

Today, 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 face the greatest unknown, and with the hope of spring, we share the confidence that no matter how hidden we are in the shadow, love is stronger than death.

Joys, Concerns, and Greeting One Another

Today, on Easter Sunday, we will pass peace to one another. Please remain seated. Those sitting on the aisle

will receive the blessing of peace by holding their hands as if in prayer. The one passing the peace will place his/her hands around the “prayer” hands and say, “Easter peace be with you.” The person who has received the blessing will turn to the person sitting next in the pew, hold his/her hands and offer the same words of blessing. In this way, the peace will travel down each row and touch each of our spirits.

★ Children’s Song: “This Is the Day” 🎵 VU #412

Story Time: Resurrection Box

Following the story time, the children/youth will leave for the traditional Parkminster Easter Egg Hunt. Happy Hunting!

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 and parents can worship. Parents are free to come and go from that space, according to the needs of their children.

Opening Our Hearts

*Poem by Jan L. Richardson, read by **all**:*

**From all that is broken,
let there be beauty.**

**From what is torn, jagged,
ripped, frayed,
let there be
not just mending,
but meetings unimagined.**

**May the God is whom
nothing is wasted
gather up every scrap,
every shred and shard,
and make of them
new paths,
doorways,
worlds.**

This is another picture of Easter. What do you notice?
Wonder about?

What new paths, doorways or worlds do you see being
opened for you? For Parkminster? For our world?
For our planet?

Prayer by Meg

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

♪ VU #958

Halle, halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, halle, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The Resurrection Shadow

Ministry of Music

Scripture: John 20: 1-18 (NT, pg. 114)

About Scripture

Today is Easter Sunday, the day when all that we know and expect gets turned upside down. On the one hand, this is a “great news” day. We learn from Jesus’ resurrection not to discount the power of love. Easter shows us love that is stronger than death, that hope springs up in the most unlikely places, and that despair in the shadows can birth the possibility of a brand new day.

And yet, when we read any one of the gospel accounts of Easter morning, we do not readily see hope. We see disbelief. We see fear. We see confusion and mistrust. We see disciples running away from resurrection and Mary, alone and weeping at Jesus’ tomb. Transformation is no cake walk. It is tough spiritual work.

Easter asks something of us. It needs our trust, our energy, and our commitment to the transformation that love desires. Where are you this Easter?

Running for spiritual shelter like some of the disciples? Swallowed in disbelief like others? Drowning in sorrow like Mary? Or ready to be transformed into what this world needs: lovers, peace-makers, visionaries, and compassionate hearts?

A Few Words: “All the Eggs in One Basket”

★ Hymn: “Joy Comes with the Dawn” 🎵 VU #166

Living in the Light of Easter

Offertory: selections from “Lord of the Dance” *arr. by Joel Raney*

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

Offering Prayer, said by ***all:***

For strong love, for Easter hope, for possibility and promise, we are grateful. We know that love has the power to roll back stones of fear and injustice, of violence and despair. May our gifts assist the arrival of Easter in our world and be the source of hope for many.

Sacrament of Communion



Invitation to the Table


★ Hymn: “Christ, Let Us Come with You” 🎵 VU #458

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Breaking the Bread and Blessing the Cup

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer

★ Hymn: "The Spring Has Come"  VU #187

★ Commissioning and Blessing

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"  VU #958

Halle, halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, halle, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Postlude

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

Ushers: Mary & Jack Reynolds; Alan Babensee;
..... Laura Cudworth

Greeters:..... Marion Mutton & Gord Chambers

Lay Reader: Judy Paul

Chancel Arrangements: Virginia McQuay

Musicians: Lani Kerbl; Midori Marsh, River Guard;
..... Voices United choir; Neil Murray

****There will be no Coffee Hour today.****

The Ministry of Parkminster: All of us

Ministry of Word & Sacrament (Interim):..... Rev. Meg Grieve (ext. 23)

Ministry of Pastoral Care (Interim):..... Rev. Elaine Beattie (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

Congregational Meeting in May: There will be a Congregational Meeting after church on **Sunday, May 7**, to learn about and discuss the United Church's proposed Remits (changes to the constitution) as well as revisions to our governance structure.

The Remits aim to improve how the church operates. Council must vote on (1) The Three Council Model (2) Elimination of Transfer & Settlement, (3) Office of Vocation and (4) Funding a New Model by June 30th. Remit 6, One Order of Ministry, must be voted on by February 2018. Check them out at **GC42.ca/Remits**.

Council votes on remits but we need input from the congregation. As you will recall, we voted in the spring of 2016 to make changes to our governance structure. The trial period has gone well with some tweaking over the past few months. We are ready to bring those changes back to the congregation for a vote to make these trial changes more permanent.

We will need quorum at the congregational meeting to make these changes possible.

Maedith Radlein, Chair of Council

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**

Parkminster Choral Scholars Concert: Enjoy an evening of music with our choral scholars, Midori Marsh and River Guard - at Parkminster on **Sunday, April 23rd at 7:00pm**. The Voices United Choir will perform an anthem as well. Free admission, free-will offering, reception to follow. Hope to see you there!

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