**seventh sunday after pentecost- july 24, 2022**

**zion, philipsburg**

**land acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples. We give thanks to the Creator for this great gift and recognize our responsibility as treaty people to care for the land and waters that nourish us and give us strength. We also acknowledge that it is our duty to do more to learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, caretakers, and sojourners.

**announcements**

Welcome to worship on this 7th Sunday after Pentecost, July 24. I am back form holidays, Greg and I had a wonderful time on Yellowknife, our flights were mostly uneventful save for needing to run from one end of the airport to another to catch our connector flights and some delayed luggage for 24 hours. We relaxed, we fished, we walked, we ate way too much and most importantly we spent time with family. Thanks to Jane and Brenda for leading worship while I was away. Upon returning home I attended the ELCIC National Convention, online. It was shortened this year to business only. The Nith Valley will be well represented at the National level, Bruce Cook was elected as Vice Chair of National Church Council and Heidi Van Shaik was elected to Council for her first time. Both Bruce and Heidi are members of Trinity, New Hamburg.

We’ve had some hot weather as of late, some much needed rain and thunderstorms as well. For those who have gardens, they are beginning to produce God’s bounty…I had fresh peas, beans, beets, and lots of kale this week. Flowerbeds are also brimming with colour.

Are there any other announcements this morning?

Let us take a moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**GATHERING SONG*****Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* (ELW 533)**

1 Open now thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty  
waits for God who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place,  
filled with solace, light, and grace!  
  
2 Gracious God, I come before thee;  
come thou also unto me;  
where we find thee and adore thee,  
there a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter thou,  
let it be thy temple now!  
  
3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted,  
here thy seed is duly sown;  
let my soul, where it is planted,  
bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
so that all I hear may be  
fruitful unto life in me.  
  
4 Thou my faith increase and quicken,  
let me keep thy gift divine;  
howsoe'er temptations thicken,  
may thy word still o'er me shine  
as my guiding star through life,  
as my comfort in all strife.  
  
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,  
let thy will be done indeed;  
may I undisturbed draw near thee  
while thou dost thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows;  
here is balm for all our woes.

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32**

A reading from Genesis.

20Then the Lord said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! 21I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.”  
 22So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. 23Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? 25Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” 26And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” 27Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. 28Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” 29Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” 30Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” 31He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” 32Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 138 – READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE**

1I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
  before the gods I will sing your praise.  
 2**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;** **for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**  
 3When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.  
 4**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,** **when they have heard the words of your mouth.**  
 5They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.  
 6**The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,** **perceiving the haughty from afar.**  
 7Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.  
 8**You will make good your purpose for me;** **O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works | of your hands. R**

**SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]**

A reading from Colossians.

6As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.  
 8See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. 9For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. 11In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; 12when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. 13And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, 14erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. 15He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.   
 16Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. 17These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 18Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, 19and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.]

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”2He said to them, “When you pray, say:  
 Father, hallowed be your name.  
  Your kingdom come.  
  3Give us each day our daily bread.  
  4And forgive us our sins,  
   for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
  And do not bring us to the time of trial.”  
 5And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ 7And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ 8I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.  
 9“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 10For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? 12Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? 13If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*****What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (ELW 742)**

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
oh, what needless pain we bear--  
all because we do not carry  
ev'rything to God in prayer!  
  
2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
  
3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Our prayer response this morning is hymn number 752, Lord Listen to Your Children Praying. Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer. *A brief silence.*

Rooted and built up in Christ, we pray for the church. Embolden church leaders and congregations to take risks for the sake of the gospel, and equip the baptized to proclaim your extravagant love for the whole world. We sing……

Rejoicing in the works of your hands, we pray for the natural world. Make rivers and lakes, oceans and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance. Protect our local water sources…the Grand, Nith, and Thames Rivers and our Great Lakes. Bring relief to all around our world who are living with extreme heat and droughts due to the effects of climate change. We sing…..

Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world. Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve. We sing…

Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer from illness or injury *especially* Sarah, Chris, Anne, Ruth, John, Phyliss, Marion, Rob, our members in long term care, Esther, Robert, Barbara, Evelyn and those we name either out loud or in the silence of our hearts. We sing….

Abounding in thanksgiving, we pray for this congregation. Bless the prayer and fellowship ministries in this place. Call us together in times of praise and blessing, trouble and sorrow, in your holy name. We sing…..

Reconciling God, we pray for justice, peace, and attentive listening as Pope Francis visits Canada to apologize for the trauma caused by the church’s handling of residential schools in our country. May this visit continue the path to reconciliation and truth and bring a measure of healing to our Indigenous siblings. We sing…

Buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him to new life, we give thanks for your saints who rest in your eternal presence. Join our voices with theirs as we sing of your great glory. We sing…..

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)**

Let us pray.

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher, your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word. All that has life and breath praises your name.

For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God.

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world. He healed the sick, fed the hungry,

preached your mercy, and called us to faith.For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God.

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word, that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption, and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world.

For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God.

Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer, for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior. Amen.

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,** **hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,** **thy will be done,** **on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those** **who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,** **but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,** **and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you,

and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*God Be with You Till We Meet Again* (ELW 536)**

1 God be with you till we meet again;  
by good counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.  
  
Refrain  
Till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again,)  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again.)  
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;  
holy wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again. Refrain  
  
3 God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you;  
God be with you till we meet again. Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

**Thanks be to God.**

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