



Carlisle/Kilbride United Church

**Hymn Sing**

**Sunday May 29, 2022**

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## **Greeting, Announcements, and Birthdays/Anniversaries**

**Gathering Song:** MV 14 Where Two or Three Are Gathered

[Neeraj Prem and Bruce Harding - Where Two or Three are Gathered - YouTube](#)

Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there, I am there.

### **Lighting of Christ Candle:**

One: The light of Christ shines anywhere and everywhere.

**All: We welcome the light.**

*(light the Christ candle and the four candles of the medicine wheel)*

### **Time for Reconciliation:**

As we join together in song this morning, we remember with gratitude that we live, love, pray, and sing within the territorial lands of the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe peoples, an area covered by the Dish with One Spoon Treaty. The treaty was so named to reflect how the land (represented by the dish) can be shared peacefully and cooperatively to the mutual benefit of all its inhabitants (represented by the single spoon). May our worship honour that spirit of respect and cooperation, and may we continue to seek right relations with all.

### **Call to Worship:** *(Beth Merrill Neel)*

Love surrounds us this day;

**Love that is the stuff of prayer, and love that is sung in a song.**

So God's love permeates our lives;

**From birth to death, we belong to this God who loves us.**

And so, as beloved people, let us worship God.

## **Opening Hymn:** VU 505 "As a Chalice Cast of Gold"

Thomas Troeger, who passed away just last month, is the lyricist for the 1984 hymn "As a Chalice Cast of Gold." Besides being a prolific hymnist, writer, and poet, he was also a professor at Yale Divinity School, an ordained minister in both the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches, and a flutist. He has produced over 400 hymn texts and poems and published 24 books, including *Music as Prayer: The Theology and Practice of Church Music*. In this series of reflections, Troeger writes,

[L]istening to beautiful music can be an act of prayer or meditation that restores and uplifts us. . . . [W]hen we listen to great music, the weary, warring voices that exhaust our energies are stilled and the fragments of the worlds in and around us are restored to a new wholeness. . . . [T]he profoundest prayers and yearnings of our hearts feel as if they are lifted upward into the presence of one who responds with descending angels. This is what we mean by *inspired*. . . . [A]fter listening to great music, we often have a new and profounder perception of reality. We realize dimensions of being that we had been oblivious to before: there is a wonder, a glory, and a beauty around and with us that we did not know until the music suffused our hearts and minds. This is also what we mean by *inspired*.

May we find inspiration in the hymns we sing today, and may the music we make restore and uplift us.

[Soprano Sasha Massey, As A Chalice Cast of Gold - YouTube](#)

1. As a chalice cast of gold,  
burnished, bright, and brimmed with wine,  
make me, God, as fit to hold  
grace and truth and love divine.  
Let my praise and worship start  
with the cleansing of my heart.

2. Save me from the soothing sin  
of the empty cultic deed  
and the pious, babbling din  
of the claimed but unlived creed.  
Let my actions, God, express  
what my tongue and lips profess.

3. When I bend upon my knees,  
clasp my hands, or bow my head,  
let my spoken, public pleas  
be directly, simply said,  
free of tangled words that mask  
what my soul would plainly ask.

4. When I dance or chant your praise,  
when I sing a psalm or hymn,  
when I preach your loving ways,  
let my heart add its amen.  
Let each cherished outward rite  
thus reflect your inward light.

**Prayer:** "Prayer of Commitment" (*Holley Gerth, inspired by 1 Corinthians 13:1-13*)

Lord,  
Because love is patient...  
Help me to be slow to judge, but quick to listen,  
hesitant to criticize, but eager to encourage,  
remembering your endless patience with me.

Because love is kind...  
Help my words to be gentle and my actions to be thoughtful.  
Remind me to smile and to say "Please" and "Thank You"  
because those little things still mean so much.

Because love does not envy or boast, and it is not proud...  
Help me have a heart that is humble and sees the good in others.  
May I celebrate and appreciate all that I have and all that I am,  
as well as doing the same for those around me.

Because love is not rude or self-seeking...  
Help me to speak words that are easy on the ear and on the heart.  
When I'm tempted to get wrapped up in my own little world,  
remind me there's a great big world out there full of needs and hurts.

Because love is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs...  
Help me to forgive others as you have forgiven me.  
When I want to hold onto a grudge,  
gently help me release it  
so I can reach out with a hand of love instead.

Because love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth...  
Help me stand up for what is right and good.  
May I defend the defenseless, and help the helpless.  
Show me how I can make a difference.

Because love always protects and always trusts...

Help me to be a refuge for those around me.  
When the world outside is harsh and cold,  
may my heart be a place of acceptance and warmth.

Finally, because love always perseveres...  
Help my heart continually beat with love for You and others.  
Thank you for showing us what the word love really means. Amen.

**Hymn:** VU 348 "O Love, How Deep"

The words to the ancient hymn "O Love, How Deep" date back to the late medieval period and are attributed to Thomas Hammerken, better known as Thomas à Kempis or Thomas from Kempen (1380-1471). At the age of twelve he travelled from his hometown in Germany to attend a Latin school in the Netherlands. The school was connected with the Brethren of the Common Life, a Roman Catholic community. He eventually became a member of this Brotherhood before entering a new religious house in the nearby town of Zwolle: it was here at the Monastery of Mount St Agnes that he took vows, became a copyist and writer, entered the priesthood, and was made sub-prior, the duties of which included instructing novices. He spent much of his time bent over a desk transcribing devotional and religious manuscripts, and his original works include biographies, tracts, hymns, and the popular Christian devotional book *Imitatio Christi*, or *The Imitation of Christ*. Four centuries later, Thomas à Kempis' hymn "O Love, How Deep" was translated from Latin to English by Benjamin Webb, a priest and composer in the Church of England. Although the melody first appeared in 1582 in a collection of late medieval Latin songs, the hands of several other composers over the years have transformed it into the music we find in *Voices United*.

["PUER NOBIS NASCITUR" on Streichpsalter - YouTube](#)

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high!  
It fills the heart with ecstasy,  
that God, in Jesus Christ, should take  
our mortal form for mortals' sake.
2. God sent no angel to our race  
of higher or of lower place,  
but wore the robe of human frame,  
and freely to this lost world came.
3. For us he was baptized, and bore  
a holy fast, and hungered sore;  
for us temptations sharply knew;  
for us the tempter overthrew.

4. For us he prayed, for us he taught,  
for us great daily works were wrought,  
by words and signs, and actions, thus  
still seeking not himself, but us.

5. For us to wicked foes betrayed,  
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us at length gave up his breath.

6. For us he rose from death again,  
for us he went on high to reign,  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7. To God whose boundless love has won  
salvation for us through the Son,  
to God all praise and glory be  
both now and through eternity.

**Hymn:** VU 333 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Penned in 1747, the lyrics "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" are considered one of English cleric and hymnist Charles Wesley's greatest texts. He was the youngest son and eighteenth child of Anglican cleric and poet Samuel Wesley and his wife Susanna, and his brothers John and Samuel the Younger were similarly clerics and poets. Charles is said to have written no fewer than *6500 hymn texts!* Hymnary.org provides interesting comments on "Love Divine," which was sung at the televised wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011:

This ceremony was so celebrated because it represented the "dream" for romance – a prince finding his princess, true loves coming together, and a couple rising above the odds to be together. This, we argue so easily, is love. And yet this hymn reorients us to see that this beautiful wedding and marriage is only, and can only ever be, a reflection of the Love above all loves. We are only able to love one another because Christ first loved us. God is love, and we are the mirrors and bearers of that love to each other. Let us pray that we would continually be filled with Love, that we might bless each other, and become more and more like He who loves us.

[Blaenwern, Love Divine - Prince William and Kate Middleton Royal Wedding - YouTube](#)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,

fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Scripture:** VU 760 "Psalm 33"

***Refrain: A new song to our God proclaim, from age to age rejoice!***

Shout to God for joy, you righteous!  
Praise is fitting from loyal hearts.

**Give thanks to God with the harp;  
sing praise to God with the ten-stringed lute.**

Sing a new song to God;  
play skillfully and with shouts of joy.

**For the word of God is true;  
God's every deed is faithful. R**

You love what is right and just;  
the earth is full of your constant love.

**By your word the heavens were made,  
the countless stars by the breath of your mouth.**

You gathered the waters of the sea as in a goatskin;

**you stored the deep in cisterns.**

Let all the earth fear you, O God,

**let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe.**

For you spoke and it came to be;

you commanded and it stood firm.

**You foil the plans of the nations,**

**and frustrate the schemes of the peoples.**

Your counsel, O God, shall stand forever,

the purposes of your heart through all generations.

**Happy the nation who has you as God.**

**Happy the people you choose as your own.**

Our heart rejoices in you, O God,

because our hope is in your holy name.

**Let your steadfast love be upon us**

**as we put our trust in you. R**

**Prayer of Illumination:** Let us hear and ponder – and wonder – and take it in – the mystery and the promise, the challenge and the hope that all lie here within the words of our Faith Stories. Amen.

**Scripture: John 13:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

**Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**Hymn:** MV 89 "Love Is the Touch"

On the website for Holy Trinity Dunfermline, part of the Scottish Episcopal Church, an anecdote is shared by a woman who was travelling on a 2.5-hour train ride to Aberdeen in 2018. She ended up switching seats and having a long conversation with another passenger, a woman who made weekly trips to visit her stepmother in an Aberdeen care home and who made productive use of her travel time by writing music and composing

hymns. This fellow passenger was Alison Robertson, Edinburgh musician, minister's wife, former teacher, secretary of the Scottish Stained Glass Symposium, and author of our *More Voices* hymn "Love Is the Touch." Although Robertson wrote this text twenty years before the train anecdote, can you imagine meeting a hymnist in unexpected circumstances? What would you say to Fanny Crosby, author of "Blessed Assurance," or Anna Bartlett Warner, author of "Jesus Loves Me," or Isaac Watts, author of "Joy to the World"? What conversation would you have with the author of your favourite hymn text if you could meet them on a train?

[Love is the Touch \(BBC Scotland Reflections at the Quay\) - YouTube](#)

1. Love is the touch of intangible joy;  
love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

2. Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;  
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

3. Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;  
love is the trust of a friend on the road;  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

4. Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;  
love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the path which the saints all have trod;  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

**Reading:** *(Ashley Danyew)*

*Music.* That thing which engages us, inspires us, connects us, empowers us, soothes us, and fills our spirits to the very brim, music lies within us and surrounds us in our everyday culture. The songs of the earth echo in our souls – we carry them in our hearts. *When words fail, music speaks.* We cannot keep silent. So, we sing. We sing about faith and love and experiences. We sing about spring and the change in seasons. We sing about singing. How can we not?

**Congregational Requests:**

*What are your favourite hymns? Which ones speak best to your heart?*



**Hymn:** "They'll Know We Are Christians"

As the story goes, Peter Scholtes wrote the hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians" while serving as a Catholic parish priest at St Brendan's in Chicago in the sixties. He was leading a youth choir out of the church basement and, when he couldn't find an appropriate song to accompany a series of ecumenical and interracial events for which the choir was to sing, he composed this accessible and folk-inspired hymn in a single day. In 1968 it was released on vinyl record along with a number of other hymns performed by the choir of St Brendan's Church and led by Scholtes (who was also a guitarist). The refrain is based on the scriptural passage from John 13:35.

[They'll Know We Are Christians Peter Scholtes 1966 - YouTube](#)

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
    And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
    Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *R*

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. *R*

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. *R*

**Stewardship Second:** By your love for one another, people will know that you are disciples of Jesus.

**Prayer of Dedication:**

Loving God, we share our gifts and resources, pleased to be part of your mission and excited to share with those around us. May they speak to the world of your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Hymn:** "All of the Gifts I Have" (*words by Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes, set to the tune of VU 341 "Fairest Lord Jesus"*)

Steve Garnaas-Holmes is a retired United Methodist pastor, poet, musician, retreat leader, and author of the daily blog *Unfolding Light*. On this website he posts reflections and worship resources rooted in a contemplative, Creation-centred

spirituality, often inspired by his practice of walking in the woods. Pastor Steve says, "A lot of poetry I write is essentially prayer. I think poetry and prayer are the same thing. In that sense, I don't really write it for an audience, only for God." Yet he also adds, "Part of the wonder of poetry is the possibility of conveying that wonder to somebody else. Through the poem, someone else might join in the conversation, with a different set of perceptions and questions or insight and experience. Somehow their contribution to the conversation enriches me in the same way someone else's prayer enriches me, even if I'm not aware of their prayer." This next hymn, "All of the Gifts I Have," contains original lyrics by Pastor Steve set to the tune of "Fairest Lord Jesus," and the poem that follows was published on his blog just this month.

[Fairest Lord Jesus \(Beautiful Saviour\) - Instrumental hymn duet with mom! \(Piano/Violin\) - YouTube](#)

1. All of the gifts I have, all that is within me,  
you give to me, O God, with care;  
all of my prayers and skills, passions and energies  
you grant to me to freely share.

2. Here are my hopes and dreams, attitudes and deepest loves,  
all of the treasure to which I cling.  
I will not hold them in, stilling my ardent song,  
but serving you I'll freely sing.

3. In all I keep or give, may I do my very best  
in everything I say and do,  
in harmony with you, only to love and bless,  
with joy, to serve and honour you.

**Poem/Prayer:** "As I Have Been Loved" (*Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes, 10 May 2022*)

*"I give you a new commandment,  
that you love one another  
just as I have loved you."*

– John 13.34

Beloved,  
may your love flow through me,  
your heart beat in mine,  
your Spirit breathe in me,  
that I may love as you have loved me:  
entering my life with gentleness,  
inviting me into your grace,

giving me a place of belonging in this amazing world,  
forgiving me entirely, healing me,  
calling forth the divine in me,  
finding delight in me,  
laying down your life for me.  
May I love as you have loved me  
and live gently, love deeply,  
forgive freely, give generously,  
bless boldly, and offer myself humbly,  
that, by your grace,  
you will live fully in me.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People:** *(including the Lord's Prayer)*

As part of Horseshoe Falls Region, each week we hold a community of Faith in our prayers. This week we pray for our sister church, [St Paul's Hamilton](#). We pray for their ministry and spiritual wellbeing.

**Closing Hymn:** VU 577 "I've Got Peace like a River"  
[Cedarmont Kids - I've Got Peace Like a River - YouTube](#)

1. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.  
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.
2. I've got joy like a fountain....
3. I've got love like an ocean....

**Benediction:** *(John Birch, www.faithandworship.com)*

The peace of God be in your heart  
The grace of God be in your words  
The love of God be in your hands  
The joy of God be in your soul  
and in the song that your life sings.

**Blessing Song:** VU 224 "Sing a Happy Hallelujah" *(refrain only)*  
[Sing a Happy Hallelujah - YouTube](#)

Hallelujah, all creation, hallelujah everyone!  
Hallelujah, all creation, hallelujah everyone!

**Postlude:** "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" (*arr. Mark Hayes*)

**Online Postlude:** "They'll Know We Are Christians" (*arr. Tommy Walker*)

Hope you enjoy this reprise of Peter Scholtes' 1966 hymn, reinterpreted here by Tommy Walker, an American worship leader, contemporary worship music composer, and recording artist. Walker is the musician singing and playing electric guitar in this video, which was recorded live at Bethesda Community Church in Fort Worth, Texas. ["They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" | Tommy Walker \(from Generation Hymns 3\) - YouTube](#)

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**Announcements:**

**May 29:** Annual General Meeting for CUC held after worship service

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays:** Devotional Group on Zoom at 9:30-11 am

**June 5:** Wesley's 31<sup>st</sup> annual Case for Kids at Bayfront Park – welcome to donate with "team Marilyn" or "Team Kilbride United Church"

**June 5:** Pentecost / Camping Sunday joint outdoor service at Carlisle at 10 am followed by a bring-your-own picnic lunch

**June 8:** Messy Church at Carlisle at 4:30 to 6

**June 12:** Memorial Sunday service and blessing the butterfly garden at Carlisle

**June 18:** Live Concert with "Sean and The Mothballs" in the field behind Carlisle United at 4 pm; free-will donation in support of refugee sponsorship; bring a lawn chair; hotdogs, hamburgers, and drinks available