

**Kindred Spirits Worship
Seventeenth after Pentecost
September 20, 2026**

Theme: From Complaint to Gratitude

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES

One:

Called to live with respect in Creation
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler, and Newcomer peoples,
we acknowledge that the land on which we worship, work, learn, and serve,
and the water which sustains life on this land,
is of God, Creator,
and in the farthest reaches of memory
was entrusted to the original peoples who walked this land,
and to their descendants.

One:

With the coming of colonizers,
treaties were made,
but again and again the treaties were broken,
causing deep and lasting harm
to the historic caregivers of the land,
to the generations that followed them,
and to the land itself.

All:

**Called to action for Truth and Reconciliation,
we who gather here on Treaty One territory
and the homeland of the Red River Metis
commit ourselves to faithful ways
of honoring the treaties, the land, and one another
in a spirit of open-hearted respect.**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, from near and far, and let us worship our Creator.

All: We come with grateful hearts.

One: Come and celebrate the beauty and wonder of Creation.

All: We come with hearts full of praise.

One: Come, as one family of faith, united in Christ and called to serve.

All: We come to worship, to love, and to serve.

One: Let us worship God, our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer.

All: We worship with joy and gratitude. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, we thank you for this new day and for bringing us together as one family of faith. Thank you for the gifts of Creation, for the people around us, and for all the ways you provide for us.

When we are tempted to complain, help us remember your goodness. When we are worried, teach us to trust. When we receive, teach us to share. Open our hearts to gratitude, and our lives to your call to love and care. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASS THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN MV#26

Your Love Is Amazing

MOMENT TO PONDER

Sometimes we focus so much on what we do not have that we forget to notice what we have already received.

The Israelites were hungry in the wilderness, and they complained to Moses. Their hunger was real, and their struggle was real. But even in that difficult moment, God did not abandon them. God heard their cry and provided bread and meat for them.

This reminds us that life will not always be easy. There will be times when we have genuine concerns, disappointments, and reasons to complain. But we can also pause and remember the ways God has carried us, provided for us, and placed people in our lives who have helped us along the way.

As we begin this new season together at John Black and Immanuel, let us also look at the blessings around us. We have one another. We have our families, our friends, our community, and the opportunity to worship and serve together.

So, let us ask ourselves: **What am I grateful for today? Who has been a blessing in my life? What blessing can I share with someone else?**

May we learn to notice God's goodness, even in difficult seasons. And may our gratitude lead us to love more deeply, forgive more freely, understand one another better, and care for those around us.

Let us take a quiet moment to reflect on the blessings we have received and the blessings we can become for others.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 16:2–15, Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45

Matthew 20:1–16

CHOIR ANTHEM **“Let Everything Praise the Lord”** *by Mark Hayes*

REFLECTION

HYMN MV#30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

OFFERING INVITATION

God has entrusted us with gifts: the gifts of Creation, the gifts of community, and the gifts within each of us.

As we receive today's offering, may we remember that generosity is one way we participate in God's work of healing, justice, love, and care for the world. Let us give with grateful hearts.

DOXOLOGY VU#538 For the Gift of Creation

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, receive these gifts and receive our lives. Use what we offer to bring hope where there is despair, justice where there is inequality, welcome where there is exclusion, and care where Creation is wounded.

Help us to give faithfully and generously. May all that we offer become part of your work in the world. Amen.

CENTERING MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: God of love, we come before you with thankful hearts. Thank you for your presence, your provision, and the many ways you care for us. Teach us to remember your goodness, even when life is difficult.

All: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We pray for those who are going through difficult seasons; those who are worried about food, housing, employment, finances, and the future. Provide what they need and remind them that they are not alone.

All: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We pray for those who feel forgotten, overlooked, and treated unfairly. Give them courage and hope. Help us to build communities where people are valued, welcomed, and treated with dignity.

All: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We pray for our world. Where there is war, bring peace. Where there is hunger, bring food.

Where there is conflict, bring understanding. Where there is injustice, give us courage to act.

All: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We pray for your Creation; for the land, the water, the air, and all living things. Forgive us when we take more than we need. Teach us to care for what you have entrusted to us.

All: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We pray for communities affected by wildfires, floods, drought, storms, extreme weather, and other natural disasters. Be with those who have lost homes, belongings, livelihoods, and loved ones. Give strength to those who are rebuilding, courage to those who are helping, and wisdom to all of us as we care for your Creation.

All: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We pray for our governments, our leaders, and all who carry responsibility in our communities. Give them wisdom, honesty, courage, and compassion. Help them make decisions that protect the vulnerable, promote justice, care for Creation, and build communities where everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity and hope.

All: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

One: We pray for our Kindred Spirits Collaborative Ministry (for John Black Memorial United Church and Immanuel United Church) as we begin this new season together. Bless our congregations, our families, our friends, and our

community. Teach us to love one another, to forgive one another, and to live with patience, understanding, and respect. Help us to grow together in unity, support one another in times of need, and share generously the blessings you have given us.

All: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

One: Generous God, thank you for hearing the prayers we have spoken and the prayers we carry silently in our hearts. Help us to trust your provision, to recognize your goodness, and to become generous people who share your love with others.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

HYMN VU#229 God of the Sparrow

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

Go now with grateful hearts, caring for God's Creation and for one another. May God bless you with wonder, Christ guide you with love, and the Spirit lead you to live with gratitude, generosity, and care. Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING MV#214 May God's Sheltering Wings

POSTLUDE