

# **New Hope United Church**

**Sunday, September 29, 2024**

**Nineteenth After Pentecost**

**Creation Time 4**

**Proper 21**

**Bold print indicates a congregational response.**

**\* indicates when the congregation is standing, if they are able.**

## **We Gather as God's People**

### **Gathering Meditation**

**(We invite you to silently meditate prior to the service.)**

**Prelude: "I Need Thee Every Hour" (R. Rowry)**

**Richard Twum-Antwi**

### **Acknowledgement of the Land**

### **Passing of the Peace Christ**

Grace and peace from God our Father, the Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with you!

**And also with you.**

### **Words of Welcome/Life and Work of Our Church**

### **The Lighting of the Christ Candle**

### **Music for the Lighting of the Candle**

### **Call to Worship**

**The Lord is Holy and Mighty over all Creation!**

**The Lord speaks and summons all the earth to listen!**

**The heavens proclaim the justice of the Lord!**

**God will gather all His people and show them grace!**

**\*Opening Hymn: "O Jesus I Have Promised" (#120 VU)**

**1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:  
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

**2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.**

**3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.**

**4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Great God, giver of the harvest,  
Source of Creation and growth,  
we turn to you in the midst of the work  
of gathering in your bounty,  
in the midst of enjoying the beauty  
of this special and colourful season,  
to offer thanks for our many blessings.**

**Make this hour of worship a special blessing we pray,  
and touch us deeply with your presence  
as we stand together in your love,  
your mercy, and your grace. Amen**

**Sung Response: "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"  
(#240, vs. 1)**

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,  
glad of heart your carols raise;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,**

**who, like me, should sing God's praise.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Praise the Maker all your days!**

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Our God, lovingly you search for us.  
Relentlessly you reach out to us, inviting us to follow.  
Forgive us for the times we have chosen  
to hear other voices and accept other invitations.  
Forgive us for the effort and time we have spent  
in following other paths.  
May we hear with newness of spirit, 'Come and follow me.'**

**Words of Assurance:**

The Good News is that God is completely committed to us. God will always be here offering grace, strength, and love in great abundance.

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**Sung Response: "Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts"  
(#101 MV)**

**Jesus, you will our hearts with your love,  
Our minds with your peace  
And our lives with your joy.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed**

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us. We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.**

**Ministry of Music: "Sweet By and By" (J. Webster)**

**We Listen for the Word of God**

**For the Young at Heart**

**Response" "Dance With the Spirit" (#156 MV)  
Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life abornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

Lord, Open our hearts to Your Word, that we may gratefully receive Your Blessings, Your energy, Your spirit, and Your love as disciples for you. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen**

**Scripture Reading:**

**Psalm 124 – 'God the Protector of His People'  
(#848 VU – refrain 1)**

**Refrain:**

**Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth**

'If God had not been at our side,'

**now let Israel say:**

'If God had not been at our side  
when mortals rose up against us,

**then they would have swallowed us alive,**

**when their fury was roused against us.**

Then the flood would have swept us away,  
and the torrent would have covered us.

**Then the raging waters**

**would have gone right over our heads.' R**

But praised be God:

who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.

**We have escaped like a bird  
from the hunter's snare;  
the snare is broken and we are free. R**

**Mark 9: 38-50 - ' Whoever is not against us is for us'**

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.' And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. 'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

**Response:**

This is the Word of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Response: "River Running in You and Me"**

(#156 MV - twice)

**River running in you and me, Spirit of life, deep mystery,  
dancing down to the holy sea,  
River run deep, River run free.**

**Reflection: "We are the Salt of the Earth"**

## Music for Silent Reflection

### We Respond to God's Word

#### The Offering of our Gifts and Ourselves

##### Invitation

**\*Offertory: "For the Fruit of All Creation" (#227 VU)**

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.**

**For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.**

**For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,**

**future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

#### Prayers of the People

#### The Lord's Prayer (*sung*): (#959 VU)

**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.**

### We Go Forth to Love as Christians in the Word

**\*Closing Hymn: "On Eagle's Wings" (#808 VU)**

**1 You who dwell in the shelter of our God,  
who abide in this shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: 'My refuge,  
my Rock in whom I trust.'**

**'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,**

**make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'**

**2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear:  
under God's wings your refuge,  
God's faithfulness your shield. R**

**3 You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come. R**

**4 For to God's angels is given a command  
to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'**

### **Blessing and Sending Forth**

**\*Choral Blessing: "O Lord My God" (VU 238 - v.1)**

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

### **Postlude**

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**New Hope United Church**

**Rev. Andrew Lee, Minister**

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## **Announcements**

**We are very pleased to welcome back Rick Mckinley as Pulpit Supply this morning.**

### **Creation Times**

We celebrate "Creation Times" from this Sunday to the Thanksgiving Sunday. New Responses are applied. During the Creation Times, let's prepare our hearts for the Thanksgiving.

### **Visitation**

Rev. Andrew is available to members who want pastoral visitation at your house, at the church or to meet at another place such as a coffee shop. Please contact Rev. Andrew at 416-999-5615 to arrange a time and place.

### **New Hope United Magic and Munchies fundraiser!**

Thanks to everyone who supported yesterday's fundraiser. It was a great event. A special thank you to Ryan Neary for donating his special talent.

### **Apple Picking**

YUM is planning to gather for apple picking on **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**. Participants will gather at Royal Orchard Farm (3105 16th Sideroad, King City, ON L7B 1A3) at 10:00 am. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Andrew.

### **Offering**

Collection plates can be found on the table in the entranceway or at the back of the Sanctuary. Please consider joining PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) mailing a cheque to the church or setting up an e-transfer.

## Worship Schedule

Date	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Preacher	Rev. Andrew Lee	Catherine Hions	Rev. Andrew Lee	Catherine Hions
Church Year	Creation Times 5 World Wide Communion	Thanksgiving	Twenty-second After Pentecost	All Saints Sunday
Liturgical Colour	White	Green	Green	Green
YUM/UCC Calendar	Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup> (Sat.) Apple Picking			

## **Mission and Service Stories**

### **Pastor's Retreat – Respite and Reflection**

A short while ago, we shared that a Pastors Retreat is being planned for October of 2024. This retreat will provide badly needed respite for northern United Church ministers who are facing a crisis.

The number of deaths in their northern communities has been immense. The grief of burying community members, especially young people, has been overwhelming. The emotional toll of ministering to a grieving community is enormous.

Your response has been profound and powerful. When we shared that leaders are in dire need of rest and renewal, you went into action. Thanks to your generous and outstanding support of Mission and Service, this retreat is going to be a reality.

The retreat will provide rest, training in crisis management, and spiritual renewal, and will allow leaders to return with renewed strength to help those in need. Pastors will participate in a blend of activities, including learning about vicarious trauma and experiencing relaxation opportunities through art therapy, beading workshops, and sharing circles.

Thank you for your expression of compassion through **Mission and Service** that has ensured that this retreat will move forward. To learn more, visit **Pastors Retreat**. Thank you.