

Woden Valley Uniting Church



9 August 2026

Pentecost 11

Jesus practised radical inclusion! All are welcome here.



WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD

The Gong is struck three times. *The gong calls us to gather, to be present in this time of worship.*

Prelude: Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water. *(a time for quiet preparation).*

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

Lighting the Community Candle

**Come light, light of hope and love, give light to creation
Enlighten our hearts and show us your truth.**

Welcome and Introduction

Hymn: TIS 200 – In you is gladness.

Passing the Peace

In love, hope and unity, with vision and service, let us greet each other with a sign of peace. May the peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn: TIS 473 – Community of Christ.

(Please stand as you are able)

WE REFLECT ON WORDS FOR OUR TIME

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16–22

Refrain



**O give thanks, and call on God's name,
sing God's deeds to everyone.
Hearts rejoice in seeking God's presence,
singing for justice and equity.**

Reading 1 - Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.”^[a] ⁶ But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’”^[b] (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’”^[c] (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,”^[d] that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”^[e] ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”^[f]

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”^[9]

First Reflection

Reading 2 - A Zen Buddhist story

There's a Zen Buddhist story about three monks, who decided to practice meditation together. So, they went to a quiet place at the side of a lake and closed their eyes and began to concentrate. Then suddenly, the first monk stood up and said, “I forgot my prayer mat.” Miraculously the monk stepped onto the water in front of him and walked across the lake to their hut on the other side. He returned his fellow monks just the way he had gone; striding upon the water. When he sat back down, the second monk stood up and said, “I forgot to bring my prayer mat.” Miraculously the second monk stepped onto the water in front of him and he too walked across the lake to their hut on the other side. When the second monk returned to his fellow monks he too returned striding upon the water. The third monk had watched the first two monks very carefully and he decided that this must be some sort of test. So, he stood up and loudly declared: “Is your learning so superior to mine? I think not! I too can match any feat you two can perform!” With that the young monk rushed to the water's edge so that he too could walk upon the water. The young monk promptly fell into the deep water. Surprised and annoyed, the young monk climbed out and promptly tried again, and again he sank into the deep water. Over and over again, he dragged himself to up on the bank, shook himself off, and confidently set out to walk upon the water and over and over again he promptly sank into the deep water as the other two monks watched from the shore. After a while the second monk turned to the first monk and said, “Do you think we should tell him where the stones are?”

Reading 3 - Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It's a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Song: (*Sing twice*)

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the waters
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently
By putting your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee

Second Reflection

Music for Reflection: Wade in the Water.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn: TIS 691 - Faith will not grow from words alone. (*Please stand as you are able*)

Offerings

We acknowledge that in addition to this collection, many do so elsewhere through direct debit or any other means, and so many of our community contribute in many other ways to our shared mission.

We give thanks for the gifts of faith and trust and patience, which we bring with our offering today. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People *(Please remain seated)*

Disturb us

Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.
Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love. Amen

The Lord's Prayer – Abba Prayer

Father of heavenly love,
all joy surrounds your name,
your kingdom come
your will be done
till earth your grace acclaim.
Give us today our bread
to share with those in need.
Forgive our sins as we forgive
with word and by our deed.
Deliver us from fear
when trials test our days.
Your kingdom, power
and glory are
our true delight and praise. **Amen**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Blessing - Sung together as Hymn: TIS 782 – Go now in Peace. *(Please stand as you are able)*

Postlude: Bridge over Troubled Water.

Notices & Sharing

Acknowledgements:

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Music: Brendan O’Loughlin

Reader: Libby Osborn