



"MY GOD IS A ROCK: LEAD ME TO THE ROCK"

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Autumn Reverie

Paxton

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Sung Response

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

Choir

***Call to Worship and Opening Prayer (Adapted from Psalm 61:1-4)**

Dan Ensor

O God, listen to our cry! Hear our prayers!

From the ends of the earth, we cry to you for help when our hearts are overwhelmed.

Lead us to the towering rock of safety, for you are our safe refuge.

Let us live forever in your sanctuary, safe beneath the shelter of your wings!

Let us worship God!

Lord, we gather here this morning with lives that are filled with activity and movement. We rush from one thing to another as though we are going to run out of time to accomplish everything. It can feel overwhelming. In our worship, lead us to you, the "higher rock" that relaxes our spirits and refreshes souls. Remind us that there will always be things to do and places to go, but that we need your strength, your shelter, and the assurance that only you provide. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud

Prayer of Confession

All Praying

Pastor Debra

Holy God, hear our prayer: For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness; For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us; For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist; For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us; We pray for the courage to admit our fault, the strength to amend our actions, and the hope that your grace awaits us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Confession and Assurance

Pastor Debra

Out of the depths we cry to God, in our suffering and in our pain. Out of the depths God cries to us, asking us to repent, to return to God with our whole hearts, to admit our sin, and to accept forgiveness. So let us pray with one another, first in silence.

Know this:

The cup of grace is extended to us
already and always.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God. Amen!

The Peace of Christ **Ministry of Music**

Let's Go to God

Choir

Psalm 61 (NKJV)

Dan Ensor

Hear my cry, O God;

Attend to my prayer.

2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You,

When my heart is overwhelmed;

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

3 For You have been a shelter for me,

A strong tower from the enemy.

4 I will abide in Your tabernacle forever;

I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

5 For You, O God, have heard my vows;

You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.

6 You will prolong the king's life,

His years as many generations.

7 He shall abide before God forever.

Oh, prepare mercy and truth, which may [c]preserve him!

8 So I will sing praise to Your name forever,

That I may daily perform my vows.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sung Response

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land (Refrain)

*Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.*

Sermon

The Higher Rock

Pastor Debra

Affirmation of Faith

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

UMH 883

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.

Preparation for Prayer

Lead Me, Guide Me

FWS 2214

See words on last page

Morning Prayer

Pastor Debra

The Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory and Doxology

Through Faith

Dan Ensor

Doxology is Sung

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication for the Offering

Dan Ensor

Closing Hymn

Great Is the Lord

FWS 2022

See last page for words

Benediction

Pastor Debra

May the love of God take away your millstones
and place you high up on the Rock,
that you may see more clearly
the calling of God in your life.
Into the hands of God,
commit your spirit,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
our risen Lord. Amen..

Sung Response

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land (Refrain)

*Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.*

Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

*Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

GREAT IS THE LORD

Refrain

***Great is the Lord, he is holy and just;
By his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true;
by his mercy he proves he is love.***

*Great is the Lord and worth of glory!
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice,
Now lift up your voice: Great is the Lord! **Refrain***

*Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are you, Lord, and worth of praise!
Great are you, Lord; I lift up my voice,
I lift up my voice: Great are you, Lord! **Refrain***