



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sunday, May 14, 2017

~ Celebrating Elaine ~

**Reflection: “A Caring Conversation”
with Elaine, Fred & Meg**

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!

Gathering

Prelude: “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”
arr. by Lloyd Larson

★ Introit: “Come Touch Our Hearts” 🎵 MV #12

Welcome

One: In this Easter season, we explore what it means to be an Easter people, a people who know that love is stronger than death. We celebrate the power of love to transform our hearts and minds and we celebrate how our caring for one another rolls away stones of

grief and loneliness and mends our broken hearts.

Caring for one another is “Easter” work.

Today, we honour Elaine Beattie who has been our Pastoral Care minister. We bid her a fond farewell and thank her for her compassionate presence with us.

As well, we remember our relationship with First People. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the Six Nations tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home. 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 Easter gift of transformation. Love is stronger than death.

Joys and Concerns

★ Children’s Song: “Five Barley Loaves”

Betty Pulkingham © 1975

Refrain:

**Five barley loaves and two fishes (x3)
It was enough for him.**

**What are these among so many? (x3)
There’s not enough for them. (refrain)**

**Give it to God, and God will use it. (x3)
It’s enough for God. (Refrain)**

**Took the bread and thanked our creator. (x3)
For the gifts God gave. (Refrain)**

**Sent it out for the people to eat. (x3)
They were satisfied. (Refrain)**

**Twelve baskets were left over. (x3)
More than enough for them. (refrain)**

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.

Passing the Peace

Today we are passing the peace in a different way. Fred and Meg will bring a basket of bread “fragments” to the end of each row, and offer it to the person on the aisle saying, *“The bread of life for you.”*

The basket will be passed down the rows as we receive the living bread from one another.

Opening Our Hearts

Fred

Blessing The Fragments

© Jan Richardson, janrichardson.com

Cup your hands together,
and you will the shape
this blessing wants to take.
Basket, bowl, vessel;
it cannot help but
hold itself open
to welcome what comes.

This blessing
knows the secret
of the fragments
that find their way
into its keeping,
the wholeness
that may hide
in what has been left behind,
the persistence of plenty
where there seemed
only lack.

Look into the hollows
of your hands
and ask
what wants to be
gathered there,
what abundance awaits
among the scraps
that come to you,
what feast
will offer itself
from the fragments that remain.

Prayer

★ Hymn: “Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands” 🎵 MV #173 (vs. 1 & 5)

Feeding

Ministry of Music “Can You Imagine” *by Allen Koepke*

📖 Scripture: John 6: 1-14 (NT, pg. 97)

About Scripture

Today we read the story of Jesus as he feeds a crowd of 5000. He has been teaching the crowd about hope and possibility. He turns to his disciple, Phillip, and asks him to consider making the impossible possible. Jesus asks Phillip about feeding the crowd who now is hungry and in need.

Apparently, Phillip didn’t get Jesus’ message about making what seems impossible into a reality. He balks at the enormity of the task. He is not alone. Some other disciples are equally overwhelmed by the problem of thousands of hungry strangers and a limited budget. Sounds a lot like most churches.

Then Jesus shows his followers what love can do. He spots a youngster with a lunch bag containing 5 barley loaves and 2 fish. In his hands, what seems small in the face of great need becomes enough. Actually, it becomes more than enough. The disciples collect 12 baskets of leftovers. They learn love creates “enough.”

Today, we are thinking about our primary task of caring for one another. The task is as daunting for us as the feeding of the 5000 was for Jesus’ friends. After all, life can be challenging, complicated, and confusing. We know how Phillip felt when Jesus dared him to care for others’ hunger. He panicked because the job exceeded his capacity. We understand our limits, and the job of loving one another stretches us. Can we do it?

Alone-probably not. But open to holy and loving energy? Probably, yes.

Pastoral care is about relationship. That is certain. It is about walking with one another and offering companionship and compassion. We get that. But caring is rooted in our spiritual selves, in our relationship to holy energy and purpose. Our capacity to show up and share life’s pain expands when we

know that we channel holy possibility. We are not responsible for creating it. We are responsible for sharing it. The dare is on. And there will be enough.

Reflection: “A Caring Conversation” with Elaine, Fred, and Meg

★ Hymn: “Deep in Our Hearts” 🎵 MV #154

Sharing

Minute for Outreach

Sue and Dana Usaty

Offertory: “Andante Tranquillo” *by Charles Stanford*

Dedication: “Christ Has No Body Now But Yours” 🎵 MV #171, v.4

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

Easter is hope and possibility. It is new life and new beginnings. It is the great affirmation that love is stronger than death.

As Easter people, we commit our time, talent, and our resources to making Easter live for others. We offer our gifts for the sake of resurrection and the promise of new life for all. Amen

Prayers of the People

Farewell for Elaine Beattie

Introduction by Fred

Tribute from the Congregation read by Sheila Rule

Presentation of Gifts by Janet Holland

Blessing by Meg

★ Hymn: “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore” 🎵 VU #563

★ Commissioning and Blessing

♪ Sung Alleluia

♪ MV #52

Postlude

“Rondeau”

by Jean-Joseph Mouret



*Please join us in the Fellowship Hall
for Elaine's reception.*

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

Ushers: Dorothy Duxbury, Maureen Crawford,
..... Laura Cudworth, Swain Van Camp
Greeters:..... Kate & Geoff Pease
Lay Reader: Loren Calder
Special Helpers:..... Janet Holland, Sheila Rule, Pat Smith (photos)
Chancel Arrangements: Thelma Van Camp
Coffee Hour Hosts:..... Lynn Harper, Swain Van Camp
Coffee Hour Dessert: Robert Yorke & Gillian MacKenzie Yorke

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)
Ministry of Christian Education: Kelly Moores (ext. 24)
Music Director:..... Neil Murray (ext. 25)
Office Administrator:..... Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)
Custodian: Allen Switzer (ext. 26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(please refer to the weekly “What’s Up” email for a complete listing)

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, May 28: There will be a congregational meeting **before church, at 9:30 a.m.**, Sunday, May 28, 2017, to approve the calls for two ministers to Parkminster United Church effective October 1, 2017.
Maedith Radlein, Chair of Council

Parkminster's Annual Church Picnic: Sunday, May 28 - mark your calendar!

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