***Welcome***  ***to worship!***

**Sunday Aug 2, 2020**

**9th Sunday after Pentecost**

 ***A joint online Zoom worship Service with:***

***Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches and Guests***

***Worship Leaders:***

*Pastor Steven Loweth & Rev. Lionel Ketola*

Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

**Announcements & Today’s Worship Theme**

**We Gather to in Joyful Celebration**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

There was a man named Jesus, who embodied God’s love and compassion in such surprising ways. And he said: **I am the light of the world**

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us are gathered today. We pay my respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

**God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways. Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

Here we are as disciples:

**learners along the Way, mentored by Rabbi Jesus**

We are here as apostles

**“Sent out ones” commissioned by Jesus, to share the good news of God’s love.**

We are here to join followers of Jesus from every generation

**With them, we worship today, open to the Spirit’s voice.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**God of compassion,**

**whose heart goes out to the hungry and destitute;**

**You take our lack, and transform it into much.**

**Give us the bread that satisfies,**

**the food without price,**

**that our lives may be freed to share your overflowing love;**

**through Jesus Christ, the breaker of bread. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: Come my Way my Truth My Life VU # 628 VIDEO**

**Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be God:

Creator of sun and rain, field and ocean,

Bread of Life from Heaven,

Wind of the Spirit, at work in us and in our world.

**All: Amen.**

Jesus said: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind”. This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. The whole law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments”.

**God, we have sinned against You, our neighbours, and your creation, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. Have mercy on us.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

*We pray together:*

**Gracious God, forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**so we may delight in your will, and walk in your Way. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loves us unconditionally.

God’s grace and forgiveness are a free gift, lavished upon us.

If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

May God strengthen and renew you

and fill you with new life through the Spirit’s power.

**All: Amen.**

**We Open our Hearts to the Spirit’s Voice**

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

**All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.**

**First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31**

22The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

24Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” 27So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” 28Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.” 29Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. 30So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” 31The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. Holy Wisdom, Holy Word **Thanks be to God**

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

**Scripture Song: Just As I Am VU # 508 VIDEO**

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come! I come

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21**

13Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” 16Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” 17They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” 18And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 19Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word **Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Pastor Steven Loweth**

**We Joyfully Respond to the Good News**

**Hymn of the Day****:** **The Servant Song VU # 595 VIDEO**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts**

**Offering Prayer**

**Giver of Life**

**We offer up to you and our church**

**what we have in our baskets - whether large or small.**

**Accept all that we offer this day, and use our gifts to bring healing and hope to our world.**

**We ask this for your Love’s sake. Amen**

**Prayers for the People**

Loving and Giving God,

You are our Creator and Sustainer.

When You open Your hand,

You satisfy the hunger every living thing.

So we look to You whenever we are in need,
trusting in Your love and Your abundant goodness.

As You once fed the hungry crowds with five loaves and two small fish,

we ask that You again fill all those who are empty.

Today, we pray for those whose stomachs are empty.

We think especially of the people in Somalia and Eastern Africa

who are facing critical food shortages;

    who are suffering the effects of malnutrition and starvation;

        and watching helplessly as loved ones die.

**God, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are feeling lost because of Covid-19.

For those who are lonely and long for companionship and love,

        who are caught in the grip of depression,
            or overwhelmed with grief.

**God, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our churches. Goodwood, Fairbank and Claremont.

We long to be back together again

But this disease is keeping us apart.

We also know that going back too early may not be wise.

Please continue giving us guidance, so that we will

Make the right decisions so that we all will be safe.

**God, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

We now pray for all those in our communities and lives…….

**God, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

God, we praise You for Your abundant gifts in our lives.

Continue to pour out Your Spirit on us.

Fill us with Your compassion and love,

so that we would willingly share much of our abundance

with those who have need.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us these words….. **Our Creator in Heaven, hallowed be thy name…… Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah VU # 651 VIDEO**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

May the blessing of God:

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit

be with you now, and always.

**Amen!**

**Sung Blessing: Go Now in Peace Video**

**Dismissal:**

One: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Next Sunday’s Readings:** **August 9 – Tenth after Pentecost /** *Proper 14*

**Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28**

Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers.

**Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45*b*** (VU pp. 828–829 Parts One and Two)

Remembering Joseph.

**Romans 10:5–15**

The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.

**Matthew 14:22–33**

Jesus walks across stormy waters.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**Fall Book Study Group:**  Our new Fall Book Study group on **Rev. Lenny Duncan’s book: “Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.”** **will begin on Thursday Sept 10th, at 7 pm.** It will run for 6 weeks. This will be a joint book study group for members of Claremont, Fairbank and Goodwood United Churches, and will be co-led by Pastor Steve Loweth and Rev. Lionel Ketola. So join us for this challening and thought-provoking exploration of anti-racism and white priviledge from a Christian perspective.

**Joint Church Re-Opening Committee: (Goodwood and Claremont):** Will re-convene this Fall.

Date TBA.

**Stewards Meeting for Claremont United Church:** Thursday ed July 29th, at 7:00 pm, on Zoom.

**Goodwood United Church: Online Check-in: Tuesdays at noon, on Zoom.** Once our check in time has come to a conclusion, the group will proceed with our weekly Bible Study / “Conversations about Life”, so feel free to join us for this as well.

**Claremont United Church: Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon - Join us for a Zoom “drop-in” meeting** Everyone is invited to join us for these “Virtual Brock Café” Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community.

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**Continued Support for our Congregations**

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation’s ongoing ministries during this time.

* Offerings can be **mailed to the church address** itself
* **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
* You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your bank. *next page.*

Send e-transfers for **Claremont United** to**: treasurercuc@outlook.com**

Send e-transfers for **Goodwood United** to: **goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com**

***Thank you for your continued support of our congregation’s ministry.***

****Find us online! Check out our websites!**

Check out our church websites for **new updates** during this time, including Sunday devotions, and information about coping with stress during COVID-19.

[www.claremontunitedchurch.com](http://www.claremontunitedchurch.com)

[www.goodwoodunitedchurch.com](http://www.goodwoodunitedchurch.com)



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