

GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH ROOTED IN THE ROCK: TRANSFORMING FOR TOMORROW



May 8th , 2022

Christian Family Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Minister: Rev. John Maich B.C.S M.Div.

Today's Intergenerational Worship Service has been adapted from a worship resource from the United Church of Canada website prepared by the recently retired Rev. Jackie Harper

*Our service today will be presided by Erika Winsor-Dunn
and
our entire service will be by piano accompaniment played by Kathy Winsor.*

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Piano Prelude:

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, and Announcements:

Sharing the Peace of Christ:

***Call To Worship:** *(Stand)*

God invites us into relationship with one another, to know one another as siblings, to care for one another. In baptism, we have been welcomed into this world-wide Christian family and each new child or adult baptized is welcomed into this same family. Today we celebrate being part of that family, being kin to one another, being called to the task of “kin-dom” building and sharing.

Please Stand as you are able, so we can pray:

ONE: Creator, parent of the human family,

ALL: we gather to worship you.

ONE: In baptism, we are called beloved children of God, as such,

ALL: we gather to worship you.

ONE: Friends, neighbours, siblings in faith,

ALL: we gather to worship in song, in prayer, in readings, in thoughts and in reflections. Let us worship God.

***Hymn:** **VU395 Come In, Come In, and Sit Down** *(Stand)*

(Congregation to sing verses)

(Chorus to be sung by: Mason & Aislynn Whitten, Dominic & Caleb Power)

Opening Prayer: *(in unison- seated)*

ALL: God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you.

**We come as individuals, we come in family units,
we come as neighbours and as friends.**

We come here today, where we are welcomed with all our fragilities and strengths. We gather with kindred spirits who long to live faithful to your calling. Guide us, inspire us, challenge us, comfort us, and nurture us in this time of worship so that we might be enabled to return to our daily lives ready to engage fully with all of your creation.

We pray together with a resounding Amen.

Memorial Candle Lighting- A Time of Remembrance

(Rev. John Maich)

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5

40 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Candle Lighting: In loving memory of Brent Noble, Mabel Winsor, Mary Davis, Georgina Christopher and those loved ones whom we remember today that passed in the last year

Prayer

Meditative Music: VU# 679 "Let There Be Light" Senior Choir

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison- seated)*

O God, you know how hard it is to live in relationships, and yet you call us to do so. At times it is hard to be fully present to our siblings and others in our nuclear family and within this Christian family. Our patience may be short, we sometimes don't really listen, we may be tired, or angry, or hungry, or lonely, or ... whatever it is that keeps us from loving and caring for one another, help us to know that you are always with us, loving us so that we may love others. *(A time of silence is offered for personal thoughts and concerns)*

Assurance of Pardon:

ONE: Through all the joys and all the struggles of living in relationship, one truth is offered to each and every one of us:

ALL: **God has loved us, is loving us and will always love us.
Thanks be to God for this unending gift of love. AMEN**

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Time with Our Young Spirits *(Kathy Winsor)*

Dakota Rumsey and Bev Connolly with Granddaughters Ella and Abbie Connolly (Mr. Golden Sun)

Prayer for Illumination (in unison-seated):

One: Our faith blesses us with stories of others who have sought to live in life-giving relationships. As we remember these siblings in faith, remind us of your guidance and presence with us.

ALL: O God of story, in the beginning you created humankind. The Bible contains your story of love and encouragement and challenge, to your creation, to your children, and to us. Today, may our hearts and minds be open to hear what your Spirit is saying to us. We pray. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-3 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith ^aour ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the world was prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.*

(Robert McNeily)

Prayer: God of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam; God of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus; God of siblings who cared for one another, offered support and challenge, celebrated together, worked together, argued together, and grieved together. We are thankful for their witness. As they have done may we also seek to live in life-giving relationships with those we would name as siblings. Amen

(Christina McNeily)

Hymn: VU371 Open My Eyes (Seated)

Scripture Lesson: 1 Samuel 3: 2-9

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. ⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and

lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

(Alexandra Dunn)

Prayer: God of Eli, Hannah, and Samuel, cross-generational colleagues, mentors, and trusted leaders in faith, remind us of the opportunities we have to nurture and care, mentor and discern with one another in this faith community. May we embrace the trust that is offered and shared with respect, care, and humility. Amen

(Eric Winsor)

Hymn: VU 509 Here I am Lord (*Standing*)

Scripture Lesson: Ruth 1: 15-17

¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." ¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go - I will go, and where you stay - I will stay. Your people - will be my people and your God - my God. ¹⁷ Where you die - I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."

(Paula Shea)

Prayer: God of Ruth and Naomi, who embraced each other despite differences of race and cultural traditions and chose to be family for one another. God of Hagar, Abraham, and Ishmael; God of Sarah, Abraham, and Isaac; God of the complicated, and the jealous, and the broken, remind us that this too is real and that you walk with us through troubling times. For all who have complicated relationships may God's love and hope sustain us day by day.

(Ruby Shea)

Hymn: VU382 Breathe on me Breath of God (*Seated*)

Scripture Lesson: Luke 5: 9-11

⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

(Pauline Murrin)

Prayer: God of Simon and Andrew and James and John, who left the familiar to build new community with Jesus and his followers. Though faithful, they had moments of doubt, of fear, of denial. In our moments of

doubt, fear, and denial, may we remember to trust and to take one step at a time.

(Florence Spurrell)

Hymn: VU563 Jesus you have come to the Lakeshore (Seated)

Scripture Lesson: Colossians 3: 12-17

² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Katherine O'Brien)

Prayer: God of Mary and John, called to relationships that stretch beyond blood, to care for one another. You invite us too to reach out in welcome, support, and care for one another. God of the past, God of the present, God of tomorrow, help us to live in relationships that seek justice, love kindness, and ground ourselves in your love for us.

(Roger Angel)

We continue in prayer, sharing in the prayer Jesus taught the disciples...

The LORD's Prayer: In unison

Hymn: VU226 For the Beauty of the Earth (Standing)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Minute For Mission:

Invitation to the Offering:

ONE: God has blessed our lives with relationships—joy inspiring and challenging. In response to God's blessings in our lives, we are now invited to share our offerings.

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison- standing)

ALL: Creator God, you have blessed our lives with relationships that both inspire and challenge. We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation. Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people. We pray. Amen.

***Hymn: Go My Children (Standing)**

*Go, My children, with My Blessing;
Never Alone.*

*Waking, Sleeping, I am with you;
You are My Own.*

*In my Love's Baptismal river,
I have made you mine forever!
Go, My children, with My blessing;
You are My Own.*

*Go, My children, Fed and Nourished;
Closer to Me.*

*Grow in Love and Love by Serving;
Joyful and Free.
Here My Spirit's Power filled You;
Here My tender comfort stilled you!
Go, My Children, Fed and Nourished;
Joyful and Free.*

*I, the Lord, will bless and keep you;
And give you peace.*

*I, the Lord, will smile upon you;
And give you peace.*

*I, the Lord, will be your Father,
Saviour, Comforter and Brother!
Go, My Children, I will keep you;
And give you peace.*

***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 both 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 VU974 Amen

Piano Postlude *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" J.S. Bach*