

**Genesis Cooperative
of the United Church of Canada
in Partnership with the
Glengarry East Pastoral Charge**

***Consisting of the congregations of:
Alexandria, Cassburn, Dalhousie Mills, East Hawkesbury,
Kirk Hill, Riceville-Pendleton, Trinity (Vankleek Hill)***

Sunday September 27, 2020

River Sunday



Worship Leaders Today

Trinity / Cassburn
Alexandria / Kirk Hill
Riceville-Pendleton
Dalhousie Mills
East Hawkesbury

Valerie Allen
Rev. Phyllis Dietrich
Merle Marjerrison
Barbara Jacobs
No Service

*“Surely God is in this place... help me notice”
(attributed to St. Lawrence)*

We Gather to Praise God

Welcome to our worship service today.

We pray you will feel God's presence as we worship together.

*You are invited to join in reading the responses and prayers, printed in **bold**.*

♪Prelude

Greeting and Welcome

Life and Work of the Church

Lighting the Christ Candle

♪Sung Introit:

“We are One”

VU 402

**We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
In the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found, and we come
needful of God's grace as we meet together in this place.**

The Call to Worship

People of God, let us gather by the river of life. We come to the river with our whole selves. In our sorrow, the river offers comfort. In our joy, the river rejoices with us. In our loneliness, the river provides companionship. In our uncertainty and pain, the river offers new life. Let us celebrate together the great gift of water God has given us. Thanks be to God.

The Opening Prayer

Gracious God, be with us today, in our joy and sorrow, anticipation, and exhaustion. Lead us to your life-giving water so that we may be renewed to carry out your transformative work in the world. We pray the prayer as Jesus taught:

Our Father, who art in heaven ... (*found at VU 959*)

♪ Hymn: ***“O God of Bethel”*** **VU 650**

The Good News Time

♪ Hymn: ***“Fairest Lord Jesus”*** **VU 341**

The Prayer of Confession

God, giver of life, we gather today acknowledging the harm we have done to your creation and one another. We pollute the rivers and endanger the creatures within them, rather than honouring their sacredness. We seek control and have power over the waters, rather than respecting their might. We overlook the many enslaved and vulnerable lost in the waters, rather than acknowledging our role in this violence. We focus on our own desires, rather than seeing how they impact the world around us. We come yearning to be refreshed and replenished by the water of life, so that we might seek ways to honour you better and all of creation. Forgive us for the injury we have caused. Inspire us in seeking new ways to participate in and with your creation. Renew us with your life-giving water. Amen.

Words of Affirmation

God invites us to come to the water in our entirety, with our flaws and questions, gifts and joys. May this water remind us of God’s promise at our baptism – we are forgiven, loved children of God. May this promise help us strive to be better stewards of God’s love with one another and all of creation. Thanks be to God.

We Listen For God's Word

Scripture Lessons:

Exodus 17: 1-17 Water flow from the rock.

Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16 **VU792 Pts 1&2** God did marvellous things.

Philippians 2:1-13 Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus.

Matthew 21:23-32 By what authority does Jesus act and teach?

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Message:

🎵 **Hymn:** *“What a Friend We Have In Jesus”* **VU 664**

We Respond to God's Word

Offering Invitation

🎵 **Response:** *“God of All Good”* **VU 539**
Tune Elders VU 426

God of all good our gifts we bring to you,
Use them your holy purpose to fulfil,
Tokens of love and pledges brought anew
That our whole life is offered to your will.

The Prayer of Dedication

God of transformation, we give thanks for your continued promise to care for and sustain all of creation. Help us to follow your example, raising our concern and care for one another and all of creation. **AMEN!**

Prayers of the People

God, our comfort and healer, hear our prayers. Renew our relationships with you and all your creation. Disturb us from our complacency so that we can become agents of healing. Help us to live into your promise of new life.

🎵 **Hymn: “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” VU 325**

The Closing Words

You are a sacred part of God’s creation. God cares for you and is with you in times of abundance and scarcity. Just as water flows endlessly from the river of life, go out and spread God’s love to all of creation.

🎵 **Sung Blessing: “Go Now in Peace”**

Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above,
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

🎵 Postlude

Our Worship Ends – Our Service Begins

✠ *As church, we are called to pray for each other
and for our mission in the world* ✠

Glasgow - Castleford



Announcements

Question of the Day:

What does water mean for you? When have you experienced too much water? Not enough water?

Nursing Homes / Seniors' Homes Services:

**All Nursing / Seniors' Home Services
are cancelled until further notice.**

*The United Church of Canada gratefully
acknowledges that its buildings and ministries,
from coast to coast to coast,
are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.*

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Administrative Assistant: Gabrielle Becker

Administrative Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Announcement Deadline: Wednesday @ noon

Bissell Centre Offers Hope and Housing Help

Our Mission & Service grants for community ministries like Bissell Centre's Outreach Housing Team offers hope for a safer, more prosperous future to many people like Joe. Joe had been living on the streets when he first moved to Edmonton to be closer to his children. His first visit to Bissell Centre was for a shower and clean clothing. Afterward, he found a group of people sleeping under a gazebo together, using an electric blanket covered by a tarp to keep warm at night. "We slept under there, huddled together, just hoping to wake up in the morning," he said.

But after being robbed and left to freeze one night, Joe needed to make a change. Bissell Centre's support workers helped him find an affordable apartment and piece his life back together. "There were some nights when I wasn't sure if I'd survive. If it wasn't for Bissell Centre, I'd probably have frozen out there," he says. "But now, I'm okay. I have my kids and family back, and I have a lot of support. And I have a beautiful home to call my own." He has a job, and he volunteers at the Centre to give back to the community. None of this would have been possible without Mission & Service.

With additional support from Gifts with Vision, over 45 people housed through Bissell Centre's Outreach Housing Team were given a gift when they moved into new housing last year; items such as pots and pans, utensils, and linens made them feel more at home. Funds were also used to purchase bus tickets to help people get to apartment viewings, secure new identification, or obtain a criminal record check.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Mighty and tender God, our gifts to M&S help your church to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.