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WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

*With the many burdens you're carrying,
may you find Sabbath rest in this time.
We're glad you're here!*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United MV: More Voices

* Please rise in body and/or Spirit as you are able.

*We would like to acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract,
traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg,
and Haudenosaunee peoples.*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude **I Will Arise**

Lighting the Christ Candle

*Gathering Hymn **What a Friend We Have in Jesus** VU664

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.*

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
 take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
 take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.*

Call to Worship

One: Has it been a rough week for you?

All: In some way, it has.

One: Do you feel burdened and exhausted?

All: Yes. This is supposed to be a season of relaxation, but our spirits feel dragged down with cares and concerns.

One: Bring your cares to the Lord, for God will surely offer healing balm for you.

All: Thanks be to God who listens to our cries and heals our spirits. Thanks be to God who calls us to Sabbath, and joins us in worship.

Prayer of Approach *adapted from a prayer by M Milner*

One: Spirit of life, we gather grateful
for this start of this summer season.

We carry with us the burdens of this quarantine,
missed opportunities, missed friends, heavy hearts.

Strengthen us that we might gather grateful
for the gift of life itself, mindful to celebrate what life is
and to insist on what it can become. Amen.

Story for All Ages

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Readings from the Scriptures (adapted from The Message)

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ "How can I account for this generation? The people have been like spoiled children whining to their parents, 'We wanted to skip rope, and you were always too tired; we wanted to talk, but you were always too busy.' John came fasting and they called him crazy. I came feasting and they called me a lush, a friend of the riffraff. Opinion polls don't count for much, do they? The proof of the pudding is in the eating."

²⁵⁻²⁶ Abruptly Jesus broke into prayer: "Thank you, God, Lord of heaven and earth. You've concealed your ways from

sophisticates and know-it-alls, but spelled them out clearly to ordinary people. Yes, God, that's the way you like to work."

²⁷ Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly.

"God has given me all these things to do and say. This is a unique divine operation, coming out of [our relationship full of] intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I'm not keeping it to myself; I'm ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen.

²⁸⁻³⁰ "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Reflection

Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

VU 670

*Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When the darkness appears,
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Minute for Mission

Monica Place

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

The Prayer

* Offering Response

*Dedication of the Offering

Pastoral Prayer

One: God of the seasons and of all life, we come to you this day with so many cares and concerns on our lives. We have planned for the summer months as times of relaxation and refreshment. We need to take some time to stop the frantic running around, to focus on your healing love, to let go of all those demands that weigh us down. Heal and restore us, O Lord. Help us be the church in times of leisure as well as in times of work and stress. As we have brought our cares to you in our prayers, let us bring our lives to your healing mercies. Strengthen and heal us, Lord. Get us gently ready for all the joyful opportunities that stretch before us. We ask these things in Jesus' Name.

Lord's Prayer

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory.**

For ever and ever. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

VU 626

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'*

*I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live.'*

*I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.'*

*I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.*

* Commissioning

* Choral Benediction **Go Now in Peace**

*Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.*

("Go Now in Peace" Written by Besig & Price ©1988)

Postlude

Just a Closer Walk