

WE GATHER

Welcome, Life and Work of the Church
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Acknowledgement of the Land

Call to Worship:

Come, let us gather to hear the evolving story
of God's love.

**In this sacred space,
we give ourselves to the present moment,
laying aside all worries and concern
entering into the now of the great I AM
God's active and eternal presence.**

Amen

Opening Hymn: "Come Let Us Sing" VU 222

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.

- 2 O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

- 3 You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.

- 4 Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.

Prayer of Approach:

Leader: We come with hope and expectation.

All: We bring our heart's desire.

Leader: We come with the longing in our souls

All: We bring our hunger for life

Leader: We come seeking God's Wisdom.

All: We bring all our questions and our doubts

We bring all our hopes and our dreams.

Prayer for Reconciliation: (unison)

Holy Spirit, you hear our sighs and longings,

the sadness that weighs us down

when our lives are heavy

and the world is in pain.

Inspire us by the delights of your creation.

Lift our hearts like the wind in the trees,

the birds that soar, the hills and the horizon.

In the name of Jesus, our Wisdom and our Way.

Amen.

WE LISTEN

Scripture: Exodus 12: 1-14

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: God Weeps MV#78

God weeps

at love withheld,

at strength misused,

at children's innocence abused,

and till we change the way we love,

God weeps

God bleeds

at anger's fist,

at trust betrayed,

at women battered and afraid,

and till we change the way we win,

God bleeds.

God cries

at hungry mouths,
at running sores,
at creatures dying without cause,
and till we change the way we care,
God cries.

God waits
for stones to melt,
for peace to seed,
for hearts to hold each other's need,
and till we understand the Christ,
God waits

Sermon: Saved by the Blood?

I will be preaching on Sunday about how we hear stories and how we make meaning from stories. I will be asking some important questions. Are the connections made centuries ago about the meaning of Passover and the blood of the lamb and the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross still vital for us today? Are there other ways to make meaning from this story that will help us in the living of our days during these times? I really hope so. Or, perhaps we need a new story. Check out a service at one of the little churches around the Lake of Bays. I'm working on it.

WE RESPOND

OFFERING INVITATION:

DOXOLOGY VU 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

Prayers of the People:

CLOSING HYMN: Spirit Dancing VU# 388

Spirit dancing on the waters,
Sun reflecting song of grace
Calling life to all the creatures,
Giving life to human race.

Spirit dancing on the waters,
Naming moment they should part,
Giving freedom to the peoples,
Signed for all in dancer's art.

Spirit dancing on the Waters
paradox of womb and grave
welcome now the Word child's coming
no one prisoner no one slave

Spirit dancing on the waters
can the dance by Cross be stilled
Earth be shaken! Dead awaken!
What was emptied shall be filled

Spirit dancing on the waters,
Give your people their new birth,
Healing, loving one another
In community with earth.

Spirit dancing on the waters,
We would come and dance with you
'til our world is filled with music
And in Christ all things are new.

BLESSING:

**May the love of the Holy One enfold you
May the labour of the Birthing One deliver you
May the wisdom of the Wild One Sustain you
And May the peace of the All in One
Sustain you
Bless you
And guide you home.
Amen**

SEASON OF CREATION

NEXT SUNDAY CHANGE OF LOB CIRCUIT SCHEDULE

Knox United, Dorset– 9:00 a.m.

Stewart Memorial, Dwight – 10:15 a.m.

Pioneer Memorial, Hillside– 11:30 a.m.

Sept 10. An Ancestral Story The Passover
Sept 17. Another Ancestral Story Red Sea Escape
Sept 24. Peace Sabbath: Food in the Desert
October 1 Water in the Desert
October 8 Cosmic Blessing

Stewardship is participation in God's Work

There are several different options for you to make your offering to Lake of Bays Pastoral Charge. **1. In person and on the plate.** (Each congregation has a different practice around this but you can't miss it!) **2. Via PAR (preauthorized remittance).** Then you don't have to think about it again. Money is withdrawn monthly **3. By e-transfer.** The email address for donations via e-transfer is lobunit-edchurches@gmail.com In the subject line/comment please identify to which of the Churches you wish to donate, **4. By cheque:** If you send a cheque, please make it out to Lake of Bays Pastoral Charge and mail it to: LOB United Churches, P.O. Box 196, Dwight, ON, P0A 1H0, specifying for which church the donation is intended.

Please give generously. Thank you!



**Sunday Worship, September 3, 2023
LABOUR DAY SUNDAY
LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE
Pioneer, Hillside – 9:00 a.m.
Stewart Memorial, Dwight – 10:15 a.m.**

Knox, Dorset – 11:30 a.m.

Minister: Rev Meg Jordan (705-789-6600) jordanm@vianet.ca
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Bookkeeper/Administrator: Linda Pinkerton
Leadership Chair: Jennifer Parker
Musician, Knox: Cynthia MacLean