

World Communion Sunday

# Grace United Church

October 2, 2022, 10:30am



## Today's Worship

### God Gathers Us with Grace

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

Grace United acknowledges that we stand on the ancestral land of the Huron, Anishinaabe, and Chippewa Indigenous nations. For 5000 years it was traditional fishing and hunting ground. Through the Huron Tract Treaty of 1827, it was ceded to early settlers. We will do our best to uphold the promise to take care of the land, and to live in respect and understanding with our indigenous brothers and sisters.

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world,  
**may its light brighten our spirits, may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.**  
**Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

We come as guests invited to a table;

**We come to celebrate with friends and neighbours.**

Jesus Christ, our Friend and Saviour, invites us to gather:

**We gather with his friends around the world.**

Come and worship with hearts full of God's praise and promise.

**We worship God in gladness, for God's faithfulness endures forever.**

## **Opening Prayer**

Holy and gracious God,

we gather as seekers, lovers, disciples, and friends.

We gather to give you thanks for the blessings of our lives and to replenish and refuel for the road ahead.

We gather to learn the wisdom of your way and feel the warmth of your love.

Bless this gathering as we join together in wholehearted worship. Amen.

**Hymn: VU#395 'Come In, Come In and Sit Down'**

## **Prayer of Confession**

God of mercy and mystery, When you invite us to your table,

you ask us to come with clean hands and open hearts.

You ask us to come in peace, seeking reconciliation with you and with each other.

In this silence, we hand over to you the broken relationships, disagreements and disappointments that keep us from living in your peace.

**Free us from the burdens we carry which we share in this silence.**

**so that we may be a source of peace in this troubled world:**

*...silence is kept...*

## **Words of Affirmation**

Hear and believe this good news!

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone, new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven.

Have the courage to forgive one another, and be at peace – with God, with your neighbor and with yourself.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **Time with the Young and Young at Heart**

**Hymn: VU# 402 'We Are One'**

## **Listen to the Word of God**

### **Scripture Reading**

New International Reader's Version

Luke 14:15-24, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 12:12-13

The Living Word, I listen with my heart, my mind and my spirit.

**Thanks be to God**

Ministry of Music

**Celebration of Holy Communion**

Invitation to Communion

Today is World Wide Communion Sunday. We mark a Christian ritual that is shared by many sisters and brothers in other denominations, the celebration of the last supper our communion meal. Come, people of God; come and taste the goodness of the Lord.

And all, all of us, are welcomed to this Table.

The Great Thanksgiving

May the God of all be with you!

**May that God be with you, as well!**

We will join our hearts with all of God's people,

**offering them to the God who loves us.**

God fills our hearts, our lives, with overflowing grace.

**With voices in every tongue, of every faith,**

we will sing our praises to God.

**We offer glory and thanksgiving to our God.**

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of all, God of each.**

**All creation everywhere joins in praising you. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who calls us to the Table of life. Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy is your Son Jesus, O God,

Walking this earth, feeding the hungry, calling the lost, noticing the forgotten,

healing those who reached out, teaching those who sought wisdom,

he revealed your kingdom in our midst.

Today we thank you for all Jesus shared with us

to show us that you are always with us in times of plenty and times of pain.

And so we celebrate the mystery of our faith in him:

**Christ died, so we might know the depths of love;**

**Christ is risen, so we might know the strength of love;**

**Christ will come again, so we might know God's steadfast love for us.**

The Story of the Last Supper

At this time, we remember Jesus, Who on the night before he died, took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said,

“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,

“This is the new covenant; remember me.”

### **Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup**

This is the body of Christ broken for you. [*Gesture broken bread*]

This cup is the blood of Christ shed for you. [*Gesture pour cup*]

May we all, as with your kingdom vision, gather around

Your One Table of grace, hope, love, Shalom. Amen.

Gracious God, Breath of peace, Source of love, we pray for your Spirit.

**Make us, while many, one.**

**Make us, though broken, whole.**

**Make us, despite death, alive.**

And so we pray:

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

And so we join with our siblings around the world in the prayer of Jesus...

*The Lord's Prayer*

### **Sharing of the Meal**

The body of Christ,

**the Bread of life.**

The lifeblood of Christ,

**the cup of blessing.**

Let us eat and drink together

for our strengthening in the faith,

and for the sake of the world.

*Communion is served*

### **Refrain: VU 466 Eat This Bread (sing 3 times)**

Eat this bread, drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.

### **Prayer After Communion**

The grace of Jesus, the Christ be with us all. Let us pray together,

**Life-giving Creator, may we, who share this celebration of faith, live life renewed; we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope that you dwell within us and all creation, so that we and all your children shall be free, and all creation will live to praise your name. Amen.**

## Responding to God's Word

### The Gift of our Offering

Hymn: VU # 477 'I Come with Joy'

### Offering Prayer

### Prayers of the People

*Let us center our hearts in prayer...*

## Sending Us in God's Love

### Benediction

Go into the world this week knowing you are anointed and blessed without limit.

Share the blessing of God with friends, neighbours, even strangers.

Reach out, extend yourself, and let God surprise you.

Be blessed and be a blessing this week and all your days. Amen.

**Choral Response: 'Go now in peace'**

**Postlude**