus told them this parable: **4** “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? **5**And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6**and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ **7**I tell you that in the same way, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. **8**“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? **9**And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ **10**In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**When All Your Mercies, O My God**

1. When all your mercies, O my God,

My rising soul surveys,

Transported with the view I’m lost

In wonder, love and praise.

2. Ten thousand thousand precious gifts

My daily thanks employ;

Nor is the least a cheerful heart

That tastes those gifts with joy.

3. Through every period of my life

Your goodness I’ll pursue;

And after death, in distant worlds

The glorious theme renew.

4. Through all eternity to you

A joyful song I’ll raise;

But oh! eternity’s too short

To utter all your praise.

**We Are Marching**

1. We are marching in the light of God,

We are marching in the light of God.

(x2)

We are marching, oo, we are marching in the light of God. (x2)

2. Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’,

Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’.

(x2)

Siyahamba, oo, siyahamb’, ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’. (x2)

*We Are Marching, trans. and arr. Anders Nyberg*

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**Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love**

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.

**Amazing Grace**

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,

I have already come;

‘Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me,

This word my hope secures;

God will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures.

5. When we’ve been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise

Than when we’d first begun.