

**Order of Service**  
**September 24, 2023**

**Welcome & announcements**

- \* Land Acknowledgment
- \* Celebrations & Concerns
- \* Birthdays & Anniversaries
- \* Lighting the Christ Candle

**Call to worship**

*Minister* For the brightness of field and the warmth of the sun,  
**All We give you thanks, O God.**

*Minister* For the changing of seasons and the gentling of friends,  
**All We give you thanks, O God.**

*Minister* For work to be done and laughter to share  
**All We give you thanks, O God.**

*Minister* We thank you, and know that through struggle and pain,  
in the sometimes slippery path of the new life Jesus offers,  
hope will be born  
**All We give you thanks, O God;**  
**For all shall be well.**

*Minister* Family of God, from whom does our help come?  
**All Our help comes from the Lord,**  
**the maker of heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8***

**Song of readiness: Holy, Holy, Holy**  
*(VU 315 v.1)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty**  
**Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee**  
**Holy, Holy, Holy, Merciful and mighty**  
**God-in-Three-Persons: Blessed Trinity**

**Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

**God, so much of faith is waiting,  
like a pregnant woman waiting in hope,  
like a people under siege, holding out until relief comes,  
like a soul lost in the darkness,  
unable to see even a glimmer of light  
yet stumbling through the night because somewhere  
out ahead, day will surely break.**

**God, be with us in our waiting. Amen.**

\* "Waiting" by Helen Steven. The Pattern of our Days. Kathy Galloway, ed.

***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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

**Opening hymn: Come In, come in and sit down  
VU 395**

**Chorus:**

Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.

1

You know the reason why you came,  
yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family. R

2

God is with us in this place,  
like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace,  
for we are a part of the family. R

3

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;  
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.  
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,  
but we are a part of the family. R

4

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.  
So come in and worship and answer the call,  
for we are a part of the family. R

**Greeting Christ in All of Us - Passing the Peace**

**The ministry of music - Our Choir Presents...**

**Children's hymn: *The Love Round***

Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
And all your soul and all your mind and  
love all humankind as you would love yourself

Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
And all your soul and mind and love all humankind

We've got Christian lives to live  
We've got Jesus Christ to give  
We've got nothing to hide  
Because in God we abide... Love

### **A time for all God's children**

**The offering: We give thee but thine own  
VU 543**

We give thee but thine own,  
What e'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine alone,  
A trust O Lord, from thee

### **Dedication of the offering**

**Singing into prayer: Lord, listen to your children  
VU 400**

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

### **Pastoral Prayer**

We hardly know what to say, so even praying can seem difficult and un-focused at best. But that's okay, because the Spirit can help us, and even pray for us, when we don't know what to say or even how to feel.

***The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." (Rom 8:24-26)***

Whatever you do, be sure to hug your loved ones today, and let them know that we will all be held securely in God's arms.

*Minister* Let us by prayer and intercession with thanksgiving make our requests to God. (PAUSE)

Gracious God, we pray for peace, justice and reconciliation throughout the world. We pray for the honouring of human rights, and for the relief of the oppressed. We give thanks for all that is gracious in the lives of men, women and children.

**All** **May your kingdom come  
and your will be done.**

*Minister* We pray for the renewal of the Church in faith, in love and service. We pray for Richard the newly installed Moderator of the United Church of Canada, and for the life and work of the South Mountain – Hallville Pastoral Charge. We give thanks for the gift of your word, the grace of the sacraments and the fellowship of your people.

**All** **May your kingdom come  
and your will be done.**

*Minister* We pray for our community and for all people in their daily life and

work. We pray for the young - especially those beginning a new school year; and we pray for the elderly - whose wisdom and joy of living gives us all hope; for families, and all who are alone. We give thanks for human skill & creativity & all that reveals your loveliness.

**All** **May your kingdom come  
and your will be done.**

*Minister* We pray for those who are in need; for the sick, sorrowful and bereaved. We pray for all who bring comfort, care and healing.

We give thanks for human love and friendship and for all that enriches our daily lives.

**All**    **May your kingdom come  
and your will be done.**

*Minister* Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

***Prayers may be offered out loud or in the silence of our hearts***

*Minister* Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

**All**    **Amen**

**Today's scripture: James 3: 1-12 (NRSV)**

Today's Scripture Reading    **James 3: 1-12 (NRSV)**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters,\* this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

May God bless to our understanding  
this reading of Holy Scripture

**Amen**

**Sermon: How do you know when a politician is lying?**

**Hymn: Come, O fount of every blessing**

**VU 559**

1

Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing  
call for songs of endless praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unfailing love.

2

Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God,  
came to rescue me from danger,  
precious presence, precious blood.

3

O, to grace how great a debt  
or daily I am drawn anew!

Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.

Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known:  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,

seal it for your very own.

**Benediction & Three-Fold Amen**