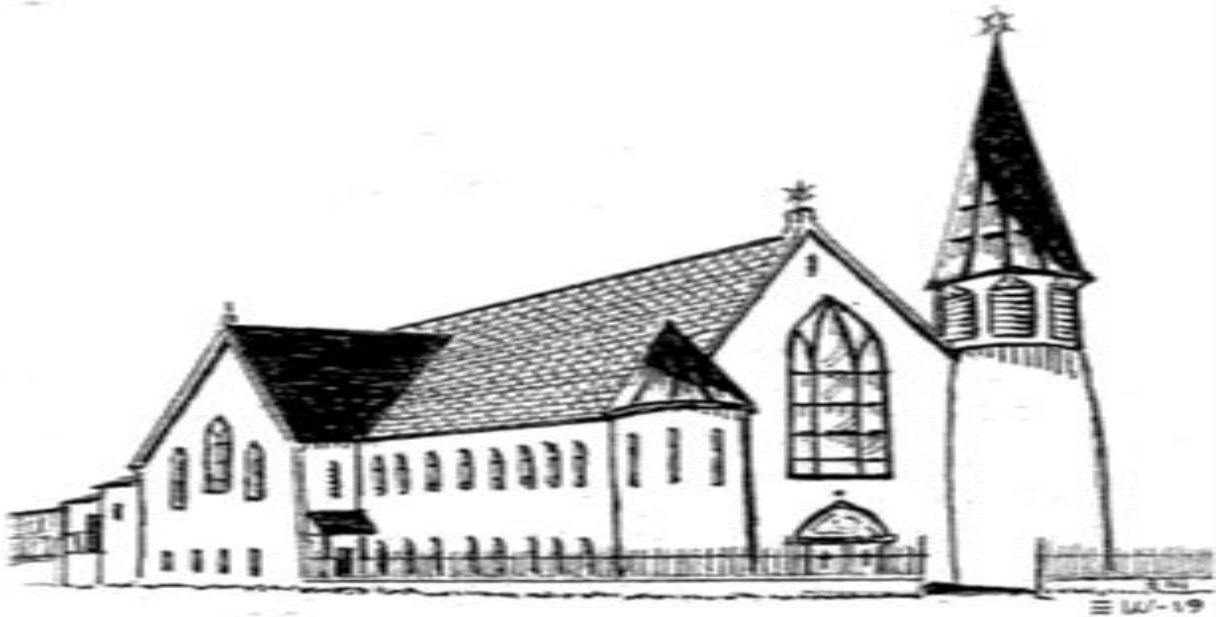


**GEORGE STREET UNITED
CHURCH
ROOTED IN THE ROCK:
TRANSFORMING FOR TOMORROW**



October 17th, 2021

3rd Sunday in the Season of Gratitude

21st Sunday following Pentecost

Worship Leader: Rev. John Maich B.C.S M.Div.

Organist & Senior Choir Director:

Dr. Carolyn Sturge Sparkes, B. Mus., PhD

Men's Choir: Directed by William Green.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Organ Prelude: Dearest Jesus, We are Here----J. Walthier

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, and Announcements:

Sharing The Peace of Christ:

*Call To Worship:

ONE: Sometimes, God, we need to gather to lament.

ALL: **We come ready to trust you with our grief.**

ONE: Sometimes, God, we need to gather to rage.

ALL: **We come ready to trust you with our anger.**

ONE: Sometimes, God, we need to gather to witness and to weep.

ALL: **We come ready to trust that you will comfort us in our time of need.**

ONE: Sometimes, we just need to be here together and sit in the pain.

ALL: **And so we come ready to just be, together, and to trust you with all of who we are.**

ONE: Let us worship the God who love the whole of us beyond measure and without exception.

*Hymn: VU 374 Come And Find The Quiet Centre

Opening Prayer: *(in unison)*

ALL: **Holy and gracious God, we gather as seekers, lovers, disciples, and friends. We gather to give you thanks for the blessings of our lives and to replenish and refuel our spirits for the road ahead. We gather to learn the wisdom of your way and feel the warmth of your love. Bless our gathering as we**

join our hearts and minds together in worship.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

ONE: Gracious God, as people called to be your presence in the world, we search our hearts, and ask your forgiveness:

ALL: For opportunities not taken, for care not given,

ONE: Forgive us, we pray.

ALL: For sorrow not shared, for joy not celebrated,

ONE: Forgive us, we pray.

ALL: For love not offered, forgiveness not extended,

ONE: Forgive us, we pray.

ALL: For those failings we cannot speak aloud

ONE: Forgive us, we pray.

ALL: Gracious God we seek your healing grace and ask forgiveness in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

ONE: The good news of the Gospel of Christ is that Jesus has not come into the world to judge the world but to redeem it.

ALL: The Holy Spirit intercedes for us in the midst of our weakness. We are lifted-up, dusted off and invited to join Jesus in God's coming Kingdom not as servants but as friends.

***Hymn: VU 266 Amazing Grace**

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination (in unison):

ALL: Holy One, as we prepare to hear the wisdom of your Word, help us to be receptive. Help us to be curious about what you might want us to hear, to feel, and to understand anew. Amen.

Hebrew Lesson: Leviticus 23: 15-22

Epistle Lesson: Acts 4: 32-35

Gospel Lesson: Mark 19: 16-31

Musical Offering: Andantino---J. Hook

Responsive Psalm: 22 VU pg. 744

Sermon: Wisdom From The Bench

***Hymn:** VU 743 The Lord's My Shepherd

Pastoral Prayer and The LORD's Prayer:

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering:

ONE: When our hearts are heavy and our challenges feel daunting, it can be transformative to give to others. Let us proclaim together the power of God to sustain and bless by taking up our offering for the ministry of this community of faith and for our Mission and Service partners.

Offertory Prelude: Offertoire----J.-F. Dandrieu

Prayer of Dedication:

ALL: Holy and gracious God, we pray that these gifts help to bless and sustain the work of this church and its mission and ministry in our neighbourhood and in the wider world. Amen.

***Hymn: VU 626 I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say**

***BENEDICTION:**

ONE: As people of God, you form a community of faith within The United Church of Canada

ALL: **Within this community of faith, we are blessed and blessing.**

***COMMISSIONING (in unison):**

ONE: Go now and proclaim the good news of Christ's gospel.

ALL: **We will testify to God's creative caring and to the Spirit's empowerment and encouragement of our community. We will use our many and varied gifts to reach out to our neighbours and embody God's love for them in the world.**

Organ Postlude:

Adagio from Organ Concerto in Bb Major, Opus 7-----G. F. Handel