

Sharon-Hope United Church

A vibrant community
of faith, hope and
love...
...come and see!

August 30, 2020

**Thirteenth Sunday After
Pentecost**

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Liturgy adapted from [Presbyterian.ca/worship](https://www.presbyterian.ca/worship)

Prelude

Simple Gifts

(perf. Yo Yo Ma &
Alison Krauss)



Welcome

Celebrations and Announcements

*You are invited to clap
or cheer after each*

Call to Worship

One: L: Give thanks to God and tell of God's gifts.

All: We will sing praises for all that God has done.

L: Let your hearts be joyful!

All: We will seek God's presence continually.

L: Call to mind God's wonderful works.

**All: We will always remember the blessings of God
and glorify God forever!**

Acknowledgement of the Land (in Unison)

We here at Sharon-Hope United Church sit on the traditional lands of the Anishnabe (a-NISH-na-bee), the Haudenosaunee (ho-den-o-SHOW-knee) and Wyndat (WEN-dat) Nations, land covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Covenant. We give thanks for their stewardship of the land and may we continue in that tradition to care for this land for the generations to come.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: Today we light the Christ candle naming Jesus as a life-giving, gracious presence within our relationship with the Creator and the Spirit.

Opening Hymn

MV 154

Deep in our hearts

(v1,3)





1. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

3. Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.



Prayer of Approach

L: Eternal and ever-loving God, deep is our desire for what is true and enduring. Deep is our need to see clearly. Deep is our longing for you, O God.

P: In you we live and move and have our being. You are the root of love, the fountain of knowledge, the source of wisdom, the path of right living. You are the beginning and end of all things. Our thoughts cannot comprehend your mystery And so we worship you in humble praise, Holy God, ever three and ever one.

Prayer of Approach (cont'd)

L: Although you satisfy our deepest desires, O God, we confess together that we have often turned away from you:

All: We have sought meaning in shallow places. We have clung to old hurts and familiar habits. We have nursed anger and envy. We have been self-absorbed and lacked compassion. We have turned our backs on those in need. Forgive what we have been, amend who we are, and guide us toward what we may become according to your grace. Amen

Prayer of Approach (cont'd)

L: Friends in Christ, St. Paul declared that from now on, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away. See, everything has become new! Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start through God's grace. Amen

Preparing to Listen

VU840

(Part 5)

Thy Word is a Lamp



Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.



Readings

Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Prayer of Illumination

L: God of wisdom, you teach us with your love, you touch us with your mercy, and you challenge us with your truth. Send us your Holy Spirit to help us understand the scriptures so that we may encounter you as we listen for your living Word. Amen.

Reflection

Keeping the Faith –
Faith calls for focus

The Giving of our Gifts

VU 575

I'm Gonna Live So
God Can Use Me
(v1)



1. I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime.

(Repeat)



Dedication of Gifts

L: As Jesus' followers, we have the privilege of taking part in the redeeming work God has begun in the world. Today we offer our gifts in anticipation that God will use them—and us—in that work! The offering will now be received. Let us pray:

ALL: O God, we offer these gifts to you in hope and thanksgiving. Use them to transform the world you love with the good news we celebrate in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

VU 400

Lord, Listen to Your
Children Praying
(Ken Medema)



Response

L: O God in whom we live and move and have our being we come to you in prayer as the summer season draws nearer to its close and we prepare for an autumn filled with many changes:

P: We give you thanks for the occasions we have enjoyed this summer savouring the beauty of your creation right outside our doors. Thank you for the chances we've had catch up with family and friends, and whatever opportunities for travel, recreation & restoration have been possible. We recognize how blessed we are to live in Canada and so we are grateful for each moment in which we found rest and relaxation in the summer season.

Response (cont'd)

L: Today we remember those for whom this summer has been difficult:

Those still isolated by the restrictions because of COVID-19; those who go hungry or face violence in forgotten corners of our own community and around the world;

P: Those whose businesses are struggling, who have to figure out how to be inviting and safe at the same time; and those who are uncertain how to engage with friends and neighbours and still be wise and careful in this strange time of pandemic. May each one find courage to face tomorrow in your company.

Response (cont'd)

L: O God, Jesus walked the road of suffering with so many in pain and grief, we remember those whose lives have faced crises this summer.

P: Through tragic death and unexpected loss, through critical illness or injury, through pain or problems that seem to have no end. Surround them with your comfort and compassion.

L: O God, Jesus often faced many demands and the pressure from his critics, so we pray for all those who have not found rest this summer:

Response (cont'd)

P: For leaders trying to figure out ways forward to care for their communities when there are no examples to follow; for those whose jobs and responsibilities have changed, and every day presents a new challenge; and we also remember those all who seek work in these uncertain economic times. May they know your strength and assurance day by day.

L: We offer prayers today for people and situations on our hearts and minds today. We offer special prayer for:

Response (cont'd)

L: O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own way.

Bring healing and peace to our lives and to this world you love.

Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may offer healing and peace to those we encounter, in the name of Christ Jesus who taught us to pray together...

The Lord's Prayer



Closing Hymn

VU 561

Take Up Your Cross



1. Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.

2. Take up your cross, let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.



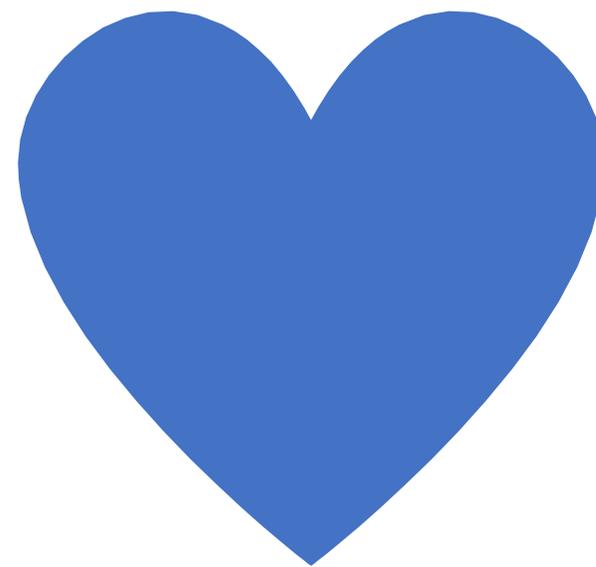
3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel;
your Saviour once accepted death
upon a cross on Calvary's hill.

4. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
think not till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.



Blessing and Sending Forth

L: Go out into the world in peace. Focus on courage, hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; help the suffering; honor all persons and creation. Love and serve the God, wholeheartedly; be doers, not just hearers of the Word. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of that Spirit be with us all. Amen



Choral Blessing

[Go Now in Peace](#)



Postlude

Because He Lives
(perf. Guy Penrod)



Come Join Us for Fellowship and Coffee after the Service!

You will be moved into a smaller breakout room.

You will be able to leave the breakout room or leave the coffee time.

If you leave the breakout room, you will rejoin the larger group and can ask to join another breakout room or leave the coffee time.

