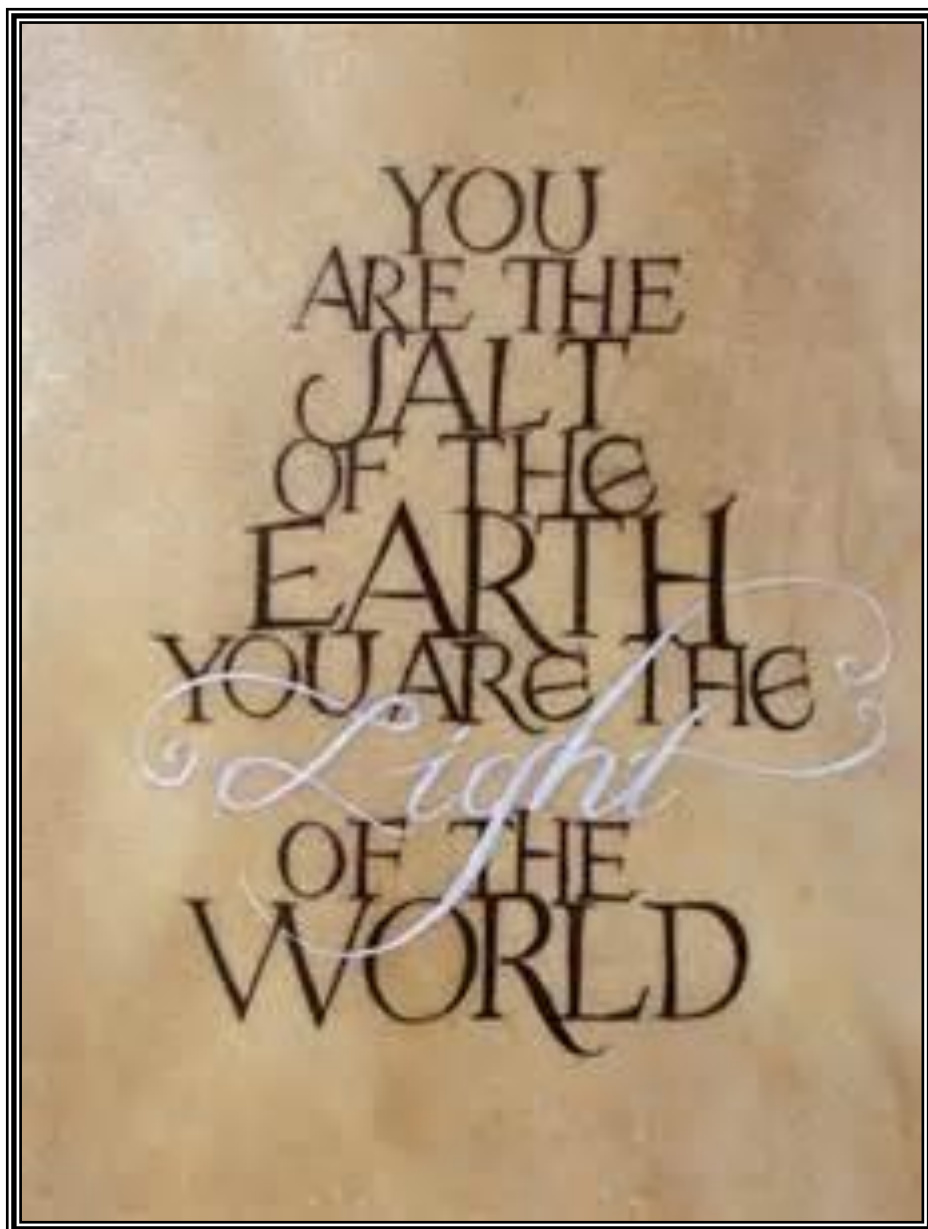


PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Third Sunday After The Epiphany

Sunday, January 22, 2017



Reflection: "Salt and Light" – Rev. Meg Grieve



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
 275 Erb Street East, Waterloo, ON N2J 1N6
 519-885-0935 | parkuc@golden.net | www.parkuc.ca

Sunday, January 22, 2017
Third Sunday After The Epiphany

Reflection: "Salt and Light"

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!

Greatfully Gathering

Prelude: "The Swingin' Shepherd Blues" by Moe Koffman
 (Tracie Klaehn, flute)

★ Introit: "A Light is Gleaming" 🎵 VU #82

Welcome

One: Today, we continue our Epiphany celebrations. This is the season of light, the light that leads us to the holy, the light by which we see who we are and who God is. Today we offer gratitude for the gift of clarity that the light brings to us. And, we offer gratitude for the challenge that love brings to us, and for the understanding we gain about what love requires of us. 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. We

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 the blessing of the light in this shadowy wintertime, and the confidence that no matter how long the night, love abides.

Joys, Concerns, and Greeting One Another

Today as we greet one another, find two people. Offer your hand to each and this blessing, "Peace be to you." When you have greeted two people, return to your seat and in silence, let the peace you offered to others sink into your spirit.

★ Children's Song: tune "Frere Jacques"

**Are you living, are you living
Love's demands, love's demands?
Grace is in the giving, grace is in the giving,
Empty hands, empty hands.**

Story Time

Following the story, the children will leave for their own learning time. Happy "living in the light."

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

You will need a pen/pencil and the slip of paper that was included with your bulletin.

You are invited to breathe deeply of spirit and to release as much worry and distraction as possible. As Neil plays the song "Grateful," let the word "grateful" play in your imagination. Focus on your experience at Parkminster United Church. What pictures come to mind? Whom do you see? What people offer you strength and love? What aspects of your life here bring you meaning and satisfaction? What spirit-energy do you find here? What about our common life sustains your hope?

Let the images float through your mind's eye for a few minutes. When you are ready, start homing in on the one that is most important to you. Remember that choosing one image does not mean that the others are

insignificant. We are simply naming that for which we are most grateful today.

On the paper you received in your bulletin, print the name of the person or circumstance for which you are most grateful. Let your gratitude for this place, its work, its people, and its spirit fill you. We will make our gratitude part of our offering time.

Gratefully Transformed

Ministry of Music: “Cantate Domino” *by Hans Leo Hassler*

Scripture: Matthew 5: 13 - 14 (NT, pg. 4)

About Scripture

Today, we are reading from the Gospel of Matthew, written between 80 and 90 AD. This would make its writing at least 2 generations after Jesus’ life and death. It is thought that it was composed in Antioch, Syria for a fledgling Christian community that had members who were Jewish and unhappy with the synagogue or with the Pharisees who were highly criticized at this time.

Matthew contains many references to the Hebrew bible and sees Jesus not as a rebel or religious revolutionary, but as the fulfillment of Jewish messianic prophecy and keeper of the Law of Moses. Matthew uses Mark as a main source, along with a group of sayings, now lost, named Q, and source material that is particular to this gospel. Scholars call this source “M.” Matthew added the birth stories, post-resurrection appearances, and the great commission, “Go into all the world...” As well, he organized Jesus’ teachings into 5 large sections. Some biblical scholars say these teaching sections are parallel to the Torah, the 5 books of Moses. I wonder.

The salt and light passage is part of the first teaching section (chapters 5-7). We call it “The Sermon on the Mount.” Jesus is speaking to his newly called disciples, teaching them what it means to follow him. Of course, we see ourselves called in the same way, and understand that Jesus is speaking to us.

These 2 small verses help us see what a disciple-life is like. There are 2 main metaphors, salt and light. Forget being ordinary and invisible. We are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. We shine with a compelling love-light and we bring spiritual zest and flavour to our world. We give back compassion and hope to the world that needs energy because we are salt and light. Sharing that love-energy is called stewardship. Ready to shine?

Reflection: "Salt and Light" Rev. Meg Grieve

★ Hymn: "I Am the Light of the World" 🎵 VU #87

Gratefully Devoted

Offertory: "All Good Gifts" *by Stephen Schwartz*
(Tracie Klaehn, flute)

Dedication: "Christ Has No Body Now but Yours" 🎵 MV #171, v.4

Offering Prayer, said by **All:**

We are grateful for love and possibility, for the chance to share in the transformation of the world and in the work of expanding love's power. We claim our identity as salt and light and, as love's stewards, share the gifts that bring renewal and peace. Amen

Sharing Our Salt and Light Commitment

We will sing the song, "Grateful" as this sharing time takes place. (MV #182) We will need to sing it more than once. Please remain seated until you are ready to come forward, if that is your choice.

When you are ready, come to the front. Bring the slip of paper that tells what about Parkminster you are grateful for. Place the paper in a basket that is held by a member of the

Stewardship Committee. Meg will offer you a blessing of gratitude to for the gift of your precious life. After receiving the blessing, two more members of the Committee will offer you a candle and a piece of rock salt.

In the days ahead, as you consider your vocation, and as you pray, light the candle as you reflect on being light of the world and hold the salt as you consider how you make a difference in the way of love and peace.

Salt and Light Prayers

- ★ Hymn: "We Give Our Thanks" ♪ MV #187
- ★ Commissioning and Blessing
- ★ Sung Alleluia ♪ MV # 52

Postlude: "Wachet Auf"
(played by Gail Harper & Bob Hudgins)

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

Ushers: Terry Ridgway; Mary Flewelling-Pinchen
..... and Wendy Rudd

Greeters:..... Karen & Paul Schertzberg

Lay Reader: Allen Switzer

Musicians: Tracie Klaehn, Gail Harper, Bob Hudgins

Music Director: Neil Murray

Chancel Arrangements: Chancel Committee

Coffee Hour/Dessert:..... Megan Eles

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)



As a caring congregation we extend our most heartfelt sympathies to Norma Hutton and her children, Jeni and Kali, for their loss of a loving husband and father, Harvey Hutton. Harvey was a long-time, active member of Parkminster United Church and a beloved friend to many. We pray Norma and her family feel comfort and support from our prayers as we hold them in the light. A memorial service was held yesterday, January 21, 2017, with Rev. Meg officiating.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Annual Report** and **Annual Congregational Meeting** (ACM) are coming soon.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 5, 2017**. The ACM will immediately follow the morning worship service in the sanctuary. It is important for as many people as possible to attend as we will need to have quorum for important votes. We will need to approve the 2017 budget, approve a new slate of volunteers for chairs, council executive and committees, governance, etc. There will be coffee and light snack available. We expect that the Annual Report will be available to the congregation a few days ahead of the meeting.

Note: the congregational budget information session will be held after the service on **Sunday, January 29th**. Find out about the budget and have your questions answered ahead of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Pastoral Care – Rev. Meg

If 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 Rev. Meg, who is covering for Elaine Beattie. You may contact Meg by leaving her a confidential voicemail at the church (519-885-0935 ext. 23) or rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com