

8th Sunday of Pentecost

Proper 11

Gathering

Call to Worship

God of each human family,

bless this church family, gathered in the name of Jesus.

God of each human family,

inspire this church family, gathered to praise your name, O God.

God of each human family,

challenge this church family, gathered to live by the Living Word.

God of each human family,

encourage this gathered church family to be good to each other, and to be movers and shakers in this neighbourhood.

God of each human family,

give a broad vision to this church family, gathered to serve the downtrodden of the world.

Let us worship God.

Prayer of Approach

Holy Father,

Creator of all that is, Mother of us all, You call everything into being, and use everything to draw forth the Kingdom of Heaven:

Send Your Spirit upon us,

that we may be strengthened to serve You in the work for which You continually shape us.

We ask in the name of the Holy Spirit, who intercedes for us in our weakness and gives us dreams bigger than we dare dream.

Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Your love, O God, in Jesus Christ, has blessed us, encouraged us, and given us hope. We respond with our offering.

Our offering will strengthen the church here, and the wider community of faith.

Through these gifts we will worship joyfully.

**Through these gifts we will care compassionately.
Through these gifts we will provide hope globally,
and declare our faithfulness. Amen.**

Listening

Children's Time

Reading: [Genesis 28:10-19](#) (*The Message*)

After cheating Esau out of his birthright, Jacob runs away. Along the way, he has an interesting dream. What does it mean for him in his running away? How does it relate to us today?

Questions

1. What part of this passage did you like the best?
2. What part of this passage was most important?
3. What part of this passage could we take away and still have all the story we need?
4. What part of this passage seems like your life?

Sermon

Reading: [Romans 8:12-30](#) (NRSV)

Paul reflects on how we should feel about what God has done for us. In an age where many assumed that being saved meant being spared from difficulty, his message was surprising.

Questions

1. What does it mean for you to be independent?
 2. How does the Spirit help in our time of weakness?
 3. How are we glorified in God's plan?
 4. How can you serve God this week?
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Serving

Prayers of the People

World, Community, and Church

We support those who sow the good seed.

**God is with them, and God is with us.
With joy we await the harvest.**

Self

God is with us as we work as God's seed sowers;

there will be a joyful harvest!

July 19th, 2020

Toronto Chinese United Church
Rev'd Tom MacNeil

Closing Hymn

"Refiner's Fire"

Words and Music by Brian Doerksen, ©1990.

Benediction

Take your responsibility as members of Christ's Church to heart!

We will study God's word diligently;

we will grow in the faith steadily;

we will serve our fellow men and women justly and carefully;

we will participate in the faith community enthusiastically;

and we will rejoice in what we share,

as those marked by the Cross of Jesus.

Amen