**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Rev. Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025**

**WORLDWIDE COMMUNION**

**CREATION 5**

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*(Ring the chime once)*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to Covenant United Church! You are welcome here where the ordinary is sanctified, where humanity is celebrated in all of its diversity, and compassion is expected. In this place together, we make it a holy place where love can dwell.

 We are looking for volunteers to host our coffee hour. Our next coffee will be on October 19th. If you are willing to help, please contact Heather.

 There are a pair of black stud earrings that were left on the desk in the office. If you have lost these, please contact Heather or the office to claim.

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

  The Lord’s Kitchen is requesting donations of coats, toques, scarves, mitts, socks and boots in preparing ahead for the winter months for their clients in need. There will be a marked bin (The Lord’s Kitchen) in the cloak room for donations. Your donations will be appreciated. Help Covenant reach out to those in need.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

As we light this candle on this World-Wide Communion Sunday we call, come, O Holy Spirit: come as Holy Fire and burn in us, come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within, come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance, come as Holy Power and enable our weakness, come as Holy Life and dwell in us. Convict us, convert us, consecrate us, until we are set free from the service of ourselves, to be your servants to the world.

*(ring the chime)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** – *written by Sue Turley, Windsor Park UC*

Today we gather around God’s table from near and far

**We are the People of God!**

Though we differ in language, custom, and tradition

**We are brothers and sisters in Christ!**

Though we understand God in many different ways

**We are One in God’s Spirit!**

We are one and together we remember our Lord Jesus

**For we are the people of Redemption!**

He gave himself up for us, so we could be reconciled to God.

**Come, let us worship God.**

**HYMN –** **VU # 401 Worship the Lord**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4CndaDI1qk>

**Worship the Lord** (**worship the Lord)**

**worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,**

**raising our hands ((raising our hands)**

**in devotion to God who is one!**

Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,

and with our lips our togetherness voicing,

giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,

worship and work must be one! **(R)**

Praying and training that we be a blessing,

and by our handiwork daily confessing:

we are committed to serving humanity,

worship and work must be one! **(R)**

Called to be partners with God in creation,

honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,

we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,

worship and work must be one! **(R)**

Bringing the bread and the wine to the table,

asking that we may be led and enabled,

truly united to build new communities,

worship and work must be one! **(R)**

Now in response to the life you are giving,

help us, O Father, to offer our living,

seeking a just and a healing society,

worship and work must be one! **(R)**

**STORY TIME**

**CHILDREN’S HYMN – VU #341 Fairest Lord Jesus**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQT0DYulN_w>

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 woeful 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.

**PRAYERS OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION**

On this World-Wide Communion Sunday, we remember that God sent Jesus, to the world, so that we might be reconciled to God. God then called the entire church to continue that work and this has always been the heart of the gospel in any age.

**Our generation stands in peculiar need of reconciliation in Christ.**

**We confess our need, confident in God’s forgiving grace.**

**God of compassion and mercy,**

**we are your wounded and wounding children.**

**We bring our wounded selves, our divided society, and our broken world, seeking your healing and transforming grace; it is easy for us to point the finger at others.**

**Yet we know that we all need your forgiveness;**

**so we lift into your presence today,**

**not only the victims of conflicts,**

**but also those we have called enemies.**

**Break down the walls of hatred, distrust, and bitterness**

**and open a way for us to reach one another in truth and love.**

**Enable us to build a society where all can belong;**

**to share our gifts in mutual respect**

**and to seek for the new future which you offer us**

**through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

You are blessed and beloved.

You are commissioned to the work of Christ.

You are gifted, called and chosen.

Let us never forget that we are not alone.

Thanks be to God

**CENTERING**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Lamentations 3:19–26** – reading from The Message

**1 Timothy 1:1-14** – Good News Translation

**Luke 17:5-10** – The Message

**RESPONSE** –

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God!**

**REFLECTION**

**HYMN –** **VU #468 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_I8J3khbYg>

Let us talents and tongues employ,

reaching out with a shout of joy:

bread is broken; the wine is poured;

Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

**Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;**

**pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;**

**pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

Christ is able to make us one;

at the table he sets the tone,

teaching people to live to bless,

love in word and in deed express. **(R)**

Jesus calls us in, sends us out,

bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

gives us love to tell, bread to share:

God (Immanuel) everywhere! **(R)**

**OFFERING INVITATION --** *Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters, Sask.*

We are called to participate in the healing of the world. Our offerings can enable this community and others to be what the church is called to be, offering healing and love. Let us sing:

**OFFERING SONG – 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.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION** – *George Allan, Chatham, Ont.*

**As we gather around this table to share in communion, we are reminded that sharing is an important part of the Christian life. Bless what we share in this offering, that it may play a part in providing abundant life. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** – *Rosemary Godin, Sydney, NS*

Friends, God in Christ prepares a feast for all of us. It is a banquet of good things for our hearts and souls.

All are welcome at this gathering—no matter who you are or what you have done; no matter your age or gender or who you love.

Come and taste. Eat and be filled.

Drink deeply and never thirst again.

This is the table of Jesus Christ who invites us all to this feast that can change our lives.

**COMMUNION HYMN – For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdOvOXEiss0>

For everyone born, a place at the table,

for everyone born, clean water and bread,

a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,

for everyone born, a star overhead,

For woman and man, a place at the table,

revising the roles, deciding the share,

with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,

for woman and man, a system that’s fair,

**and God will delight when we are creators**

**of justice and joy, compassion and peace:**

**yes, God will delight when we are creators**

**of justice, justice and joy!**

For young and for old, a place at the table,

a voice to be heard, a part in the song,

the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,

for young and for old, the right to belong,

For just and unjust, a place at the table,

abuser, abused, with need to forgive,

in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,

for just and unjust, a new way to live, **(R)**

For everyone born, a place at the table,

to live without fear, and simply to be,

to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,

for everyone born, the right to be free, **(R)**

One: May God be with us.
**All: God is here among us.**

One: Let us open our hearts to God.
**All: We open them to God and to one another.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.
**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**All: Why do we give thanks and praise at this table?**One: We give thanks because God is always with us.

One: We thank you, God, Creator of us all; from the beginning you made the world and all its creatures. You made people to live for you and for one another. We praise you, O God.
**All: We praise you, O God.**

One: Jesus came as one of us, first an infant, then a child, later a youth, then an adult. He rejoiced with those who rejoiced, and wept with those who wept. To the despairing, he spoke a word of hope. To the sick, he gave healing. To the hurting, he was a friend.

One: Still, people turned away from you. They betrayed Jesus and nailed him to a cross. But he was lifted from the grave and restored to life, that he might be with us and we with him, alive for evermore! Therefore with all the saints of every time and place, we join the angels in their praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**All: Why do we eat bread at this table?**

One: We gather at this table to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his friends, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: “Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me.”

**All: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?**
One: That same night, Jesus also took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: “Drink. This cup, poured out for you, is the promise of God. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

**All: What do we remember at this table?**One: We remember Jesus’ death and celebrate his resurrection; we await with hope his coming again to bring peace and justice to the earth; and we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**All: For whom to we pray at this table?**One: We pray for God’s world…

One: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray together, saying
**All: 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;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive them that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil;**

**for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

One: The gifts of God for the people of God…Come for all things are now ready.

**RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Life-giving God, may we, who share Christ’s body, live his risen life;

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 you have set before us,

so that we and all your children shall be free,

and all creation will live to praise your name.

Let all of God’s people say “Amen.”

**AMEN!**

**HYMN – MV #216 Wherever You May Go**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQYh-jOEkg4>

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,**

**and your people shall be my people too.**

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,**

**for I would be faithful, loyal and true**

Say the word and I will stay,

I will never go away,

we will travel side by side

and God’s love will be our guide. **(R)**

From beginning to the end,

I will always be your friend,

when you need me I’ll be there,

you can trust my faithful care. **(R)**

**BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE:**

**Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life:**

**Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.**

**Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;**

**May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

**EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Jesus said, “In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16)

**SUNG BLESSING – MV #220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star** <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. (repeat)

**Covenant United Church**

**230 Eighth Ave**

**Timmins, ON**

**(705) 264-5518**

**covenanttimmins@ntl.sympatico.ca**