**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024**

**25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**WITH THE CELEBRATION OF REMEMBRANCE DAY**



**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

Jesus said (Matthew 18:20): “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” We light the Christ candle as a reminder that we are not alone. May its flame warm our hearts and inspire us to live the message of the gospel. *(light the Christ candle, and then the 3 pillars)*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

**VU #958 Halle, Halle, Halle!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGEs9UGIi4w>

Halle, halle, halle–lujah!

Halle, halle, halle–lujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

***(****repeat as many times as your musician chooses)*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome, everyone, to this service of remembrance. We have gathered here with gratitude to recognize the sacrifices of our Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members who have offered themselves in service to our country.

At the same time, we realise that others, from other countries both allies and those opposing have also made similar sacrifices.

On this Sunday before the 11th day of the 11th month, we remember the courage, loyalty, integrity, and service of those who have served by putting the needs of others before their own needs. The freedoms we enjoy today would not be possible without them.

 A special thank you to our coffee hour volunteers each month! Volunteering on December 15th are Heather & Veronica. We are looking for volunteers to host the next coffee hour on January 5th. If you are willing to help, please contact Heather.

 Office hours are Wednesday from 9:00 – 3:30.

Thank you for everyone! Covenant United donated fifty-eight pairs of socks to Socks Timmins!

 If you know someone who needs comfort, please help yourself to a prayer shawl on the shawl ladder at the back of the sanctuary.

 Red Solo Cup Single serving Soup returns after Thanksgiving. If you have an extra cup or so to donate, please freeze and put in the Kitchen freezer. Red solo cups available for use. Poster on the foyer bulletin board or contact Joy for more information.

 The next WOW (Women on Wednesday) will be held on November 20th. Details to follow!

 The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for November 20th at 7:00 pm.

 For the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism a wide range of speakers will be presenting on Tuesdays (all at 7:00 pm Eastern Time), throughout October and November. These can be accessed at home through Churchx, and we will have sessions in person at Covenant United in the South Room each week.

Here is the list for the remaining weeks:

Tues. Nov. 12: Continuing Our Stories: Indigenous Identities in the Christian Church with leaders from the Anglican Church of Canada and The United Church of Canada.

Tues. Nov. 19: The Texts of Advent: Finding Good News and Avoiding Antisemitism with Amy-Jill Levine. There will be English-French interpretation.

Tues. Nov. 26: What Will We Sing When We Need to Sing a New Song? with the Then Let Us Sing! Committee.

 The Church Property Network is an initiative led by the United Church of Canada and United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) to support Communities of Faith with property solutions.

Bring all your questions to this monthly webinar!

**2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm ET**

November 13: Kick-Off Session – What are we asking? What are we hearing? What is most helpful?

December 12: Faithful Footprints and Energy Efficiency, with Stephen Collette and David Constable

January 15: Rental Strategies 101, with Katja Brittain and Daniel Reed

 Join us on December 1st at 5:30 pm for our Christmas Turkey Pot Luck Dinner. Supplied will be the turkey, dressing & gravy. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby for vegetable casseroles, potato casseroles & desserts. For more information, please contact Heather, Tim or Veronica.

*(ringing the chimes)*

**RITUAL --** – The Laying of the Wreaths

 – Two minutes of Silence

*(ringing the chimes)*

**IN FLANDERS’ FIELDS** *(by LCol John McCrae)*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
    That mark our place; and in the sky
    The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
    Loved and were loved, and now we lie
        In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
    The torch; be yours to hold it high.
    If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
        In Flanders fields.

**WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

**Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.**

At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

**We will remember them.**

**CENTERING**

**HYMN – VU # 509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_1E_T-29EI&list=PLJ5l-D6vQ_mm4u_ZkFJ1A8xcrqy9TLalH&index=44>

I, the Lord of sea and sky,

I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**

**I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me.**

**I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain,

I have borne my people’s pain,

I have wept for love of them; they turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,

give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them.

Whom shall I send? **(R)**

I, the Lord of wind and flame,

I will tend the poor and lame,

I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide

till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them.

Whom shall I send? **(R)**

**CALL TO WORSHIP and PRAYER OF APPROACH –** *by the Rev. Dr. Neil Parker, military chaplain at the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre in Meaford, ON*

Let us pray…On this day of Remembrance, O God, we give thanks:

For peacekeepers and pacifists; for those who served on the front lines, and those who protest and march; for those who volunteered and those who waited anxiously at home; for those who hoped that things would get better, and those who could not stand by and wait.

We give thanks for those who believed that the world could be a better place.

We remember those from all countries who paid the ultimate sacrifice, trusting that others could and would carry the torch.

We give thanks for those who were once called enemies who have become friends and allies.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION –**

Holy One, when our lives are comfortable and we live in relative safety, it can be all too easy to forget that what we enjoy today has come at a great cost. For some, the price was their last breath. For others, it was wounds to body, mind, or spirit. Our inability to resolve conflicts through peaceable means has caused harm beyond measure.

**Forgive us for using violence as a way to resolve our differences.**

On days like this, we remember those who defend our freedoms and we say “Lest we forget.” Yet, too often we forget that the wounds to mind and spirit can last a lifetime.

**Forgive us for not remembering once the poppies have been put away.**

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers,” but we have often focused on what divides us rather than on what can bring us together.

**Forgive us for our reluctance to do the hard work of peacemaking.**

For all these things, and for those which we name before you now in the silence of our hearts, forgive us…

*(pause for a time of silent prayer and reflection)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Jesus said (John 3:17): “God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” Receive the Good News: in Christ, you are forgiven! Our loving God desires that all people, indeed the whole world, be restored to right relationship with God and one another, so that we might live together in peace

**HYMN – VU # 577 I’ve Got Peace like a River** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naDTsO9WROo>

I’ve got peace like a river,

I’ve got peace like a river,

I’ve got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I’ve got peace like a river,

I’ve got peace like a river,

I’ve got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I’ve got joy like a fountain,

I’ve got joy like a fountain,

I’ve got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I’ve got joy like a fountain,

I’ve got joy like a fountain,

I’ve got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I’ve got love like an ocean,

I’ve got love like an ocean,

I’ve got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

I’ve got love like an ocean,

I’ve got love like an ocean,

I’ve got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

**GOD’S MISSION, OUR GIFTS**

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Your gifts support people building a better future for themselves and their families. Sue, 61, has faced a lifetime of challenges, starting in her youth when her mother was involved with organised crime and jailed for fraud. Later, as a young mom, a car accident left Sue with chronic back pain. And last fall, a fire destroyed her Hamilton apartment, forcing her onto the streets. Despite these struggles, Sue has found stability at Mission and Service partner Wesley. In Wesley’s special care unit, Sue is working to overcome the drug addiction that she has lived with since she was 11. While the process has been difficult, she is slowly reducing her drug use with the help of prescribed medications and support from Wesley’s staff.

The care unit operates under a harm reduction model, allowing clients like Sue to manage their addictions in a supported environment. Wesley’s program is part of a broader effort in Hamilton to address homelessness and substance use. Recently, the program expanded its capacity, and now provides about 30 beds for individuals struggling with multiple substances. Clients are not expected to quit drugs immediately but are supported in stabilising their lives, receiving medical care, and reconnecting with family. Wesley’s team includes doctors, nurses, and addiction specialists who help clients find their own path to recovery.

For Sue, this support has been transformative. Her room at Wesley provides a much-needed sanctuary, offering a reprieve from the constant stress of homelessness and addiction. She continues to focus on her recovery, working in the garden and taking steps toward quitting fentanyl altogether. Sue dreams of eventually finding her own home and reuniting with her beloved cat, Kitty Cat, who was rescued from the fire and is being cared for by a friend.

Your gifts through Mission and Service help support people like Sue on her ongoing journey to build a better future for herself and her children. Thank you for your continued support.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

 **Ephesians 6:10-18; 23-24** – The Voice Translation

GOSPEL READING – **Luke 7:1-10** NRSVUE

Let us respond together saying:

**May God bless to our learning and understanding**

**these words from the scriptures.**

**HYMN – MV # 78 God Weeps**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XSInO-5KG8>

God weeps at love withheld, at strength misused,

at children’s innocence abused,

and till we change the way we love,

God weeps.

God bleeds at anger’s fist, at trust betrayed,

at women battered and afraid,

and till we change the way we win,

God bleeds.

God cries at hungry mouths, at running sores,

at creatures dying without cause,

and till we change the way we care,

God cries.

God waits for stones to melt, for peace to seed,

for hearts to hold each other’s need,

and till we understand the Christ,

God waits.

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**REFLECTING ON THE WORD**

**HYMN – VU # 659 Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

Eternal Father, strong to save,

whose arm has bound the restless wave,

who bade the mighty ocean deep

its own appointed limits keep:

O hear us when we cry to thee

for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard,

and hushed their raging at thy word,

who walked upon the foaming deep,

and calm amid the storm did sleep:

O hear us when we cry to thee

for those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who didst brood

upon the chaos dark and rude,

and bade its angry tumult cease,

and gave for wild confusion, peace:

O hear us when we cry to thee

for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,

all travellers guard in danger’s hour.

From rock and tempest, fire and foe,

protect them wheresoe’er they go:

thus evermore shall rise to thee

glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**DOXOLOGY -- VU # 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dM2dUqmLPek>

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,

with a spirit large and free,

that ourselves and all our living

we may offer faithfully.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**God of abundance, we thank you for the gifts that we present to you now. We ask that you receive them and bless them. May they enable us to serve the world in ways that inspire hope and make your love known. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**HYMN – VU # 706 For the Faithful Who Have Answered**

*(video is instrumental only)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=5__v67Z2Or4>

For the faithful who have answered

when they heard your call to serve,

for the many ways you led them

testing will and stretching nerve,

for their work and for their witness

as they strove against the odds,

for their courage and obedience

we give thanks and praise, O God.

Many eyes have glimpsed the promise,

many hearts have yearned to see.

Many ears have heard you calling

us to greater liberty.

Some have fallen in the struggle,

others still are fighting on.

You are not ashamed to own us.

We give thanks and praise, O God.

For this cloud of faithful witness,

for the common life we share,

for the work of peace and justice,

for the gospel that we bear,

for the vision that our homeland

is your love – deep, high, and broad –

for the different roads we travel

we give thanks and praise, O God.

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING --** *(Based on Ephesians 6)*

Remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us. Take up the whole armour of God and remain steadfast.

Fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. Put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. May the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the hope of the Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

**EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**SUNG BLESSING – MV # 220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star** *(repeat as many times as your musician chooses)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_QCMZU27kk>

Hope shines as the solitary star.

Faith is the inner light.

You and I together

mirror the Light of Lights,

and illumine the pathway home.

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