

KING CITY UNITED CHURCH

*A Vibrant, Caring, Christian Family
Proclaiming the Good News of God's Love
Through Jesus Christ!*

October 31, 2021

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

(Please rise as you are able)**

(Words in **Bold** said by all)

... WITH OPEN DOORS ...

Prelude: "Minuet in G" Ludwig Van Beethoven

Welcome, Life & Work with King City UC

The Lighting of the Worship Candle

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness." This candle reminds us of the presence of Christ in our midst.

Thanks be to God.

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 146)

Put your trust in God and not in earthly things.

Happy are those who trust God.

God is the Creator,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

God seeks justice for all.

God gives food to the hungry, sets the prisoners free, opens the eyes of the blind, lifts up those who are bowed down, watches over travellers and strangers, and supports the widowed and the orphaned.

God is always faithful. Praise God!

We will sing praises to God as long as we live. Hallelujah!

Let us worship God!

*****Hymn: "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"**

#240 VU

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the Maker all your days!**

**Praise God for the grace and favour
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!**

**Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame;
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
All within me, praise God's name!**

**Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the high eternal one.**

**Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

Opening Prayer

God of blessing, we come into your presence today to offer our thanks for your care and concern, and for your faithfulness over the long haul. We come also to be renewed again in faith and to be strengthened for the challenges that await us in your world. Accept this our worship and praise.

Gracious God, who shares with us more than we know or believe, hear our confessions.

We confess, O God, that we are painfully aware that we do not live in this world as you would have us live, nor do we live as we want to live. We are not the stewards Christ would have us be. We are possessed by riches, while others are gripped by hunger. We abuse your provision for us by our selfish desires. We have failed to welcome the stranger as our brother or sister. We have often turned a blind eye to the injustice around us here and abroad. Our lust for power and influence has betrayed your goodness. Your creation groans with our mismanagement and apathy.

Help us hear once again Christ's call to be faithful, and through him forgive us as we repent of our sin and turn from it. Amen.

Words of Grace (based on Hebrews 9: 24-28)

It is our lot that we will all die once, and after death comes judgment. But Christ has offered once and for all to bear our sins and to remove them. When Christ comes a second time, it will not be to deal with sin. Sin has already been removed. Rather it will be to bring salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for him. Be assured Christ has forgiven you. Live in peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response: "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"

#18 MV

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed

***We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,***

***who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.***

***We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.***

... WITH OPEN MINDS ...

Ministry of Music:

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray: O God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear what you are saying to us today. Amen.

Scripture Readings

1 Kings 17: 8-16 (page 324, OT)

The first Scripture lesson is from the Hebrew Scriptures reading in First Kings, chapter 17, verses 8 through 16. This reading is one episode in the stories of the prophet Elijah found in First and Second Kings. It takes place in the Northern Kingdom during the reign of King Ahab, with whom Elijah has a conflict about which God to trust, the Canaanite God or the God of Israel, who is the only God. The result of this conflict is drought and the consequent poverty, starvation and the imminent death of a widow and her son.

Listen for the word of God.

Then the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to

Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: the jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that was spoken by Elijah.

Mark 12: 38-44 (pages 49-50, NT)

The Gospel lesson is according to Mark, reading in Chapter 12, verses 38 to 44. This is the last story in Mark's Gospel in Jesus' public ministry. It is an overture to his passion, which is soon to come.

The text has meaning on two levels. First of all, it testifies to the kind of Messiah Jesus is, one whose power is revealed in self-sacrifice and complete obedience to God. Secondly, it provides guidance to the disciples through two role models, one negative and one positive. The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Mark.

As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

These are the words of life, which in faith become the Living Word!
Thanks be to God.

Response: "*Spirit of Life*"

#381 VU

**Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**

Time for the Child in All of Us

*****Hymn: "*Fairest Lord Jesus*"**

#341 VU

**Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down:
thee will I cherish, thee will I honour,
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the troubled heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and fair the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.**

**All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly,
wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;
none can be nearer, fairer or dearer
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.**

Sermon "*Learning How to Trust*" The Rev. Bruce J. Roffey

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*****Offertory Hymn: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" #543 VU, vs 1**

**We give thee but thine own
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O God, from thee.**

... WITH FAITH OPEN TO THE WEEK AHEAD ...

Pastoral Prayers of the People

God, Author of all creation, Sovereign over all creatures, we give you thanks for the abundance that is ours to enjoy and praise you for your mercy to all who are weak and heavy laden. We give you thanks that in Christ Jesus you have called us to be disciples and that in the Holy Spirit we have been inspired to walk in his way.

We give you thanks for Jesus who has shown us the way of discipleship through his own Messiahship, who has called us to the way of stewardship of life through faithful living, who commissions us to be gardeners of creation and caretakers of humankind. Help us to relinquish our desire to have more than we need and to be sensitive to the needs of those around us. Guide us into harmony with the environment, - natural and human -, so that we might be truly in harmony with you and with our true selves.

We give you thanks for the Holy Spirit, who awakens us from complacency and prods us to renewed faithfulness. Through the Spirit, intervene in our lives so that the secular might become the sacred to us, and our ordinary living might be a vehicle for your extraordinary and divine love in the world.

Trustworthy God, may we be worthy of your trust in us. May we use our time wisely and to your advantage. May we develop our talents and use them to bring your honour and glory. May we offer the treasure of hospitality to those around us and with generosity through which your graciousness shines.

O God of justice and mercy, as caretakers we begin our ministry with prayers of intercession. We pray this day for those for whom you care without our prayers and despite our apathy. We pray for those who are captive to bonds of steel and oppression, as well as those captive to bonds we cannot see. We pray for those who are hungry and thirsty in need of hospitality and equity. We pray for those who are lonely,

strangers in places both strange and familiar. We pray for the blind and bowed down that their obstacles might be overcome. And we pray for the wicked, the oppressor, the polluter, the warmonger, that they might be thwarted.

Send us forth this day, we pray, aware of our call, attuned to your Spirit and dedicated to your will and way. Bless our intentions and sanctify our efforts. May their results be acceptable. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us how to pray by saying,

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*****Hymn: "Teach Me, God, to Wonder" #299 VU**

**Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;
let your world of beauty capture me.**

Refrain:

**Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.**

**Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
let your world of people speak to me. *Refrain***

**Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,
in your world of loving my place take. *Refrain***

**Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour when we meet. *Refrain***

*****Commissioning / Benediction**

*****Extinguishing of the Christ Candle**

Christ has been with us sharing the light of life.

He says to us, "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine."

We go forth taking with us the light of Christ in our hearts, and we promise to let it shine in the world through our good works, to the glory of God. Amen.

Postlude:

"Gigue"

J.S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Visitation - Rev. Andrew Lee wrapped up the porch visit and now is offering pastoral visitation in the winter season. He will bring stories, scriptures, hymns, and prayers. If you are comfortable and interested, please contact your church office or Rev. Lee.

Choir practice has resumed on Thursdays at 7 p.m. All government protocols will be followed including social distancing. New members are welcome to join.

Volunteers for Worship - Pulpit Assistants, and Offering Counters for all dates in 2021. Call the office if you can help.

Ukulele Gathering for Christmas Carols - YUM will offer 3 Ukulele lessons for Christmas Carols in November - December. The gatherings will be both virtual and actual formats. Contact Rev. Lee (416-999-5615 or leeky3@mcmaster.ca) for free registration by Nov.14. The format of the lesson will be both online and onsite. Location, time, and date are to be notified. A few free quality ukuleles are available and will be distributed on a first come first served basis.

YAYA - YTB Q-Box Series - Q-Box Series are being updated. YAYA people, please check the YUM YouTube channel.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL772mvVOna2VqaLImkQsNw?view_as=subscriber

Book Club - The York Pines Book Club resumed their monthly Zoom meetings. You are welcome to join the club: please contact York Pines United Church at 905-727-8118.

Nov. 24, 2021 – **Indians on Vacation** by Thomas King
Facilitator: Brenda Walker

Remembrance Sunday Worship Service - Next Sunday, King City United Church will have the Remembrance Sunday Worship Service of 2021.

Offering - Thank you for sending your offerings to the church. Your offerings support the ministry of the church and have been much appreciated. Please mail a cheque to your church directly, or make an e-transfer: kcuc@bellnet.ca

Quilt Group - The Quilt group from New Hope has resumed the gathering in-person on Wednesday. If you want to join, please contact the New Hope office (905-738-6446).

Minute for Mission

Skills learned at the Asian Rural Institute in Japan
create a teaching farm in Sierra Leone.

We don't always know the extent of the good we do even when we are giving generously. When we make a gift, we hope to have an impact but often can't foresee how many lives we touch or how far our care extends. Mambud Samai's story is a tangible example of how your gifts through Mission & Service send ripples of compassion across continents.

Mambud, a pastor, lives in Sierra Leone, where an estimated 27,000 citizens became amputees during the civil war that raged between 1991 and 2002.

To support amputees he visited in rehabilitation camps after the war, Mambud turned to soccer, his country's favourite sport. He founded a soccer league for amputees called the Single Leg Amputee Sports Club of Sierra Leone to help restore hope. Now 350 members strong, the league isn't just about helping amputees overcome discrimination, restoring their pride, and providing therapeutic support. As if these alone aren't amazing.

Two years ago, Mambud decided he wanted to make an even bigger difference. So, he flew all the way to the Asian Rural Institute (ARI for short), a unique school in Japan that your Mission & Service gifts support. Thanks to generous supporters like you, ARI trains thousands of leaders like Mambud from all over the world to grow food, tend livestock, and be effective change agents in their community.



Credit: The United Church of Canada

After graduating from the nine-month program at ARI, Mambud returned to the soccer fields of Sierra Leone with a new goal: to develop teaching farms where people can learn to grow food sustainably and support themselves financially by selling that food at market.

Mambud and members of the Single Leg Amputee Sports Club of Sierra Leone now run an educational farm, and there are plans to convert more of Sierra Leone's fertile land into gardens and teaching centres. In a country where the average person lives just 43 years, Mambud's extraordinary leadership and the skills he learned in Japan save lives.

From Canada to Japan to Sierra Leone—Mambud's story is just one example of how your gifts do a world of good.

King City United Church

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