

**NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, July 25, 2021

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*9th Sunday after Pentecost*

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**Music as We Gather**

**Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community**

The 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for George & Mary Shintani

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary for Joh & Shirley Berwick

The 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary for Bob & Nancy Parr

**Acknowledgement of the Land:**

As we gather, we acknowledge that we meet and live on the traditional territories of the Mississauga Anishinaabe People. We give thanks for their care for the land over thousands of years and for their deep spirituality and honouring of the Creator and the creation. May we live with respect in God's creation and in harmony with our neighbours.

**Call to Worship:**

One: Called to hear the voice of the Holy.

**All: Hopefully, we will listen to that voice.**

One: Called to follow the guidance of the Holy.

**All: Hopefully, we can put aside our own wants and desires as we hear that guidance.**

One: Let us worship.

**All: Let us worship God. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: VU562**

“Jesus Calls Us”

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'
- 2 Long ago apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
'Christian, love me more than these.'

5 Jesus calls us: by your mercies,  
Saviour, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

### Opening Prayer

#### Words of Assurance:

One: As we celebrate our resurrection faith, the Spirit of the Holy blows among us and within us...

**All: ...we are challenged to live our faith actively with compassion, as we live and learn together in the midst of Holy Grace.**

One: In the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ...

**All: ...Amen.**

#### First Lesson: 2 Samuel 11:1-15

*Judith Tansley*

<sup>11:1</sup> In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. <sup>3</sup> David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." <sup>4</sup> So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. <sup>5</sup> The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

<sup>6</sup> So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. <sup>7</sup> When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. <sup>8</sup> Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. <sup>9</sup> But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. <sup>10</sup> When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" <sup>11</sup> Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." <sup>12</sup> Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, <sup>13</sup> David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

<sup>14</sup> In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. <sup>15</sup> In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

#### Young at Heart Time:

*"Sharing Time"*

#### Psalm Selection: VU735

Psalm 14

One: Dear God, who loves all humankind,

**All: forgive our foolish ways.**

One: The foolish have spoken in their heart, and said, "There is no God."

**All: They are corrupt; they do abominable things; there is no one who does what is good.**

One: God looks down from heaven upon us all, to see if any are wise and seek after God.

**All: But all have gone astray; all alike are corrupted; there is no one who does good, no, not one.**

One: Dear God, who loves all humankind,

**All: forgive our foolish ways.**

One: Have they no knowledge, all those who do evil?

**All: They devour my people like so much bread, and do not pray to God.**

One: But see, they still tremble with fear, for God is on the side of the righteous.

**All: Do not mock the hope of the poor, for God is their refuge.**

One: O that deliverance for God's people would come forth from Zion!

**All: When God restores the fortunes of the people, then shall Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!**

One: Dear God, who loves all humankind,

**All: forgive our foolish ways.**

### **Music for Meditation**

**Gospel Lesson:** John 6:1-21

*Judith Tansley*

<sup>6:1</sup> After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup> A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup> When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

<sup>15</sup> When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup> Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

One: As the Holy One moves within and around us, the stories of our faith are filled with examples of God's grace and compassion.

**All: May these stories inform, guide, transform, and challenge us as children of the Holy.**

One: In the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ...

**All: ...Amen.**

**Hymn: VU507**

"Today We All Are Called to be Disciples"

1 Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make ploughshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,

to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.

- 2 God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud,  
we sow not peace but strife,  
our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.
- 3 Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.
- 4 May we in service to our God  
act out the living Word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.

**Meditation:**

*"Human Err"*

**The New Creed:**

One: Let's share together in the New Creed:

**All: We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Hymn:

*"I am Thine, O Lord"*

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,  
And it told Thy love to me;  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,  
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain:

*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To the cross where Thou has died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To Thy precious, loving side.*

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,  
By the pow'r of grace divine;  
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,  
And my will be lost in Thine. Refrain

O the pure delight of a single hour  
That before Thy throne I spend,  
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God,  
I commune as friend with friend! Refrain

There are depths of love that I cannot know  
Till I cross the narrow sea;  
There are heights of joy that I may not reach  
Till I rest in peace with Thee. Refrain

## Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

### Dedication of Our Gifts

**An Affirm Minute:** *"The Church and Gender Diversity"*

*Judith Tansley*

Many church ministries are going through a process to declare that they are Affirming—enabling the full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Despite these efforts, stories of heartache and healing continue to unfold.

In 2011 a series of events were held to listen to the experiences of LGBTQ\* people in the United Church. At one of these events a trans participant lamented, "after coming out I was informed that [the church] did not want me to stay... I had no opportunity to explain or attempt reconciliation or even to say goodbye. My head has adjusted - my heart is still torn apart."

There are also healing stories. Rita tells her story of a local United Church response to her formal request to join as a trans woman, "The congregation voted unanimously to accept me, and they apologized to me for 'ever having to think you had to ask'..." After facing so much rejection, *to be accepted and believed without having to be understood* was a healing experience.

Gender identity is self-determined and reflects our personal understanding of gender in regards to our own embodied experience. "Trans" is an umbrella term that refers to people whose gender identity and/or gender expression is different from their biological or assigned sex (transgender, transsexual, MTF/FTM, genderqueer, etc.).

The United Church of Canada affirms that all human beings are made in the image of God and welcomes people of all gender identities into full membership and ministry. God loves us all (Psalm 139, John 1:1–5, Acts 10:34–43).

We continue to listen to stories of trans people and learn how to become more welcoming. The resource Celebrating Gender Diversity, provides practical tools on gender identity and trans experiences for individuals and communities of faith.

### **Prayers of the People, A Prayer for COVID, & the Lord's Prayer:**

As we conclude our Prayers of the People this morning, I would like us to share a Prayer for our COVID journey followed by the traditional Lord's Prayer:

Loving and Caring God, we have done everything we've been told: worn masks, stayed home, gotten our shots – isn't it about time all this is over?

Let us remember always that no, this is not over: it's not over for people in so many places we never think about; people whose lives were already a struggle now overflowing with illness and loss and grief, and often with no masks, no shots, no way to stay safe at home.

Remind us, God of the whole world, that the whole world is our family. That this won't be all over until it is over for all. And let us do all we can to give our whole-world family what we take for granted: hope for a future. In the name of the one who gave us these words, Our Father...Amen.

### **Closing Hymn: VU567**

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

- 1 Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?
- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?

5 Christ, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

**Blessing as We Go Forth:**

One: As our time together comes to an end...

**All: ...the Spirit of the Creator stirs us to live faithfully and love openly as we celebrate a living, active faith!**

One: As we journey together, we hope to transform our world into one of compassion, acceptance, and equality as we share the grace of the Holy.

**All: In the name of Jesus, the Risen Christ, Amen and Amen!**

**Music as We Depart**

**Prayer Cycle**

As church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.  
Regional Council Prayer Cycle  
for the week of July 25, 2021

**Cobourg: Trinity Pastoral Charge  
Trinity United Church, Cobourg**

*[East Central Ontario Regional Council]*

***THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS - July 25, 2021***

<b>Duty</b>	<i>Barry Cowling</i>
<b>Elevator</b>	<i>Dave Sherwin</i>
<b>Contact Tracing Rep</b>	<i>Bev Sherwin</i>
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	<i>Joan Findlay, Pat Murduff</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	<i>Judith Tansley</i>
<b>Congregational Elder</b>	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
<b>Sound</b>	<i>tbd</i>
<b>Videographer</b>	<i>Kathy Common</i>

**“Worship Services” are available weekly  
on our YouTube channel, which can be found on our website:**

[www.northminsteruc.ca](http://www.northminsteruc.ca)



Click to view our latest video

Please pre-register on “Eventbrite” located on church website: [www.northminsteruc.ca](http://www.northminsteruc.ca)  
For “In Person” Worship

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Click on for link: [CanadaHelp.org](http://CanadaHelp.org)

Donations can be mailed to: 300 Sunset Blvd., Peterborough, ON K9H 5L3  
Or delivered personally.

During Covid restrictions, envelopes can be placed in  
mail slot located to the left of the back door just off the parking lot.

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