



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sunday, September 10, 2017

RALLY SUNDAY ~ WELCOME BACK!

Reflection: “Jesus the Learner”

Rev. Meg Grieve

LARGE PRINT Bulletins, Voices United Hymn Books and Bibles are available from the ushers.

BULLETIN NOTATIONS:

★ Signal to stand, for those who are able.

VU~Voices United Hymn book **MV**~More Voices Hymn book

Welcome Visitors! We're glad to have you worshipping with us at Parkminster and would like to make sure you feel connected. Please take a few minutes to fill out one of the white information envelopes found in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or put it in the mail slot outside the office. Whether you'd like more information about Parkminster's programs, want to request offering envelopes, or have a question about becoming a member – or whatever else is important to you, we'd love to hear from you! Welcome!

NOW WE GATHER

Prelude: “Home” *by Phillip Phillips*

★ Introit: “Part of the Family” 🎵 VU #395

Welcome

One: Today we begin another church year. Today we begin a new cycle of learning and growing our spirits. Today we re-commit to our mission of loving the world and seeking peace. We welcome one another, those with happy summer memories, and those with sad ones. We welcome one another,

those who are energized and those who are weary. We welcome one another just as we are and pray peace and blessing on each.

Today, we remember our relationship with First People which has not always been healing and empowering. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home, Anishnawbe (*An-ish-in-aabe*), the Haudenosaunee (*hau-de-no-sau-nee*), and the Neutral. We acknowledge, with regret, that this history has not always been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

All: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning. Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.

One: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends. Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.

One: Welcome to each who is searching for meaning, who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

All: As we come together as church, we turn to one another with gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek blessing as we welcome the great gift of spirit in us, through us, and among us.

Joys and Concerns

★ Children's Song: "Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold"

🎵 VU #605

Story Time

Following the story time, children and youth will leave for Sunday Morning Activities. Happy Learning!

For babies and toddlers, there is the Family Worship Space at the back of the sanctuary. Each week, there will be an adult present so that the children can play and be cared for while parents worship. Parents are free to come and go from that space, according to the needs of their children.

Opening Our Hearts

We breathe deeply of spirit and we remember. We remember those who have taught us or who are teaching us right now.

Who was, or is, your best teacher? What did s/he give you? What difference did his/her wisdom make? How are you transformed by his/her gift?

Prayer

Song

**I am becoming peace.
I am becoming peace,
a well of patience, well of grace,
make my soul a holy place.
I am becoming peace.**

NOW WE DISCERN

Ministry of Music: "Never Alone" by Lady Antebellum

📖 Scripture: Matthew 15: 21-28 (NT, pg. 17)

About Scripture

Today we read the story of a meeting, Jesus' meeting with the Canaanite woman. This story challenges us to walk with Jesus as he learns his life meaning and as he grows.

Jesus is travelling out of his home territory of Palestine. According to some bible scholars, he is in the territory of the Gerasenes, a pagan people who were an historic enemy of the Jews. He is approached by a Canaanite woman who begs him to heal her sick daughter. Interestingly, Jesus balks at the opportunity to help the girl. According to social norms, Jews do not associate with the Gerasenes and according to religious norms, they do not make themselves unclean by touching them. It is not that Jesus is doing something other faithful religious Jews would not do. But for the one who healed lepers clean, it is an unusual response.

I wonder if the unusual reaction is connected to the assumptions we make about Jesus. Many think that Jesus always knew his life purpose. Many believe that he knew about Good Friday and the ones in the dark about that day were the disciples. I am not so sure. I know Jesus was deeply spiritual and personally savvy. He understood power and how it could be used for love's sake or for the ego's sake. But he could be wise and savvy and still be a learner. He could have had his assumptions checked by real life. He, like all of us, could face new challenges and change his assumptions of who he was, of who was "in" and who was "out."

Today, I see Jesus as a learner. What does that mean for us, for our faith, for our understanding of life and its meaning? Many experts on education see the teacher as a learner and the learner as a teacher. Maybe ancient wisdom does the same. The playing field may be more level than we think.

Reflection: "Jesus the Learner" Rev. Meg

★ Hymn: "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"
 🎵 VU #644

NOW WE SHARE

Offertory: *kora improvisation by Lucas Tensen*

Dedication: "What Can I Do?" 🎵 MV #191

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

Nothing escapes love's power to transform. No one is unworthy. Nothing is simply impossible.

Today we return thanks for the hope that the holy is all in all and that redemption will happen no matter who we are. We offer our gifts for the sake of others and for the sake of the world. Amen

Honoring the Teachers and the Learners

Prayers of the People

★ Hymn: "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" 🎵 VU #633

★ Alleluia

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Blessing "Peace Be with You" 🎵 MV #215

Postlude: "Old Church Choir" *by Zach Williams*



It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Susan Lori DeMatteo (Van Camp), beloved daughter of Parkminster members, Thelma and Swain Van Camp. As a caring congregation, we extend our love and most heartfelt sympathies to Thelma, Swain, their family and friends as they mourn their loss. We pray they will feel comfort and support from our prayers as we hold them in the light.

Susan's family will receive relatives and friends this afternoon, starting at 2:00pm, at the Henry Walsler Funeral Home in Kitchener. Memories of Susan's life will be shared at 3:00pm, reception to follow.

Family has requested expressions of sympathies be directed to Parkminster United Church, Carizon Family and Community Services or KW Counselling Services (cards available at the funeral home). Please visit www.henrywalsler.com to view Susan's memorial.

Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer in various ways this Sunday:

Ushers:	Dorothy Duxbury, Brian Harper, and Shelley & Bruce Mutton
Greeters:	Maureen Crawford and Betty Crawford
Lay Reader:	Lisa Hicknell
Candle Lighter:	Poppy Hicknell
Kora:	Lucas Tensen
The Band:	Colleen Usaty, John & Matthew Watson, and Lee McWebb, Angie & Neil Murray
Counters:	Bill Spall and Jim Bowman
Sanctuary Flowers:	Chancel Committee
The Ministry of Parkminster:	All of us
Ministry of Word & Sacrament (Interim):	
.....	Rev. Meg Grieve (ext. 23)
Ministry of Pastoral Care (Interim):	
.....	Rev. Fred Monteith (ext. 22)
Music Director:	Neil Murray (ext. 25)
Office Administrator:	Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)
Custodian:	Allen Switzer (ext. 26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*For a complete listing please refer to the weekly "What's UP" email.
If you would like to receive "What's UP", please contact the church office.*



**Today is our Corn Roast & BBQ!
Join in the Fun & Fellowship!**



Today - House Group #8 Meeting: House Group #8 will be meeting in the gym today following worship. This will enable members of the group to enjoy hot dogs and corn while sorting out duties for the month of October!

Pastoral Care – Rev. Fred Monteith: If you or anyone in the congregation requires pastoral care or you become aware of someone who might be ill, in hospital or in need of some support, please contact Fred at church by phone at **519-885-0935, ext. 22.**

Monday Morning Playgroup: Resumes for caregivers and tots this coming **Monday, September 11th.** If you would like to help set up and supervise (it is really fun and easy) on a Monday morning, please contact Liz Forde at **eforde@sentex.ca** or at 519-576-1233. We are on hand from 9:30 until about 11:30. The caregivers are responsible for their children. We just provide coffee and snacks and a place to play with the toys. This is a wonderful outreach project with the community!

JOIN MEG! Wednesday, September 13: Meg invites you to enjoy a peaceful afternoon **Labyrinth walk followed by a Tea Social.** The Labyrinth walk will begin at 1:00pm, with tea and desserts following from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. **RSVP not necessary.**

JOIN MEG! Wednesday, September 20: Join Meg to experience a serene evening of **Music & Meditation** with guest musician, Lucas Tensen. Meditation will be held from 7:00pm to 8:00pm, followed by desserts and fellowship until 9:00pm. **RSVP to Melanie in the church office by Thursday, September 14th.**

September/October Services: A message from **Nancy Dykstra, Chair of Worship/Music** - This year the fall season is one of significant transition – of returning back to routines, of endings, and new beginnings. Meg's time with us is coming to a close, and our new ministerial team is arriving. Some among us may be wondering what is planned for worship for goodbyes and hellos. Below is a general outline for worship for the next few weeks as this transition happens. **Please take note of these dates.** Thank you!

Sept 17 - Farewell Service for Rev. Meg: a final Communion, a time to bring our covenanted relationship to a close.

Sept 24 - Blues Sunday: Meg's last Sunday with us - a musical celebration of our time together (Meg loves the blues!) and an ice cream sundae party in the gym afterwards.

Oct 1 - Welcome Rev. Joe Gaspar & Rev. Heather Power: our new ministerial team. Their first service with us.