



**PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**  
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**Sunday, September 17, 2017**

**Decovenanting Service**

**Reflection: “To the Other Side”**

Rev. Meg Grieve

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**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: “Amazing Grace” arr. by Jack Schrader

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

Welcome

One: Today, we mark the ending of the pastoral relationship with Meg and Fred. We mark the conclusion of our time together, remembering all that we have shared by way of joy and sorrow, growth and healing, hope and compassion. We seek blessing on what we have shared and on our future.

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: "Dance with the Spirit"      🎵 MV #156

Story Time: a puppet play by Tracie Klaehn

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 are in a time of transition from one team ministry to the next. After next week, Fred will be “in the Parkminster pew” as he puts it, and Meg will be “in the pew” in Hamilton. October will bring a new chapter in Parkminster’s life as Joe and Heather begin their ministry here.

In a time of transition, we remember the life we shared and name our gratitude. This is an important step in saying good-bye. So, as we breathe deeply of the spirit, we remember. And as we remember, we give thanks.

## 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 HOPE

Ministry of Music

 Scripture: Exodus 14: 19 - 22 (OT, pg. 60)

## About Scripture

Today’s scripture is part of one of the mega-stories in the Old Testament. The title of the story is “The Exodus,”

and it is a story of liberation, of challenge in the wilderness, and the shaping of a people. It is not an easy story because it is a story of power and powerlessness. Wicked things happen by and to wicked people, and God is often the instigator.

I want to acknowledge the complexity of the story, but leave that theological knot to be unraveled another time. Today I want to focus on the actual escape of the Israelites from Egypt.

Pursued by Pharaoh and his army, the Israelites flee. It seems as though they will become victims of Pharaoh's considerable military might. Just when there seems to be no way to freedom, a way is made. The Red Sea parts and the Israelites walk across on a dry path to the future.

This picture of a dry path that runs between two walls of water is the image we need for today. It is hope. It is new beginning as we cross from today to tomorrow.

We claim our trust that today, as we move to our future, a way will be made for us.

Reflection: "To the Other Side"

★ Hymn: "One More Step Along the World I Go"

♪ VU #639

## **NOW WE SHARE**

Offertory

Dedication: "What Can I Do?"

♪ MV #191

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

**When it looks like there is no way, the way becomes clear. A door opens. Someone points us in a new direction. A corner gets turned, and surprise! We**

**find what we are seeking: meaning, hope, and a new tomorrow.**

**Grateful that our way is made, we offer our gifts that make a way for others. Amen**

*Communion and Blessing*

Welcome to the sacrament of communion. As always, the welcome is wide. Come and share if you desire to taste the bread of life and the sweet cup of blessing. We use gluten free bread and grape juice as our communion food.

Meg will offer blessing for those who choose it. She will be in the centre at the front. Those who want blessing are invited to receive it from her and then go to the servers who will be to her right and left, as is our usual way.

Strength and peace to each who seeks to share in the feast of life.

Invitation to the Table

★ Communion Hymn: “Long Ago and Far Away” 🎵 MV #195

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Breaking the Bread and Blessing the Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

*Ending the Covenant*

**Maedith:** Almost three years ago, we gathered in worship to make a covenant of right relationship with Meg and other staff. Since then the staff has changed, so today we end the

covenant of community and just togetherness with Fred and Meg. Three years ago, we began with loving commitment. Today we end with gratitude and blessing.

**Meg and Fred:** Today we offer our gratitude for the gifts you offered us during our time together: your confidence and hope, your commitment and energy, your challenge and your vision.

We acknowledge that our partnership is almost over. We celebrate who we have been together and what we have accomplished together. And we ask your forgiveness for mistakes we have made. Will you offer us your forgiveness? **(We will.)**

With love and respect, we bless you to your future.

**Maedith:** We offer you both our thanks for your ministry here. We ask of you what you asked of us, forgiveness for mistakes made during your time in our midst. Will you offer us your forgiveness? **(We will.)**

We gather up our love and pray strength and blessing on you both.

**Meg and Fred:** To our colleagues with whom we partnered during our time together: Melanie, Allen, Elaine and Kelly. Both of us are grateful for your support and partnership. We thank you for the bail outs, the problem-solving and the laughs.

We know that the future will be different from the past. We pray for strength and blessing.

**Staff:** and to you.

**Maedith:** Now we end our covenant, and we sing our joy and love for one another. The blessing song is: "Dance with the Spirit" found in More Voices, page 156.

- ★ Alleluia
- ★ Commissioning and Blessing
- ★ Sung Blessing                   “Peace Be with You”                   🎵 MV #215
- Postlude

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

**Ushers:** ..... Brian Harper, Laura Cudworth, Sue MacQueen,  
..... and Marjorie Eveleigh

**Greeters:**..... Jonathan, Clare, Charlie, Ellie  
..... and Mary Klingenberg

**Story Time:** ..... Tracie Klaehn

**Lay Reader:** ..... Sarah McLean

**Candle Lighter:** ..... Charlie & Ellie Klingenberg

**Chancel Arrangements:** ..... 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.*

**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.**

**September/October Services Farewells and Hellos: A message from Nancy Dykstra, Chair of Worship/Music --** These next few weeks are significant times for our church community as we say farewell to Meg and hello to Joe and Heather, our new ministerial team. Today is the first of two farewell services for Meg. Please take note of the plans for the next two weeks as well: **Sept 24 – Blues Music Sunday:** Meg’s last Sunday with us - a musical celebration of our time together (Meg loves the Blues!), a time to say thank you and wish “our Meg” well. Come to the gym after the service for an ice cream sundae party.  
**Oct 1 – Welcome Rev. Joe Gaspar and Rev. Heather Power:** Our first service with Joe and Heather. There will be cake and coffee after the service and a chance to welcome Joe and Heather personally.