

Northminster United Church
300 Sunset Blvd. Peterborough ON K9H 5L3
Tel# 705-748-4881
www.northminsteruc.ca † northminster@cogeco.net

Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry
minister@northminsteruc.ca
Music Director: Dustin Bowers
Sunday, July 12th, 2020

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Celebrations

 Birthday wishes to Taimi Henderson [95]
 Birthday wishes to Harold Sage [90]

Life and Work of the Community

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

One: The Great Creator calls us beyond the physical into the spiritual.

All: Called to celebrate that realm we feel is beyond our comprehension.

One: Called to worship through prayer, praise, and meditation!

All: Let us worship. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU216

“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

Opening Prayer:

One: Dear God, we come together in worship today as we celebrate living beyond the physical. We are a people of faith and we yearn to live and love in such a way that we realize there is more to this time and place than just the tactile world in which we find ourselves

All: Blessed One, encourage us to experience your presence beyond the five human senses. Challenge us to sense you through the spiritual gift of our hearts and souls. Implore us to connect with one another spiritually as well as physically, nurturing those spiritual gifts within all of us.

One: Are we ready to live beyond the physicality of our surroundings, accepting the presence of a realm beyond our senses? Are we willing to trust in your presence within and among us to nurture and nourish our spiritual gifts? Will we honestly and openly accept the spiritual gifts of others as they offer them with this faith-filled community Northminster Community? Hear us in the privacy of our own hearts as we offer up to you our prayers for growth and rebirth... (*Silent Prayer*). Amen.

All: Amen.

Words of Assurance:

One: The Holy gathers us in and sends us out. The Holy accepts us for who we are and encourages us to grow into all that we can become.

All: We are blessed. We are forgiven. We are loved.

First Lesson:

Romans 8:1-11

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh

set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Young at Heart Hymn: MV150

“Spirit God, Be Our Breath”

Young at Heart Time:

“Grandma’s Violets”

Psalm Selection: VU841 (Refrain 5)

Psalm 119:105-112

R: Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

One: Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

All: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous judgements.

One: I am in deep distress; give me life, O God, according to your word.

All: Accept, O God, the willing tribute of my lips, and teach me your decrees. R

One: I take my life into my hands continually, yet I never forget your law;

All: the wicked have laid a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts.

One: Your testimonies are my heritage forever, the very joy of my heart.

All: I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes, forever, even to the end. R

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹³ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!”

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

One: As the Holy One speaks to us from the stories of our faith history, may we hear the love and hope in the message.

All: Let us take the love and hope of the message to transform our lives and the communities in which we live.

One: In the name of the one called, Jesus.

All: Amen.

Music for Meditation

Meditation:

“Beyond the Physical”

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: VU371

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

Offertory Dedication: VU224

“Sing a Happy Hallelujah”

Sing a happy hallelujah, sing it out with heart and style,
We’re the echo of God’s laughter, we’re the image of God’s smile.
Hallelujah, all creation, hallelujah everyone!
Hallelujah, all creation, hallelujah everyone!

Dedication of Our Gifts

A Minute for Local Mission:

“Beyond the Pandemic”

As life begins to fall into the pattern of the new normal as the pandemic appears to be somewhat under control and we begin to reopen our lives, we must remember that the past several months has been the hardest on our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. That will not change as stores reopen and agencies become more easily accessible once again. However, if you don’t have enough money to buy food, what does it matter if the grocery stores are open? As some of the incentives to protect people from high energy costs and unattainable rent are reduced or removed as people return to employment, what will happen to you if you do not have a job to return to? If you felt isolated and alone before the pandemic restrictions were put in place, what will change for you when they are lifted?

Please keep in mind those agencies that stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable in our society – Kawartha Food Share, Crossroads and Cameron House Women’s shelters, the Brock Mission, One Roof Community Diner and the Youth Emergency Shelter not to mention United Way, our own Northminster United Church and so many other worthy causes needing time, talent and treasure.

The Holy encourages us to give to one another as the Holy gives to us. In Jesus name. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Closing Hymn: VU481

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: As the winds of the Holy blow among us...

All: ...the fire of the Holy burns within us!

One: We are blessed and transformed...

All: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

Sung Blessing: VU567 vs 5

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

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.

Amen

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