

WE GATHER
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
“HITTING THE RESET BUTTON: SHARING GOD’S
LOVE AS EXPERIENCED IN JESUS CHRIST”

Welcome:

Mission: “Emmanuel United Church shall be a caring, welcoming faith community, nurturing spiritual life and sharing God’s love and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.”

Territorial Acknowledgment:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The Christ candle is lit.

The Christ candle is lit,

but what does it mean? Why are we here?

The Christ candle is lit,

but does it touch our hearts?

Why do we keep coming?

(in a moment of silence)

The Christ candle is lit,

but does it change anything?

It is a light that flickers.

It is small and seemingly insignificant .

It’s made of ordinary material.

It’s rather unremarkable.

Yet, still, it speaks to us of Christ.

Written by: Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont
Pentecost 2 2020 (Year A) Prayers for Worship, The Gathering.

WE ENTER INTO GOD’S PRESENCE

Call to Worship:

The son of young Jewish woman:
who became pregnant before marriage,
who was born in a lowly animal shelter
and was laid to rest in a manger,
and visited by isolated shepherds
reveals Christ to us.

Someone who lived their life on the margins of society,

who ate with sinners and associated the disenfranchised of his day,
who had no status,
taking the form of a bond servant - a suffering dying servant,
reveals Christ to us.

God your expression

of vulnerable love

turns on its head

secular understandings

of power and authority.

Emmanuel, “God with Us” reveal yourself to us

through prayer and meditation,

help us to conform our living and loving

--our service to the image of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

Opening Prayer:

Come and visit us Holy Spirit,

come and pray in us Holy Spirit.

**God there is nothing outwardly attractive in
the image of a suffering servant, dying on a cross,
stripped of power and identity-the image makes us
uncomfortable.**

**Yet, as you choose the power of self-emptying love,
love’s power is realized and your authority is revealed in Christ’s
resurrection.**

**We sing “Fairest Lord Jesus, Beautiful Saviour”,
in this remarkable way we have come to experience
grace, forgiveness, healing and hope in Jesus Christ.**

**The world offers far more attractive options for attaining power
and authority:**

**dress a certain way, embrace a particular ideology, value
particular objects or pursuits.... brand yourself in a particular
way.**

**Help us to hear what the Spirit is saying to us who make up your
church, through your suffering servant.**

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Hymn: “Let Us Build a House” MV#1 (verses 1 and 5)

Prayer for Grace

God, renew us in your compassion and grace:
that our hearts may be opened to your presence,
and our minds may be filled
with the very mind of Christ.

May our hearts, minds and attitudes be conformed to
the image of Christ,
through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Thank you for renewing our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ.
Glory to you O Christ for you are our living word,
you are the source of our spiritual nurture, in life, death and
resurrection.

Time of Learning Together: “Moses didn’t have the answers-he
turned to God. Striking the rock was God’s remarkable idea.” (Exodus
17: 1-17)

The Lord’s Prayer:

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

New Testament: Matthew 21: 23-32

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Glory to you, O Christ.

Epistle Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Sermon: “He humbled himself”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of Response: “Water Flowing From the Mountains” MV#87

Offering

It’s easy to look to our own interests, but God calls us to look to the
interests of others. For in so doing, we share the mind of Christ. As we
present our offering, let us dedicate ourselves to lives of generosity
and sacrificial service.

Offertory Blessing:

**God of overflowing abundance,
when your people suffered from thirst,
you satisfied their need
with water from a rock.
Receive our gifts this day, O God,
And transform our gifts into blessing
that graces the lives of others
like everflowing streams. Amen.**

Lighting of the Prayer Candle:

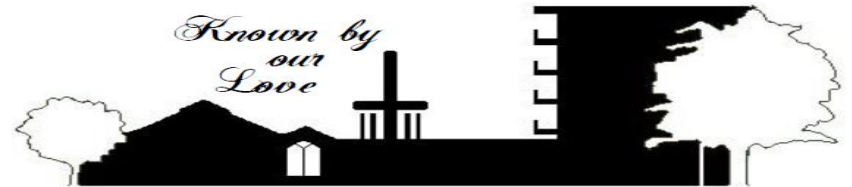
Prayer of the People

SENT TO SHOW CHRIST’S LOVE

Hymn: “Who Is My Mother?” MV#178

Benediction

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you,
now and forevermore. **Amen.**



Sunday September 27, 2020

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spiritual life and sharing God's love
and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.*