



GRACE UNITED CHURCH
Thirteenth After Pentecost
Aug. 23rd, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
Worship Leader: Keith Mayers, LLWL
Music Director: Don Salfarlie
Presider: Maria Stevens

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Stralsund Gesundbuch

Welcome, Announcements
& Traditional Land Acknowledgment Maria Stevens

Gathering song: Bless the Lord, O My Soul (10,000 Reasons)
Led by Keith Mayers TLUS #35

Lighting the Christ Candle Maria Stevens

One: Oh, light of Christ a new day is dawning

All: Our hearts rejoice and sing again!

One: Saying welcome Holy Spirit

All: Blessed be Your Holy Name!

One: We lift our eyes to the Hills

All: Our help comes from You Lord

Opening Prayer Maria Stevens

All: All loving God, Creator, Sustainer, Refresher and Redeemer.
All abiding, protecting, nurturing and nourishing. Feed us
with Your Spirit. Preserver of life, keeper during storms,
refuge in times of trouble. Receive our sacrifice of praise, our
offering of adoration and our hearts of joy. We celebrate You,
O God, our strong tower, our hiding place. We rest in the
safety of Your wings now and forever. Amen.

Praise and Worship 1: In the Bulb There Is a Flower VU #703

TO DISCOVER THE WORD OF GOD FOR TODAY

Responsive Reading: Psalm 124 (Refrain #2 sung) VU #848

Scripture Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10 Catherine Marlin

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God!

Children's Moment: Simon Says

Song: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me VU #575

Led by Kay Bingham

Children leave for Sunday School

Sermon: The Papyrus Basket - Chariot for a Prince Keith Mayers

TO RESPOND IN FAITH AND HOPE

Offering:

Invitation

Offertory/Special Music: Cindy Tindale

In His Time

Diane Ball

Response: We Give You but Your Own

VU #542

Prayer (One)

Bountiful God, giver of all things bright and good, all things lovely, all things worthy, all things of good report, receive our offering. Prune our dead leaves. Trim our barren branches that we may bear much fruit. Equip us as vessels of giving; all ourselves to You. That in so offering we become treasured people of the glorious kingdom. Amen.

Prayer Prelude: Lord Have Mercy

VU #946

Invitation to Confession:

All: Creator God, who made all things bright, beautiful, great and small. You made them all. Precious life on earth. All creation for Your pleasure. Yet at times we have misused Your grace and disrespected creation. Turning inward to requests for outreach. Overlooking the sanctity of life and dignity for others. Lacking compassion for others in need. Open our hearts to helpless voices. To innocent lives crying for help. For nations seeking hope. That we may show the love of Christ, bearing fruits of the Spirit. Refreshing others, thereby loving God and feeding the flock, as Jesus demands. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

One: We are forgiven people, saved by faith alone in Christ, not in any work we do, lest any should boast. Christ the lamb cleanses us and redeems the world. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Maria Stevens

One: We make petitions for the world. A time of angst, fear and trepidation. We see despair from environmental disasters. Earthquakes, extreme weather, wildfires, droughts, floods and famines in many places. We offer prayers for Colombia, and Venezuela with recent powerful earthquakes. Europe with its worst season of extreme heat and wildfires. Water shortages because of drought conditions. Military conflict with many innocent lives being lost. Civilians deprived of freedom as endowed by God the creator. Revive us to prayer for the world, helping others, sending relief. Give us hearts as Christ for the nations.

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

One: We intercede for Canada. A land of plenty, vast resources and flowing goods. We lament over the misused resources. Goods not reaching the needs of many and limited passion to help. We repent for the state of the environment. Blazing wildfires, floods and nature crying out for respect. Housing, mental health and food inequity too common. Forgive the problems of substance abuse, poverty and social discord. Heal our communities, cities and hamlets. Drive us to constant prayer that you may hear from heaven and heal our land.

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

One: Remember the churches throughout the nation. That we become one as Jesus prayed. As Jesus wept for Jerusalem, we also cry out for the church. To break forth into a season of triumph and jubilee. To resurrect as the body of Christ in all power and glory. To experience a rebirth that fills sanctuaries, even necessitating closed buildings reopen to fulfill the demand. As you have set a time for the redemption of Israel by the hand of baby Moses. So, we await the reconciliation of many to You.

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

One: Remember those of our congregation that are ailing, aged, alone, afraid, depressed, overworked, unemployed. Those mourning loved ones lost. Those facing difficult decisions for the future. Families with broken

relationships. Many who have turned inward and separated themselves from contact. We pray for generations of families with differences. Younger vs elder, children vs parents, marriages and relationships under distress. We make intercession for every insufficiency. As scripture says we feel infirmities together as the body of Christ. Send forth opportunities to come back to our first love for others like Dorcas. Sacrificial work that helps us bear each other's burdens. Passion to see the body of Christ whole. Thank You, God, for miracles everyday as we faithfully trust in You.

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

One: Gracious God, we offer silent petitions of our hearts...

(moment of silence observed)

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (said)

Praise and Worship 2: Take My Life and Let it Be

VU #506

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO LIVE ITS FAITH IN THE WORLD

Commissioning

Keith Mayers

One: Fear God, as Ecclesiastes writes in the last chapter. Do whatever He says. Obey God rather than anything else this world exalts. As women disobeyed Pharaoh to honour God instead, we must seek God's bidding. Knowing in us what is good, true and right by the power of God's divine Spirit. In difficult situations, temptation and pressure exist to give in to. God is faithful to give a way of escape from temptation. As we pray 'deliver us from all evil', God will surely do that. May God guide you a s you journey by faith.

Blessing (Numbers 6: 24-26)

May God bless you and keep you.

**May God's face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.**

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

Organ Postlude:

Chariots of Fire

Vangelis