



**WELCOME**

We welcome all who worship with us today.  
Whoever you are, whatever your faith journey,  
whomever you love, you are welcome here.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Words inspire us. Music uplifts us.  
United in God’s love,  
we strive to be an inclusive community,  
learning together and supporting others  
with compassion.

**VISION STATEMENT**

A confident, vibrant community,  
honouring God, encouraging diversity,  
and partnering with our community and others  
for social justice.

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**MASKS** – Face masks are encouraged to be worn  
while you are in the church building and sanctuary. Thank you.

**VU**—Voices United Hymn Book | **MV**—More Voices Hymn Book  
Music printed & streamed with permission under CCLI #1293009 & #20808245

*\*\* indicates please stand, if able*

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**WORSHIP FOCUS: “Aspirations”**

Wilt thou aspire to guide the heavenly car and with thy daring folly burn the world. Wilt thou reach stars because they shine on thee? ~ *Shakespeare, “Two Gentlemen of Verona”*

*God Gathers Us*

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Fonthill United Church acknowledges that the land we call our own is the traditional territory of the Mississauga, Mississaugas of the Credit, Attiwonderonk, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabewaki First Nations. We acknowledge the Between the Lakes Treaty of 1792 in which much of this traditional territory was redistributed.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**WE REMEMBER THE GIFT OF GOD’S GRACE**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

**INTROIT VU 392: "How Sacred Is This Place"**

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.

**TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART: "Something More"**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Psalm 33: 12-22)

*(The sung refrain is from Responsive Psalm 33 in Voices United, pg. 760)*

**Sing: A new song to our God, proclaim, from age to age rejoice.**

One: Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,

**All: Happy are the people whom God has chosen as God's heritage.**

One: The LORD looks down from heaven;

**All: The LORD sees all humankind.**

One: From where God sits enthroned God watches all the inhabitants of the earth--

**All: God fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.**

**Sing: A new song to our God, proclaim, from age to age rejoice.**

One: A king is not saved by his great army;

**All: A warrior is not delivered by his great strength.**

One: The war horse is a vain hope for victory,

**All: And by its great might it cannot save.**

One: Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,

**All: On those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death,  
and to keep them alive in famine.**

**Sing: A new song to our God, proclaim, from age to age rejoice.**

One: Our soul waits for the LORD;

**All: The LORD is our help and shield.**

One: Our heart is glad in the LORD, because we trust in God's holy name.

**All: Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.**

**Sing: A new song to our God, proclaim, from age to age rejoice.**

**CENTERING PRAYER:**

One: God of Abraham and Jesus, you invite your people to contemplate heavenly things and urge us toward faith in you.

**All: May your coming among us find our doors open, our tables set, and all your people ready to greet you. Amen.**

**\*\* HYMN VU 412: "This Is the Day"**

1 This is the day, this is the day  
that our God has made, that our God has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that our God has made,  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day  
that our God has made.

- 2     Open to us, open to us  
       your gates, O God, your gates, O God;  
       we will go in, we will go in,  
       to your holy place, to your holy place.  
       Open to us your gates, O God,  
       we will go in to your holy place.  
       Open to us, open to us  
       your gates, O God.
- 3     You are our God, you are our God,  
       we will praise your name, we will praise your name;  
       we will give thanks, we will give thanks,  
       for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.  
       You are our God, we will praise your name,  
       we will give thanks for your faithfulness.  
       You are our God, you are our God,  
       we will praise your name.
- 4     This is the day, this is the day  
       that our God has made, that our God has made;  
       we will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
       and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
       This is the day that our God has made,  
       we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
       This is the day, this is the day  
       that our God has made.

### *We Listen for God*

**FIRST LESSON:** Genesis 15:1-6 (NRSV)     **Reader:** Sheila Laundry

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." [Then the LORD] brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

And [Abram] believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**SECOND LESSON:** Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16    **Reader:** Sheila Laundry

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old -- and Sarah herself was barren -- because he considered him faithful who had promised.

Therefore, from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

**SERMON:** "More Than This"

**\*\* HYMN VU 634: "To Abraham and Sarah"**

- 1    To Abraham and Sarah  
     the call of God was clear,  
     'Go forth and I will show you  
     a country rich and fair.  
     You need not fear the journey  
     for I have pledged my word,  
     that you shall be my people  
     and I will be your God.'
  
- 2    From Abraham and Sarah  
     arose a pilgrim race,  
     dependent for their journey  
     on God's abundant grace;  
     and in their heart was written  
     by God this saving word:  
     'that you shall be my people  
     and I will be your God.'
  
- 3    We of this generation  
     on whom God's hand is laid,  
     can journey to the future  
     secure and unafraid,  
     rejoicing in God's goodness  
     and trusting in this word:  
     'that you shall be my people  
     and I will be your God.'

# *We Go Into the World*

## **OUR OFFERING**

## **GREAT PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

### **HYMN VU 400: "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"**

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

### **WE SHARE OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS:**

We pray for people in Ukraine, Syria and Ethiopia;  
countries without access to vaccines;  
our political parties, and political system.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER: (sung - VU 959)**

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. Amen.

## **COMMISSIONING**

### **\*\* HYMN VU 713: "I See a New Heaven"**

#### Refrain

I see a new heaven.  
I see a new earth  
as the old one will pass away,  
where the fountain of life flows  
and without price goes  
to all people who abide in the land.

- 1 There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,  
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,  
the Tree of Life will be. Refrain
- 2 There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,  
body and soul, struggling but whole  
like flowers after the rain. Refrain
- 3 There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.  
There where the night, bearing new light,  
reveals the promise of love. Refrain
- 4 There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.  
Labour we must, true to our trust  
to build a promised new land. Refrain

**BLESSING**

May God bless you and keep you. May God cause light to shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
May God turn towards you and grant you peace.

**\*\* HYMN VU 420: "Go to the World" (vs. 1 & 4)**

- 1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.  
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,  
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
  
- 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!'  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**POSTLUDE**

**We welcome**, and thank Cathy Sturt for providing musical leadership  
while Bill Outred is on vacation.

**MASKS:** Although masking regulations have changed,  
we strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask while attending worship services.

**GETTING IN TOUCH WITH FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH**

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***Your email and phone messages are welcomed,  
and are checked regularly.***