** Erindale United Church**

 *embracing, proclaiming and practicing the Gospel*

 \*Please stand if you are able.

 Please join in the responses printed in bold type

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 7, 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.**

Joy comes to those who follow God’s ways.

**We will follow the Lord with joyful hearts!**

Those who follow the Lord are like trees planted by the river,

bearing fruit each season.

**May our lives be fruitful and blessed by God!**

Worship the Lord who leads us to joy and abundance.

**Let us worship God now and throughout all our days.**

**♫ \*Opening Hymn:** “Praise the Source of Faith and Learning”

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

**God of glory and majesty,**

**Creator God, your power amazes us.**

**Even when we work hard to shut you out or forget you altogether,**

**you keep coming to us. When our lives seem bleak or frightening,**

**your Good News finds ways to shine through.**

**We are grateful that you never give up seeking us out**

**and delight in your care and attention.**

**In this time of worship, fill us with your love, shape us in Christ’s example, call us by your Spirit and free us from all that burdens us. With every thought, song, and prayer, turn these fragile, earthen vessels of our lives into the Spirit-filled body of Christ.**

**God of justice and mercy,**

**we offer you our love and loyalty in worship,**

**yet we admit we do not live out that love and loyalty.**

**We don’t always act on our good intentions,**

**we fail to keep our promises,**

**we hurt each other,**

**and then refuse to seek or offer forgiveness.**

**Forgive us of every kind of wrong, we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Beloved in the Lord, this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance: *“If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved”* (Rom. 10:9-10).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:** “God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty” VU310

**Message for All Ages**

**Prayer for Illumination**

God of truth and wisdom, send us your Holy Spirit as we listen to your Word. Refresh our understanding and equip us to respond to you in love, for the sake of Christ, our Lord, your Living Word, in whose glorious and powerful name we pray, amen.

**Scripture**

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Luke 14:25-33

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**  Rev. Nicholas Forrester

**♫ \*Hymn:** “Take Up Your Cross” VU561

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

Good and generous God,

in Jesus Christ, you came to us, promising us life in abundance.

We give you thanks today for the abundant gifts we receive in him –

assurance of your love day by day;

relief of mercy when we recognise our own failings;

hope when things seem bleak;

energy to make a difference through our work and our witness;

peace that comes when we trust ourselves in you.

These are the gifts that matter, O God,

especially when the future seems uncertain.

Fill our lives with what matters, O God.

**Fill our lives with you.**

Generous God, today we pray for all whose lives seem empty:

for those whose lives are empty of joy

because the going is tough and friends seem far away…

because sorrow surrounds them…

because hearts are filled with anger or disappointment…

Fill our lives with what matters, O God.

**Fill our lives with you.**

Generous God, we remember before you those whose lives are empty of purpose

and those who do not know the respect of their neighbours:

because they are without work…

because they face discrimination in their communities…

because they have made poor choices and cannot find a way forward…

Fill our lives with what matters, O God.

**Fill our lives with you.**

Generous God, we remember before you those whose lives are empty of peace and hope:

because they struggle with illness or disability…

because they are powerless in the face of violence…

because old animosities rankle & opportunity for reconciliation is elusive…

Fill our lives with what matters, O God.

**Fill our lives with you.**

Good and generous God,

fill us with the energy and compassion of your Spirit

to reach out to those whose lives seem empty.

Fill our lives with what matters, O God.

**Fill our lives with you.**

**We ask all these things in Jesus’ name, 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**

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**CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*At the last supper, Jesus served his disciples,*

*and they ate and drank first. This was to fill them spiritually so*

*that they could then go out and serve others.*

*That is what we do now.*



**♫ \*Communion Hymn:** “As We Gather at Your Table” VU457

**Invitation**

**Holy Greeting**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Prayer**

It is right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: male and female, you created us. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel and, through your servants, Abraham and Sarah, gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses, you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets, you renewed your promise of salvation. Therefore, with them and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give you thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**Narrative of the Institution of the Lord’s Supper**

**The Mystery of Our Faith**

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!**

**Thanksgiving and Consecration**

**The Re-Enactment**

**Agnus Dei**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

**Have mercy upon us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

**Have mercy upon us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

**Grant us your peace.**

*(Let us be silent as we contemplate this holy and solemn act of worship)*

**The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine**

**♫ Hymn:** “Eat This Bread and Never Hunger” VU471

**Passing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for the invitation to your table. For there we have tasted your death and seen your resurrection; we have feasted at your table and have been filled with unending life. May we now return to the duties that await us in the world, ever more resolved to be faithful to you and loving to one another. Through Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God – world without end. Amen!**

**♫ \*Hymn:** “How Firm a Foundation” VU660

**\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Cor. 13:14). 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**

**Epistle Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11 (NIV)**

**1**This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: **2**“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” **3**So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. **4**But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. **5**Then the word of the Lord came to me. **6**He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the Lord. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. **7**If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted,

torn down and destroyed, **8**and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. **9** And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, **10**and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it. **11**“Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So, turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.’

**Gospel Reading:** **Luke 14:25‒33 (NIV)**

**25**Large crowds were travelling with Jesus, and turning to them, he said: **26** “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. **27**And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. **28**“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? **29**For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, **30**saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ **31**“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? **32**If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. **33**In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

**Praise the Source of Faith and Learning**

1. Praise the source of faith and learning

That has sparked and stoked the mind

With a passion for discerning

How the world has been designed.

Let the sense of wonder flowing

From the wonders we survey

Keep our faith forever growing

And renew our need to pray.

2. God of wisdom we acknowledge

That our science and our art

And the breadth of human knowledge

Only partial truth impart.

Far beyond our calculation

Lies a depth we cannot sound

Where your purpose for creation

And the pulse of life are found.

3. As two currents in a river

Fight each other’s undertow,

Till converging they deliver

One coherent steady flow,

Blend, O God, our faith and learning

Till they carve a single course,

Till they join as one, returning

Praise and thanks to you, the Source.

**God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty**

1. God, who touches earth with beauty,

Make my heart anew;

With your Spirit recreate me

Pure, and strong, and true.

2. Like your springs and running waters,

Make me crystal pure;

Like your rocks of towering grandeur,

Make me strong and sure.

3. Like your dancing waves in sunlight,

Make me glad and free;

Like the straightness of the pine trees

Let me upright be.

4. Like the arching of the heavens

Lift my thoughts above;

Turn my dreams to noble action,

Ministries of love.

5. Like the birds that soar while singing,

Give my heart a song;

May the music of thanksgiving

Echo clear and strong.

6. God, who touches earth with beauty,

Make my heart anew;

Keep me ever by your Spirit

Pure, and strong, and true.

**Take Up Your Cross**

1. Take up your cross, the Saviour said,

If you would my disciple be;

Take up your cross with willing heart,

And humbly follow after me.

2. Take up your cross; let not its weight

Fill your weak spirit with alarm;

Christ’s strength shall bear your spirit up,

And brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame,

Nor let your foolish pride rebel;

Your Saviour once accepted death

Upon a cross, on Calvary’s hill.

4. Take up your cross, and follow Christ,

Think not till death to lay it down;

For only those who bear the cross

May hope to wear the glorious crown.

**As We Gather at Your Table**

1. As we gather at your table,

As we listen to your word,

Help us know, O God, your presence;

Let our hearts and minds be stirred.

Nourish us with sacred story

Till we claim it as our own;

Teach us through this holy banquet

How to make Love’s victory known.

2. Turn our worship into witness

In the sacrament of life;

Send us forth to love and serve you,

Bringing peace where there is strife.

Give us, Christ, your great compassion

To forgive as you forgave;

May we still behold your image

In the world you died to save.

3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon

Other guests to share that feast

Where triumphant Love will welcome

Those who had been last and least.

There no more will envy blind us

Nor will pride our peace destroy,

As we join with saints and angels

To repeat the sounding joy.

*As We Gather at Your Table, Carl P. Daw, Jr.*

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**Eat This Bread and Never Hunger**

**Refrain:**

*Eat this bread and never hunger,*

*Drink this cup and never thirst;*

*Christ invites us to the table*

*Where the last become the first.*

1. Asking for a cup of water,

Jesus touched forbidden ground;

And the woman, with a question,

Told the world what she had found.

**Refrain**

2. Walking down a desert highway,

Jesus healed a man born blind;

Soon the man became a witness

To the truth we seek and find.

**Refrain**

3. Weeping for his friend at graveside,

Jesus felt the pain of death;

Yet he knew God’s power to waken:

Living water, living breath.

**Refrain**

*Eat This Bread and Never Hunger, Daniel Charles Damon*

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**How Firm a Foundation**

1. How firm a foundation, you servants of God,

Is laid for your faith in God’s excellent word!

What more can be said than to you has been said,

To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2. “Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!

For I am your God and will still give you aid;

I’ll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,

Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

3. “When through the deep waters I call you to go,

The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;

For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,

And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

4. “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,

My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:

The flame shall not hurt you; I only design

Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

5. “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose

I will not—I will not desert to his foes;

That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,

I’ll never—no, never—no, never forsake!”