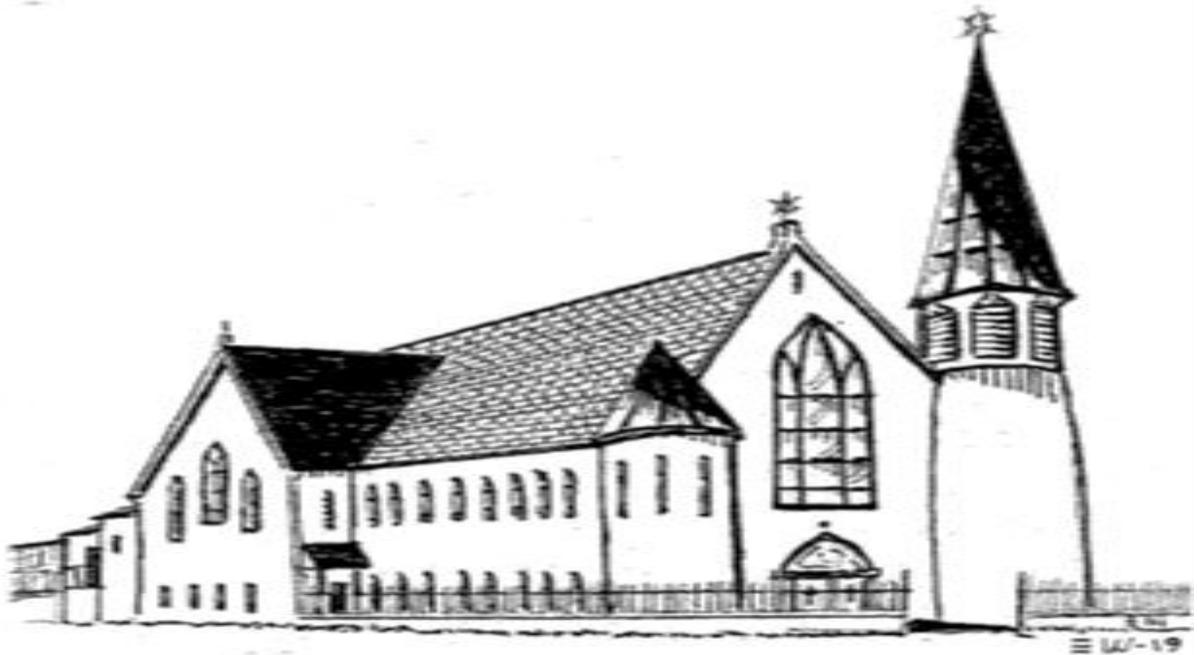


# GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH

**ROOTED IN THE ROCK:  
TRANSFORMING FOR TOMORROW**



**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Worship Leader:** Rev. John Maich B.C.S M.Div.

**Organist & Senior Choir Director:**

Dr. Carolyn Sturge Sparkes, B. Mus., PhD

**Men's Choir:** Directed by William Green.

## **WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**Organ Prelude:** Musette----M. Corrette

**Introit:** Gather Us In---D. Hann/D. Fines

**Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, and Announcements:**

**Sharing The Peace Of Christ:**

**\*Call To Worship:**

**ONE:** Come all you children of the resurrection! Come and testify of your Easter faith.

**ALL:** Listen, O Earth! We bear witness to the risen Christ who has taken the sting from death and the grave.

**\*Hymn:** VU 327 All Praise To Thee

All praise to thee, for thou, O King, divine,  
Didst yield the glory that of right was thine,  
That in our troubled hearts, thy grace might shine:  
Hallelujah; Hallelujah!

Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought;  
By thee the outcast and the poor were sought,  
And by thy death was God's salvation wrought:  
Hallelujah; Hallelujah!

Let this mind be in us, which was in thee,  
Who wast a servant that we might be free,  
Humbling thyself to death on Calvary:  
Hallelujah; Hallelujah!

Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, thou

**Art high exalted o'er all creatures now,  
And given the name to which all knees shall bow:  
Hallelujah; Hallelujah!**

**Let every tongue confess with one accord  
In heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord;  
And God eternal be by all adored:  
Hallelujah; Hallelujah!**

**Opening Prayer:**

**ONE:** Creator God you fashioned the morning for us to meet  
you and the day for us to dwell in your light.

**ALL:** **Sustaining Spirit you make us your tabernacle,  
teaching us about your way of being and maturing  
us in faith with Christ Jesus.**

**\*Hymn: VU 371 Open My Eyes (vv 1-2)**

**Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands, the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently, now I wait for thee,  
Ready, my God thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!**

**Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth, thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently, now I wait for thee,  
Ready, my God thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!**

## Celebrating The Sacrament Of Holy Communion

*insert*

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

ONE: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

ONE: God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins. Since we have faith, we dare to approach God with confidence. Let us ask God to forgive us.

**ALL: Almighty God, we have sinned against you and one another. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. In your mercy, forgive us, correct us and direct us; though our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ONE: Here is good news: Christ Jesus came that we might have life, life in all its fullness: to forgive us in our failure, to accept us as we are, to set us free from the power of evil, to make us what we were meant to be.

**ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **INTERCESSION**

**ONE:** At this time, we also remember all those with whom you would have us share your feast.

We pray for those who are in sorrow or in pain . . .

We pray for those who are ill or alone . . .

We pray for those who live with fear, oppression, or hunger . . .

We pray for those whom the world counts as last and least . . .

We pray for your church and its varied ministries . . .

We pray for nations as they strive for peace and justice . . .

We pray for our families and our friends. . .

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ our Lord will come again.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING OF EASTER**

**ONE:** Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love. With your breath, you formed all that we are and all that is beyond us; the heavens tell of your glory.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights when the powers of death have done their worst, your luminous love has never deserted us. Even when we turn away from you, you are with us; your presence never fails us, and your gifts of hope and new life transform us. We praise you for Jesus Christ, risen to life, eternal as your love. With the women at the tomb, we raise the strain of gladness. Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death! The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom, and so we rejoice with all your people for every time and place, with the angels and archangels, to proclaim the glory of your name:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

ONE: We remember that when Jesus ate with his friends, he took a loaf of bread and after saying it, he broke it and gave it to them saying, "Take eat. This is my body given for you. Each time you do this, remember me." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, pass it to his friends, saying, "Drink. This cup poured out for you is the promise of God, made in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me." Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts that all who share in this bread and wine may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world. In this hope, and as your people. We praise you:

**ALL:** Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen.

**ONE:** And now, gathering all our prayers together, we are bold to sing:

**ALL:** 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 and ever.  
Amen.

**THE BREAD IS BROKEN**

**THE CUP IS LIFTED**

**THE INVITATION IS GIVEN**

**ONE:** Come to the Lord's most holy table for now all things have been made ready.

**ONE:** The body of the Lord is broken for you. Eat all of it and be glad.

*The bread is eaten in silence*

**ONE:** The blood of Christ is shed for the forgiveness of your sin. Drink all of it and be glad.

*The wine/juice is consumed in silence*

ONE: The Lord has fed you from His own table, not with ordinary bread and drink but with the true bread come down from heaven and the fruit of the true vine. Take this moment, and the promised held within it to heart. There, at the Lord's table is a seat, reserved for you. Be at peace and be glad.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)**

**ALL: For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you, God. Grant that what we have done and have been given here may so put its mark upon us that it may remain always in our hearts. Grant that we may become more mature Christians and that ours may be the faith that issues forth in action through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***2.16 Article XVI. Of the Sacraments.***

We acknowledge two sacraments, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, which were instituted by Christ, to be of perpetual obligation as signs and seals of the covenant ratified in His precious blood, as a means of grace, by which, working in us, He doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and comfort our faith in Him, and as ordinances through the observance of which His Church is to confess her Lord and be visibly distinguished from the rest of the world.

**2.16.1** Baptism with water into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is the sacrament by which are signified and sealed our union to Christ and participation in the blessings of the new covenant. The proper subjects of baptism are believers and infants

presented by their parents or guardians in the Christian faith. In the latter case the parents or guardians should train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and should expect that their children will, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, receive the benefits which the sacrament is designed and fitted to convey. The Church is under the most solemn obligation to provide for their Christian instruction.

**2.16.2** The Lord's Supper is the sacrament of communion with Christ and with His people, in which bread and wine are given and received in thankful remembrance of Him and His sacrifice on the Cross; and they who in faith receive the same do, after a spiritual manner, partake of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ to their comfort, nourishment and growth in grace. All may be admitted to the Lord's Supper who make a credible profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus and of obedience to His law.

*--From the United Church of Canada's Basis of Union*

**\*Hymn: VU 371 Open My Eyes (v 3)**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
love with Thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
Ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!**

**WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination (in unison):**

**ALL:** Gracious and loving God, you reveal yourself to us through Creation, Christ Jesus, your only Begotten Son and, through the words of Holy Scripture. Open your words to us this day that in hearing we may understand and with understanding we may follow you into action. Amen.

**Reading:** Acts 8: 26-40

**Reading:** John 15: 1-8

**Reading:** 1 John 4: 7-21

**Anthem:** Living Bread---E. Shank/G. Martin

Christa Chaplin---soprano

Erika Winsor Dunn---alto

**Sermon:** God Is Love

**\*Hymn: VU 333 Love Divine All Loves Excelling**

Love divine all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies Crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Nevermore thy temples leave.

**Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve the as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
Glory, in thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

#### **Invitation to the Offering:**

**ONE:** Come, let us bring our gifts of time, talent, and treasure as an offering of thanksgiving to the great God who provides for our each, and every need

**Offertory Anthem/Music:** Verse----G. Trabaci

#### **Offertory Prayer:**

**ALL:** We have come to you in worship, prayer, and study grateful for the gifts that you have shared with us. Please accept these gifts as tokens of our generosity and use them to assist us in our loving service and the sharing of our faith with our neighbours. Bless all that we bring and use it for the glory of your kingdom. Amen.

**\*Hymn: VU 602 Blest Be The Tie That Binds**

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The unity of heart and mind is like 2 that above.**

**Before our Maker's throne, we pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and Our  
cares.**

**We share each other's woes, each others burdens bear;  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

**This glorious hope revives our courage on the way;  
That we shall live in perfect love in God's eternal day.**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

**ONE:** As people of God, you form a community of faith within  
The United Church of Canada

**ALL:** **Within this community of faith, we are blessed and  
blessing.**

**\*COMMISSIONING (in unison):**

**ONE:** Go now and proclaim the good news of Christ's gospel.

**ALL:** **We will testify to God's creative caring and to the  
Spirit's empowerment and encouragement of our  
community. We will use our many and varied gifts  
to reach out to our neighbours and embody God's  
love for them in the world.**

**Vesper:** Go in Love---D. Besig/N. Price

**Organ Postlude:** Hornpipe from *Abdelazar* or the *Moor's  
Revenge*---H. Purcell