

Lakefield United Church

REV. DR. KERRIE PERRY,
BA, MDiv, DMin

MUSIC DIRECTOR
VINCENT ABRAHAMSE,
B Mus, B Ed.



CHURCH OFFICE 47 REGENT ST.
P.O. BOX 267, LAKEFIELD K0L 2H0 705-652-3126
Church Office email: lkflduc@nexicom.net



SUNDAY July 2, 2023 Proper 8A

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement: We respectfully acknowledge that Lakefield United Church is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as Williams Treaty First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

Lakefield United Church respectfully acknowledges that the Parties of Williams Treaties are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that we all must take responsibility and work together to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

We gather with Praise
(*asterisk * indicates please stand as able*)

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

Candle Lighting

The Psalmist writes:

“Thy word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path”

As this flame shines in our gathering, so may God’s Word of hope and love shine in our hearts.

Guided by God's Light, we center ourselves for worship.

***Hymn** VU 337 Blessed Assurance

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We long to find a place to relax, O God,
to lean into the welcome and the love of real friends
who stay true no matter who we are or what we’ve
done.

We want to be known – not just our names, but our
selves, our dreams and longings, our fears and
failings and be warmly, unrestrainedly welcomed.

We yearn to know the joy of opening our arms to
others and seeing them melt and grow soft in the
safety of our acceptance.

**And you have created a place like this for us
a place of people, with failings and
disagreements who still look out for one
another;**

- a place of difference and struggle where we can all belong;
- a place of faith and deep doubt,
- a place of awkward stumbling toward Christlikeness;
- a place of worship, of mystery and of rest.

And though we can't always see it, although sometimes it doesn't feel like it; this is the place – here.

**Not the buildings and the furniture –
no, these people who gather each week in your
name and try so hard to remember each other's
And for this place, and your being with us
we give our heartfelt gratitude and devotion.
Amen.**

Jon van der Laar, Sacredise

Opening Prayer (Responsive)

It's a tough thing for us to learn, Jesus,
how you hide in the most unlikely places;
how you beckon us into life and compassion
by disguising yourself in broken humanity.
But, when our eyes are opened,
we discover that we are never far from your heart,
from your kingdom.

**And so we ask you to show yourself to us again,
and lead us into prayerful action;**

Help us to share your grief when lives are needlessly lost simply because they have no money for food or shelter, because they have no access to medicine and care, because they have no choice but to live where war and violence constantly threaten;

Help us to feel your offense when the least are exploited by the lust of those who are physically stronger, by the greed of those who are financially richer, by the disregard of those who are politically more powerful.

Help us to know your pain when what you have created is destroyed by the carelessness of expediency, by the short-sightedness of progress at all costs, by the sense of entitlement of proud humanity.

Teach us to welcome you, Jesus, by welcoming those in whom your image is hidden, and by working, in our small worlds, to make visible your kin-dom where all are welcomed.

Amen.

Jon van der Laar, Sacredise

Conversation Time

Hymn VU 342 You Servants of God vs 1,3,4

Introduction to the Scripture

Scripture Lesson Romans 6:12-23
Dorothy Howard-Gill

Reflection

Prayers of The People

Prayer Response MV 112 Antiphon

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

**Praise God whose breath fills all the earth
Whose love reveals our sacred worth
Whose Spirit forms one family
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.**

Offering Prayer

***Hymn** VU 120 O Jesus, I Have Promised

***Benediction**

Choral Benediction MV 224 May the God of Peace

Postlude