



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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April 23, 2017
Easter 2: Resurrection of the Earth

Reflection: “Butterflies Aren’t Free”
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!

Gathering

Prelude: “Let All Things Now Living” *arr. by Larry Shackley*

★ Introit: “Because You Live, O Christ” 🎵 VU #178

Welcome

One: This is the second Sunday of Easter, the season when we sing “Hallelujah!” because love has proven stronger than death. We rejoice for hope is reborn and we know that no matter how deep the shadow, we are held by love and love is working to heal and bless.

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 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: “If I Were a Butterfly”

**If I were a butterfly, I’d thank you, God, for giving me wings. And if I were a robin in a tree, I’d thank you God, that I could sing.
And if I were a fish in the sea, I’d wiggle my tail and I’d giggle with glee, but I just thank you God, for making me ‘me.’**

Refrain

***Oh, you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile.
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.
And I just thank you God for making me ‘me.’***

**If I were a wiggly worm, I’d thank you God, that I could squirm. And if I were a billy goat, I’d thank you God, for my strong throat.
And if I were a fuzzy-wuzzy bear, I’d thank you God, for my fuzzy-wuzzy hair, but I just thank you God, for making me ‘me.’** (*Refrain*)

Story Time

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

Opening Our Hearts

*a poem by Timothy Haut, Deep River, CT*Crocus

Spring comes close to the earth.
 Here a crocus erupts in the neglect of unraked leaves and
 the ragged grass at the edge of the wild places.
 There tell-tale green pokes its way
 through crumbling leaves promising daffodils.
 So the lessons come to us,
 blind wanderers in a world pregnant with messages.
 "Look in the debris of life,"
 Spring's harbingers proclaim.
 In the refuse of other seasons, warmer days -
 in the hidden borders where the late sun lingers -
 there the first signs rise
 where once faith tucked a bulb into the tomb of earth.
 The wounds are the place where the flowers bloom.

*What word or phrase captures your attention?**What word or phrase touches your life today?**What change might the word or phrase be asking you to make?*

Prayer



"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

♪ VU #958

Earth Easter

Ministry of Music

"Beauty All Around Us"

by Larry Nickel

Scripture:

John 20: 19-23

(NT, pg. 114)

About Scripture

We are in the great season of Easter when we consider what resurrection has to do with our lives and the life of the world. Today, we ask what Easter means for the earth, for our spinning blue planet. Is new life possible for creation?

Can the degradation we see around us be transformed?
Will we look at creation around us with God's eyes and know again that it is good?

We link our questions to today's scripture and remember that Jesus appeared to his own with the blessing of peace. In their frightened, confused state, he offers them calm and the invitation to trust that they are not forgotten nor abandoned. He breathes spirit on his friends and reminds them that spirit is transformation energy. It comes with the power to renew and to bless.

We often connect the need for resurrection power to human life or to political systems. How often do we connect it to the earth? And if we see that there can be an Earth Easter, who inaugurates it? How does our faith in transforming love translate into our earth-care?

Reflection: "Butterflies Aren't Free"

★ Hymn: "Called by Earth and Sky" 🎵 MV #135

Renewed Creation

Offertory: "Trio No. 10" *by Josef Rheinberger*

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

Offering Prayer, said by *all*:

Bless us, rich earth, as we give back that which we have received, as we make a forest of blessing, an escarpment of blessing for the future to grow upon. We add our gifts to the Chinook blessing and commit the work of our hands to a healed creation.

Prayers of the People

★ Hymn: "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" 🎵 MV #30

★ Commissioning and Blessing

♪ "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ♪ VU #958

Postlude "Gavotte in D" by J.S. Bach

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

Ushers: Susan & John Bain; Mary & Peter McLean

Greeters:..... Sarah & Matt Bruce

Lay Reader: Liz Forde

Chancel Arrangements: Virginia McQuay

Counters:..... Sarah & Steve Quanz

Coffee Hour Hosts:..... Lee & David Osborne

Coffee Hour Dessert: Mary McLean

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)

Lunch for New People at Parkminster: An informal lunch will be held in the family room immediately after the service today. It is for those who have been attending Parkminster in the last year...it's an opportunity to get to know the staff and a few others from the Pastoral Care/Membership Committee.

♪ **TONIGHT! Parkminster Choral Scholars Concert** ♪: Enjoy an evening of music with our choral scholars, Midori Marsh and River Guard – this evening at Parkminster 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!

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**

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

Message from Outreach Committee: A big thank you goes to all of you who have supported the Outreach Budget, and through it the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. At the end of the first quarter, donations were very close to our budgeted amount. The first payment of \$16,000 has been submitted to the national M&S fund.

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