

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
Midland, ON
Sunday, October 31, 2021
FOODGRAINS SUNDAY



Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Readers: Dan Donaldson, Pat File, Lois McQuirter, Sharon Penrose,

Singers: Chet Valley Church musicians, Golden Ears United Church musicians,
Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek

Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Rick Dell, Catherine Ladouceur Bruce Wilcox

(Today's prayers are provided by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in their worship resource, "So That All May Flourish" and is used with permission.)

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED

OPENING HYMN: "We Plough the Fields", sung by Chet Valley Churches.

1. We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain:

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love.

2. He only is the maker of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey Him, by Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children, He gives our daily bread.

Refrain:

3. We thank thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good:
the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;
No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts,
but that which thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts!

Refrain:

OPENING PRAYER: read by Lois McQuirter

God, we thank you for your harvest which feeds us so many times each day.
We are nourished with your forgiveness and hope we are sustained with your strength and
patience we are filled with your grace and compassion.

God, we thank you for feeding us with a harvest of plenty. We are restored through your
generosity and healing we are replenished with your abundance and joy we are reminded of
your selfless abandon.

God, we thank you for feeding us with the bread of life. Your gift of Christ sustains our lives. His presence restores the promise of your love. His life fills our hearts with your everlasting light. God, we thank you too for filling us with the water of life.

May we drink deeply that our thirst may be quenched. May your river continue to flow over us, in us, through us and out into the world you love. (— *God of the Bountiful* written by Christine Sine, and posted on her website Godspace. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/>)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

SUNG RESPONSE: "I Am the Light of the World", VU# 87,
Musicians from Golden Ears United Church

**"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**



SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 17:11-19 read by Dan Donaldson

SERMON:

VIDEO: WHAT IS THE CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK?

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT: (response "God help us work for the common good of all".
Read by Sharon Penrose

For a renewed commitment to service for and with others, we pray....
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For the grace to continue to work for and with the hungry and to learn from those who are hungry, poor and in need, we pray....
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For an end to the war and violence in all the troubled parts of our world and for a genuine respect for human rights, we pray....
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For those in the poorest regions of our world, for people who are landless, and those who do not have enough to eat or adequate shelter to live in, we pray....
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For all those who face prejudice, inequality and gender disparities, and for us to see and face discrimination in all the many forms it may take, we pray
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For all those who are living examples of how you value all of creation,
May we see that we are equal partners in the stewardship of your Creation, we pray
God, help us work for the common good of all.

For a spirit of openness to the needs and concerns of all, we pray...
God, transform our hearts, help us work for the common good of all, the love and grace of all
people. In Jesus' Name, Amen. — *Adapted from the Center of Concern website. And [https://
godspacelight.com/2019/03/07/a-franciscan-prayer-for-international-
womens-day-2](https://godspacelight.com/2019/03/07/a-franciscan-prayer-for-international-womens-day-2)*

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR FOODGRAINS LAUNCH: Sharon Penrose. The Official
Board approved up to \$2,500 with trust funds to match your donations dollar for dollar. As well
the Canadian Government matches our donations 4:1. Please give and help feed the world.
Please make your payment out to St. Paul's United Church. We will be accepting donations for
this campaign up to Nov. 30, 2021.

HYMN: "Room at the Table" a Canadian Foodgrains Bank Production

Let our hearts not be hardened to those living on the margins.
There is room at the table for everyone.
This is where it all begins, this is how we gather in.
There is room at the table for everyone.

Too long we have wandered burdened and undone.
But there is room at the table for everyone.
Let us sing the new world in. This is how it all begins.
There is room at the table for everyone.

There is room for us all and no gift is too small
There is room at the table for everyone.
There's enough if we share. Come on pull up a chair.
There is room at the table for everyone.

No matter who you are and no matter where you're from
There is room at the table for everyone.
Here and now we can be the beloved community.
There is room at the table for everyone.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: read by Pat File

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world, that their cries for daily bread
may inspire works of compassion and mercy among those to whom much has been given.

Let us pray for the farmers with limited or marginal land throughout the world, for those who
lack access to water and other resources, and for the light of research and support services to
shine in the lives of all God's people.

Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease throughout the world, particularly those exacerbated
by lack of nutritious food and outright hunger; that plagues of death may no longer fuel poverty,
destabilize nations, and inhibit reconciliation and restoration throughout the world.

Let us pray for an end to the waste and desecration of God's creation, for access to the fruits of
creation to be shared equally among all people, and for communities and nations to find
sustenance in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.

Let us pray for all nations and people who already enjoy the abundance of creation and the blessings of prosperity, that their hearts may be lifted up to the needs of the poor and afflicted, and partnerships between rich and poor for the reconciliation of the world may flourish and grow. Amen. — *Excerpted from a prayer on the National Catholic Rural Life Conference website.*

CLOSING HYMN: "Go Make a Difference" written and sung by Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek

Refrain:

Go make a difference, we can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference, we can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

1. We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world.

Refrain:

2. We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need, the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world.

Refrain:

3. So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.
Go make a difference in the world.

Refrain:

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Come, Spirit of God, sweep through our world bringing great change. May the harvest of your goodness bring justice and hope. And for us, transformation in our praying and living, so all may share in the harvest of your blessings. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen. — *Posted on the Third Space website. <http://third-space.org.uk/blog>*

POSTLUDE

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