

Worship Outline for August 23, 2020
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Brechin United Church
Guest Worship Leader – Grace Skomorowski, LLWL

Welcome

Welcome to this service of worship.

We begin by acknowledging the traditional territory on which we gather this morning. For many thousands of years, the First Nations have sought to walk gently on this land. They offered assistance to the first European travellers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate.

We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in honour and respect.

Candle Lighting

Gathering

God delights in our faithfulness and desire to be in relationship with God and each other. God meets us here as we worship together and is with us at all times.

We bring our cares, concerns, worries, and doubts. We come, feeling unworthy of God's wonderful grace. But we are worthy and loved by God. Let us sing and give praise for the love and acceptance we share in our time of worship here today and every day of our lives.

Opening Prayer

We move so fast, God, and sometimes we see so little in our daily travels. Slow us down. Create in us a desire to pause. Help us to pursue moments of contemplation. Help us to see in a deeper way, to become more aware of what speaks to us of beauty and truth.

Our inner eye gets misty, clouded over, dulled. We need to see in a new way, to dust off our heart, to perceive what is truly of value and to find the deeper meaning in our lives.

All of our ordinary moments are means of entering into a more significant relationship with you, God. In the midst of those very common happenings, you are ready to speak your word of love to us, if only we will recognize your presence.

Teach us how to enjoy being. Encourage us to be present to the gifts that are ours. May we be more fully aware of what we see, taste, touch, hear and smell. May this awareness of our senses sharpen our perception of our everyday treasures and lead us to greater joy and gratitude.

Grant us the courage to be our true selves. Help us to let go of being overly concerned about what others think of us or how successful we are. May our inner freedom be strengthened and our delight in life be activated.

Life is meant to be celebrated, enjoyed and delighted in, and embraced in all its mystery. Guide us to our inner child. Draw us to your playground of creation, God of life, so that we will live more fully. Amen

(May I Have This Dance by Joyce Rupp Page 102)

Hymn: MV 42 “Praise God for This Holy Ground”

Readings

Psalm: 23

John 10: 1 – 18

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

And let us give thanks

Reflection

Hymn: MV 126 “Are You a Shepherd?”

Offering

Prayer of People

For those who ache today, hold them in your tender embrace, God.

For those who weep, comfort them

For those who are lost, guide them

For those who find themselves on shifting sands, be their good shepherd

For those who are frightened, be a light in their valleys

For those who search, be a companion on their journey

For those who are hungry, help them be fed

We pray all these things in the strong name of Jesus

And ask you Jesus to be our good shepherd as we endeavour to be good disciples.

The Disciple's Prayer

Mother of us all,

who dwells within and beyond,

Sacred is your name.

May your holy vision for collective flourishing come to fruition among us.

**May your dreams of justice, love, compassion,
and connection be enfolded on earth.**

**Provide us today with what we need to be nourished
in body, soul, and heart.**

**Forgive us for the harm we cause
as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.**

**Lead us away from everything that destroys
and liberate us from the hands of evil.**

For you are the ultimate source of hope.

Your power-with exceeds all power-over.

Your presence incites eternal wonder.

All praise to you, our comfort and strength.

Amen.

Benediction

And now I commend you into the Holy Mystery which is God

*To live out the days that are your gift with thanksgiving and joy, with purpose and
kindness, to make a difference in the world God made; to share with others, to be a
bearer of love and hope everywhere you go.*

May you be blessed and may you be a blessing.

(Written by Bob Root, Mark Street UC, Peterborough, ON)

Response: "I Wish You the Blessing" (*Oldham/Klusmeier*)