

ORDER OF SERVICE

* *indicates please stand, if you are able*

WE GATHER

Silent Prayer and Preparation
Prelude
Welcome and Announcements

* **Gathering Hymn 231** – *I Sing the Mighty Power*

* Opening Words: *(responsive)*

Whether we embrace God’s call in our lives
or try to avoid it,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Whether we are long-timers or late-comers
to the life of faith,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable
or bring hardship,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

So let us praise God’s name forever and ever!
Let us worship God.

* **Introit:** *VU 392*

**How sacred is this place!
Its open door of grace
be bold, my soul, to enter!
May all who worship here,
believing God is near,
find God is at the centre.**

(Congregation may be seated.)

Prayer of Approach: *(in unison)*

**Gracious God, in our worship,
we celebrate you having always been present to us.
Every week, we are reminded that we are never alone.
Your mercies are always rich and faithful.
Pour out your Spirit upon us now,
that we may worship you aright.
Make our hearts humble so that as we worship,
we will hear your word to us
and your all-embracing compassion.
We pray in the words Jesus taught us to say
as we sing ...**

The Prayer of Jesus: *VU 959 (sung)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Choir Anthem: “*Consecrated, Lord, to Thee*” - *L. Larson*

WE LISTEN

Bible Readings: *(on page 6 of the bulletin)*

Responsive Psalm 145 - *VU pg. 866* - *Ron Dowd*
Matthew 20: 1-16

Sermon

WE GIVE THANKS

* **Hymn 219** – *When All Your Mercies, O My God*

Minute for Mission: *Preparing for Ministry* - *Ron Dowd*

Invitation to the Offering

Choir Anthem: “*In Joyful Song*” - *J. Raney*

* Offertory Response: *MV 191*

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

* Prayer of Dedication: *(in unison)*

**God, we acknowledge you as the giver of all good gifts,
and we thank you for the resources gathered here.
Use these gifts
for the support of your church
and the advancement of your kingdom
in this community and around the world.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of God's People

Choral Response: *(Iona)*

**God to enfold you, Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;
so may God grace you, heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness into the light.**

WE GO FORTH

* **Closing Hymn 274** – *Your Hand, O God, Has Guided*

* Benediction

* Choral Blessing: *MV 224*

**May the God of Peace and of all good,
may the God of Peace and of all good,
be always with you. Amen!
May God's peace be with you. Amen!**

Postlude

(The congregation is invited to hear the postlude in silence.)

WELCOME

We welcome all who worship with us today, but especially our guests. We would like to have a chance to meet our visitors. Please sign the guest book at the main entrance doors and introduce yourself to the greeter in the foyer or to the minister. After worship, the congregation visits over refreshments in the Lower Hall and we hope you will join us. If you would like the minister to call on you, please contact the church office (905 892-6433.)

Assisted Hearing Devices are available at the back of the sanctuary for improved sound. Please feel free to ask an usher for a headset. As well, large print copies of the hymns are available at the back of the sanctuary. You are welcome to use them during the service.

Ushers: John and Joan Rigg
Counters: Keith and Ruth Rae

Announcements

Discussion Group begins today! The after-worship discussion group will begin a new series today on the topic, *How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian*. It will begin in the Friendship Room at 11:00 and conclude at 12:00. There will be a video presentation followed by discussion. You are invited to come for as many of these sessions as you are able.

World Communion Sunday – Next Sunday, we come to the table with Christians all over the world; a symbol of unity in Christ.

Badminton, anyone? This is the time of year when the badminton club at Fonthill United Church begins its new season. We have lost a few members from last year and have room for replacements. We play every Tuesday and Thursday from 9-11 am. If you are interested, feel free to visit us then. Contact John McGregor for more information.

Central United Church in Port Colborne will host, *An Octave Above*, a recital featuring organist Andrew Henderson from New York City, on Sunday October 29 at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$20. Call 905 834-4533 to reserve.

The Week Ahead at Fonthill United

Tues.	Sept 26	9:00 am	Badminton
		9:00 am	Quilting
		9:00 am	Pedicure Salon
		3:00 pm	Music Lessons
		5:00 pm	Niagara Presbytery Meeting
		6:00 pm	A Cappella Niagara Practice
Wed.	Sept 27	3:00 pm	Music Lessons
		6:30 pm	Cubs & Beavers
Thurs.	Sept 28	9:00 am	Badminton
		9:30 am	Quilting
		3:00 pm	Music Lessons
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:30 pm	Tai Chi Open House
Sun.	Oct 1	9:30 am	Worship Service - <i>Communion</i>
		11:00 am	Discussion Group

This Week in Prayer and Devotion

Morning

Dear God, thank you for this day.
Help me hear others as I know that you always hear me.
Open my heart and help me give myself with grateful praise to things you have set for me today.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Evening

Dear God, thank you for always being with me.
Rest now in me, God, so that I will wake in the morning with praise and thanksgiving on my lips.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Our Prayers for Others

Our refugee family; we pray for a safe trip to Canada for them this Tuesday ...
... and the congregation of Bethel-Cook's Mills Pastoral Charge in Niagara Presbytery on the Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle.

Bible Reading: Matthew 20: 1-16

Jesus said, "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

"So," *Jesus said*, "the last will be first, and the first will be last."

*Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.*