



21st September 2025

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship Sunday

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). In God's sovereignty, God has allowed other groups to migrate to these shores. We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now.

Cantor: Thank you for joining our Service often called Stewardship Sunday, as we not only celebrate the 15th Sunday in the season of Pentecost, but also the importance of being wise stewards of our time, money and resources. We welcome those watching via livestream. I invite you to stand to sing our opening hymn.

Opening Hymn: I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.

*Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.*

I was lost: but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way.

Yes, I'll sing...

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Minister's Welcome

As we gather together to worship, let's remember the words of Psalm 100:
We will enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
We will give thanks to him and praise his name.

**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

So with grateful hearts, let's enter God's presence and worship Him because He is good.

The Sentence

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Prayer of Approach

Assistant: Knowing the goodness of God and His generous love towards us, let us approach His throne of grace,

**Lord of the earth and everything in it, Creator of the land and sea:
cleanse our hands and purify our hearts,
that we may stand in your presence and worship you; keep us from idolatry,
save us from making false promises,
that we may seek your face and receive your blessing:
for you are the Lord almighty, the king of glory –
we open the door of our hearts as you come among us. Amen.**

Minister:

Prayer of the Day

O God, you are rich in love for your people: show us the treasure that endures and, when we are tempted by greed, call us back into your service and make us worthy to be entrusted with the wealth that never fails. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

The first reading is God's message spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 8 verses 18 through to chapter 9 verse 1.

¹⁸You who are my Comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me. ¹⁹Listen to the cry of my people from a land far away: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King no longer there?" "Why have they aroused my anger with their images, with their worthless foreign idols?" ²⁰"The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved." ²¹Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. ²²Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?

⁹Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm for today is number 79: 1-9.

¹O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple, they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.

**²They have left the dead bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the sky,
the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild.**

³They have poured out blood like water all around Jerusalem,
and there is no one to bury the dead.

**⁴We are objects of contempt to our neighbours,
of scorn and derision to those around us.**

⁵How long, Lord? Will you be angry forever? How long will your jealousy burn like fire?

**⁶Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge you,
on the kingdoms that do not call on your name;**

⁷for they have devoured Jacob and devastated his homeland.

**⁸Do not hold against us the sins of past generations;
may your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need.**

⁹Help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake.

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.

The second reading is from the first book of Timothy, Chapter 2 verses 1-10.

¹I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. ⁷And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles. ⁸Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. ⁹I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song: Lord Your Almighty Word

Lord, your almighty word chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.	Spirit of truth and love, life-giving holy dove, speed forth your flight; move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place let there be light.
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Saviour, who came to give those who in darkness live, healing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind, now to all humankind let there be light.	Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might, boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride, through the earth far and wide, let there be light.
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Hearing the Gospel of our Lord

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 16 verses 1-13. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ²So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'
³"The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg—⁴I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'
⁵"So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶"Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.'
⁷"Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' "A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'
⁸"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.
¹⁰"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? ¹³"No one can

serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Sermon: Br Bill Nicolle will share the message

Offertory Hymn: The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

His mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning,

new every morning:

great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord,

great is Thy faithfulness!

[Repeat]

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Giving and Offerings The minister will pray over the offerings.

The Prayer of the Week

Loving Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, and yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayers for the world and our community.

The intercessor on the roster will prepare prayers for:

A prayer for the world ... A prayer for all in authority ... A prayer for the church ...

A prayer for our community, and those on our prayer list ...

Let us pray together,

As we bring all our prayers before you, we ask that you go before us in all we do.

Strengthen us with your kindness and help, so that everything we begin, continue, and complete may bring honour to your name.

And in the end, by your mercy, bring us into everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please pray with me the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,

your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Confession

Assistant: Confident of God's goodness and his willingness to forgive us, let us bring the confession of sins before him.

Most merciful Father,

we admit that we can't do this on our own—we need your help.

We've strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We've followed too much the desires of our own hearts,

and failed you in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

We have left undone the good things we should have done. Only you can save us.

Have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and teach us how to forgive others.

Grow in us the fruit of your Spirit, so that we can live the new life

you've called us to—all for your glory.

We pray this in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen

Assistant: Please stand to hear God's promise of forgiveness.

Promise of Forgiveness

Our holy God forgives everyone who truly turns back to him and trusts in his good news. So we ask him to give us real repentance and the gift of his Holy Spirit, so that what we do now will bring him joy, and the way we live from here on will be pure and holy. Then, at the end, we'll share in his eternal joy—through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Loving God, we thank you for this world of wonder and delight. You have given it to us to care for, so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty. *Lord our God,*

we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that when we turned away from you, you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us, and bring us back to you. He showed us how to love you and set us free to love and serve one another. *Lord our God,*

we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that on the cross Jesus took away our sin, all that keeps us from each other and from you. He frees us from hate and fear, from all that destroys love and trust. *Lord our God,*

we give you thanks and praise.

And so with everyone who believes in you, with all the saints and angels, we rejoice and praise you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, and said:

'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said:

'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us.

Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We who are many are one body, **for we all share in the one bread.**

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

Announcements: Please refer to the church newsletter for notices.

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Gracious God thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love and that we are living members of Christ's body.

Most loving God, by whose power we are created, and by whose love we are redeemed:
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love for one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the love of Jesus Christ bring us wholeness, the grace of God the Father grant us peace, the breath of Holy Spirit ignite in us passion and the unity between them give us strength; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Father, I Place Into Your Hands

Father, I place into Your hands
the things that I can't do.
Father, I place into Your hands
the times that I've been through.
Father, I place into Your hands
the way that I should go,
for I know I always can trust You.

Father, I place into Your hands
my friends and family.
Father, I place into Your hands
the things that trouble me.
Father, I place into Your hands
the person I would be,
for I know I always can trust You.

Father, we love to see Your face,
we love to hear Your voice.
Father, we love to sing Your praise,
and in Your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with You
and in Your presence rest,
for we know we always can trust You.

Father, I want to be with You
and do the things You do.
Father, I want to speak the words
that You are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
that You will draw to You,
for I know that I am one with You.

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