



Kilbride United Church
Sunday September 19, 2021
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Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The light of Christ shines anywhere and everywhere.

(light the candle)

We welcome the light

Announcements

Opening Hymn: VU 706 Give Thanks for Life

Thank you to Joseph Pettit at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Portland for sharing his musical gifts. I believe he is accompanied by Grant Edwards, the church's music director and organist... who is also an organ builder.

[Give Thanks for Life - YouTube](#)

- 1 Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 Give thanks for those who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 3 And for our own, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time or death or dread,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

4 Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain
lying in darkness does its life retain
in resurrection to grow green again,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Call to Worship:

One: God is with us throughout the years

All: God celebrates our births, our baptisms

One: God is with us in our struggles and defeats

All: God's presence is with us in all things

One: God is with us in life, in death, in life beyond death

All: God is ever faithful. Let us worship with Gladness! Amen

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Prayer of Illumination:

Let your word shine in each heart

Let your truth light our way.

Let your gospel inspire justice
and your grace give us wings.

Scripture: Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Reading: Found by Joanna Williams May 2015

Inspired by the sky outside of North Kipling Junior Middle School's Girls on the Rise program.

The sky above me stretches so wide
I look above and get lost in it
It is like the wideness and the fullness of Your love
So big, my soul gets lost
My heart stretches like the sky
Outside of its narrow thoughts and opinions
Into the wide wide space of Your love
It is here that though I am lost I feel found
Away from these narrow concrete passages
Away from the petty and the shallow
I find myself in the wideness of Your love
That forgiveness and grace that stretch across the sky
And challenge the depths of the ocean
I want to encase it all inside my heart
This wideness in Your sky
I want the depth and breadth and width of it in me
When I hear Your voice
And you whisper Your wisdom
When I see Your life
And it looks like the beauty of the sky
Wide and inviting
Welcoming and embracing
Full of beauty and grace
Your love and forgiveness flowing all over
The shallow petty narrow thoughts that fill our world
Unafraid to engage
The most broken places
The most narrow minds and hearts
The beauty of who You are
In all Your wide grace and forgiveness
Engaging with the broken narrow places
Of our human hearts and minds
And so You draw me and pull me
Into the wideness of who You are
Until my heart and soul feel at home only with You
With the wide sky above me
And the deep ocean around me
Their beauty and endless love
Defining my soul
Teaching me love in the hardest places
Wideness in the narrow places
So here I am found in You

Hymn: VU 271 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

I hope you enjoy this stirring performance broadcast on BBC One's Songs of Praise and recorded at St Mary-le-Tower in Ipswich. This beautiful parish church was almost entirely rebuilt in 1850-1853, but actually dates back eight centuries: according to the Domesday Book of 1086, the first church on this site flourished during the time of Edward the Confessor, who reigned 1042-1066.

[There's A Wideness In God's Mercy - YouTube](#)

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.
- 3 There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?
- 5 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Scripture: Proverbs 31: 10-31

- ¹⁰A capable wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
¹²She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
¹³She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant,

she brings her food from far away.
¹⁵She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.
¹⁶She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
¹⁷She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
²⁰She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
²¹She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
²²She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
²³Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
²⁹“Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”
³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
³¹Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Reflection

Hymn: VU 581 When We Are Living

Plymouth First United Methodist Church highlights the Spanish roots of this tune with the addition of tambourine, horns, and syncopated rhythms. Enjoy!

[When We Are Living - Hymn - PFUMC - YouTube](#)

- 1 When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
- 2 Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
- 3 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
- 4 Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
- 5 And when we gather, in the name of Christ,
We find our purpose and we find our faith
And as we journey, we share God's grace, and
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Minute for Mission

Prayer of Dedication/Offering:

We ask that as you leave, you may place your offering in the plate by the door.
Oh God, we give you thanks for our community of faith and we give in gratitude for
your watchful presence with us throughout the years. Amen

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 595 We Are Pilgrims on a Journey

I invite you to sing along with Peninsula United Church as they perform the "Servant Song," composed in 1977 by Richard Gillard. Born in England and raised in New Zealand, Gillard is a self-taught guitarist who plays mainly in a folk style.

[WE ARE PILGRIMS VU 595 - YouTube](#)

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Benediction: VU 349 A Prayer

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
walk with you on the road.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart
open your hearts to love.
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,
and may everyone you meet
see the face of Christ in you.

Online Postlude: Glorious

One Voice Children's Choir in Utah perform a cover of David Archuleta's "Glorious," a song celebrating purpose, belonging, and community. As the children sing, "It's like a symphony / ... / everyone plays a piece / and there are melodies / in each one of us / ohh it's glorious."

[Glorious by David Archuleta from Meet the Mormons | Cover by One Voice Children's Choir - YouTube](#)