



22nd Sunday after Pentecost

25th October 2026



Loving God and Loving Your Neighbour

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 today, as we celebrate the 22nd Sunday in the season of Pentecost. We welcome those watching via livestream. I invite you to stand to sing our opening hymn.

Opening Hymn: Come As You Are

'Come as you are: that's how I want you.
Come as you are; feel quite at home,
close to my heart, loved and forgiven.
Come as you are: why stand alone?

'No need to fear, love sets no limits;
no need to fear, love never ends;
don't run away shamed and disheartened,
rest in my love, trust me again.

'I came to call sinners, not just the righteous;
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

'Come as you are; that's how I love you;
come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you;
all will be well, just come as you are.'

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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 shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

(Matthew 22: 37-40)

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, whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law: stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love, so that we may love you with our whole being, and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

The first reading is from the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 34, verses 1 to 12.

¹Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, ²all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, ³the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. ⁴Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."

⁵And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. ⁶He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. ⁷Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. ⁸The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

⁹Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses. ¹⁰Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, ¹¹who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. ¹²For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

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

The Psalm for today is number 90: 1-6, 13-17.

¹Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

**²Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

³You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

**⁴A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.**

⁵Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—
they are like the new grass of the morning:

**⁶In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.**

¹³Relent, Lord! How long will it be?
Have compassion on your servants.

**¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

¹⁵Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.

**¹⁶May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendour to their children.**

¹⁷May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—

yes, establish the work of our hands.

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.

The second reading is from the 1st book to the Thessalonians, chapter 2 verses 1-13.

¹You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ²We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. ³For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority.

⁷Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

¹³And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

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

Gospel Song: God Has Spoken to His People

*God has spoken to His people,
alleluia,
and His words are words of wisdom,
alleluia!*

Open your ears, O Christian people,
open your ears and hear good news;
open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you.

God has spoken...

They who have ears to hear His message,
they who have ears, then let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear God's word!

God has spoken...

Israel comes to greet the Saviour,
Judah is glad to see His day;
from east and west the peoples travel,
he will show the way.

God has spoken...

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Hearing the Gospel of our Lord

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 22 verses 34 - 46.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

⁴¹While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴²"What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied.

⁴³He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, ⁴⁴"The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."

⁴⁵If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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

The Sermon: Rev Alison Wooden will be presenting the message today

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayer of the Week

Almighty and everlasting God, give to us the increase of faith, hope and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us to love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon you and set you free from all your sins. Strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life 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.**

Offertory Hymn: Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars
and the sun;
And I came down from heaven
and I danced on earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth:

*Dance then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he;
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John
they came with me and the dance went on:
Dance then, ...

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black:
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance and I still go on:
Dance then, ...

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me high,
And they left me there on a cross to die:
Dance then, ...

They cut me down and I leap up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die:
I'll live in you as you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he:
Dance then, ...

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Giving and Offerings The minister will pray over the offerings.

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.

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.**

Announcements: Please refer to the church newsletter for notices.

The Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those you love now and for ever more. **Amen.**
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord:
she is his new creation by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord,
one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder, men see her
sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping,

their cry goes up, 'How long?'
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore,
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give to us the grace
like them, the meek and lowly,
in heaven to seek your face.

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