

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, April 2, 2017



The Shadowland of Lent

Reflection: "Seeing Right"

Rev. Meg Grieve



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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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!

This morning we thank Annette Dekker for her art and wisdom.

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Seeing is Believing

Prelude: "In the Garden" *arr. by Rich Heffler*
 (Tracie Klaehn, flute)

★ Introit: "Deep in Our Hearts" 🎵 MV #154

Welcome

One: As we continue our journey through Lent to Easter, we try to see down the road that is opening before us. We try to get clear about where we are headed and who is beside us on the way. We look for the signs of the times, signs of hope and renewal that are present even in the shadow. We keep our eyes on the horizon where new life waits to burst from the

tomb and where we see, with great clarity that love is stronger than death.

We remember, with respect, 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, as we continue our Lenten journey, 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, “the blessing of peace be to 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: “Dance with the Spirit” 🎵 MV #156

Story Time: All About Binoculars and Other Lenses

Today the children will remain in the sanctuary as we make this next part of our Lenten journey. We hope the adults will gain from the children’s reflections and insights as well as from the aspects of worship that are designed for grown-ups. The children will learn from the story times, but also from being in the company of worshippers.

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.

Ministry of Music: “Pie Jesu” *by Gabriel Faure*
(Midori Marsh, soloist)

Opening Our Hearts

Focus on Annette Dekker’s photograph of “Shadow” at the front of the church. Annette chose a cheerful photograph for this service. What do you see? Rather than pondering in silence, share your vision with those sitting close by.

Prayer by Meg

★ Hymn: (*sung 3x*) “Take, O Take Me as I Am” 🎵 MV #85

**Take, O Take me as I am;
Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Believing is Seeing

Ministry of Music “Agnus Dei” *by Gabriel Faure*
(Voices United choir; Bob Hudgins, accompanist)

Scripture: John 9: 1-34 (NT, pg.102)

Today, we hear the story of the healing of the blind man by Jesus. It is presented as a Readers’ Theatre.

Thanks to Wendy Watson, Isobel Fields, Donna Northey, Franceen Wagner, Ruth Russell, Scott Waywell, Sue MacQueen & Lisa Hicknell.

We hope the readers will help you “see” the story with new eyes.

About Scripture

Today, we hear the story of the blind person who meets Jesus and is healed. We 21st century sophisticates wonder how this healing can happen outside the world of medicine. Well, the 1st century followers of Jesus wondered for their own reasons. Like us, they asked, “How could this happen?”

As those for whom John’s gospel was recorded wondered about Jesus, it was not the practise of medicine that made them question what was right before their eyes. It was the practise of faith.

The townspeople struggled to believe in spite of their perceptions. Some wondered if the healed person was actually the blind person with sight. They couldn’t believe their eyes and wondered if they were seeing right.

Common belief was that if there were illness or inability, it was because of sin. So who, in this story, was the sinner? Was it the blind man himself or was it his parents? Inquiring minds have to know.

In the midst of all of this questioning, the healed man kept repeating what he knew for certain. Jesus made a paste of clay and saliva, put it on the man's eyes, and told him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. When he did these things, he received his sight.

The locals knew the blind man; they saw that he could see; they heard him tell about Jesus' part in the restoring of sight. And still, they did not believe.

The Pharisees took the problems created by the healing to the next level. They were perplexed about Jesus' identity. Some thought that such a miracle meant his life was holy and God-connected. Others thought he was an imposter who was leading faithful people down the garden path. Like the locals, they interviewed the newly sighted man about his experience of Jesus. While it seems as though they were searching for clarity, they only wanted to discredit Jesus and maintain their own religious authority.

The story offers us lots of ways to embrace the gifts of sight and insight. We can accept and be healed, or stay with the sceptics. We can see with our eyes or we can see with our eyes and our hearts. Which way of seeing will help us on Easter morning when the miracle is magnificent?

A Few Thoughts: "Seeing Right"

Story Time: God's Eyes and Our Eyes

★ Hymn: "Know That God Is Good" 🎵 MV #104

Living with Faithful Clarity

Offertory: "The Ballad of Mary Magdalen" *by Cry, Cry, Cry*
(Kathleen Vanderlinden, soloist)

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

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

**See love, feel love.
See love, share love.
See love, be love.
For love’s sake, we give.**

Prayers for Insight

★ Hymn: “I’m Gonna Shout, Shout” 🎵 MV #183

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Benediction

**Peace I leave.
My peace I give you,
not the peace the world can offer.
In each storm, in each confusion, I’ll be with you.**

Postlude: “This is God’s Wondrous World” *arr. by Karen Loucks*
(Tracie Klaehn, flute)

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

Ushers: Marion Mutton & Gord Chambers; Pat Harris;
..... Ruth Farley
Greeters:..... Alan & Audrey Babensee
Lay Reader: Annette Dekker
Art: Annette Dekker
Musicians: Tracie Klaehn; Robert Hudgins; Midori Marsh;
..... Kathleen Vanderlinden; Voices United choir
Chancel Arrangements: Virginia McQuay
Coffee Hour: Liz Forde
Coffee Hour Dessert: Annette Dekker & Henry Tensen

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

Pastoral Care – Rev. Meg & Rev. Elaine: Elaine can be reached at **519-504-0935 (note tel # change)** or by email at elainebeattie8@hotmail.com. Meg can be reached at the church 519-885-0935 ext. 23 or by email at rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com

Stepping Stones to Right Relationship: The Transition Team will be holding more workshops about Conflict Styles and Stepping Stones after Easter. If you missed one of the 4 workshops already held and wish to participate in this important process you will still have a chance to do so! In the next few months, as the Transition Team wraps up its work, we will be working with Council and the four Parkminster mediators to clearly outline the Mediation process for Parkminster. We will keep you posted!

Message from the Memorial Garden Committee: Would you be interested in learning more about Parkminster's Memorial Garden? Perhaps you are thinking that this might be the place where your loved ones might remember you once you have moved on to the Community of Saints. If there is enough interest, the Committee will arrange for an information session sometime this Spring. The Memorial Garden committee is made up of Pat Harris, Swain Van Camp, John Rule, Wendy Ridgway and Jim Bowman.

We have recently decided to increase the cost of a subscription as of July 1 from \$1100 to \$1200 due to the increased cost of engraving. This is the first increase in 4 years. Speak to any of the members of the committee if you need more information.

We are also looking for people who might be interested in helping with upkeep of the garden. The pay is not so great but we can promise that you'll have fun in spades! Jim Bowman & Swain Van Camp, co-chairs

House Group Meeting: HG# 5 will meet **Sunday, April 9** after church in the Family Room to coordinate the Sunday services for the month of May.