



**PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**  
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**Sunday, August 27, 2017**

**Reflection: “Touchstones”**  
*by John Watson and Lee McWebb*

**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: “Strong John’s Paddle” *written by Lee McWebb*

★ Introit: “Like a Mighty River Flowing” 🎵 VU #267

Welcome

One: Eco-theologians call Earth “God’s Body.” This means that creation is holy and, as these theologians say, the most perfect revelation of the sacred. When we experience creation first hand, we experience the holy and we find the holy in ourselves. Today, we are beckoned out into the wilderness for the sake of our spirits.

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, the Anishnawbe, the Haudenosaunee, 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: “My Paddle’s Keen and Bright”

**My paddle’s keen and bright, flashing with silver;  
Follow the wild goose flight, dip, dip, and swing.**

**Dip, dip, and swing it back, flashing with silver.  
Follow the wild goose flight, dip, dip, and swing.**

Story Time

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

Opening Our Hearts      “O Beautiful Gaia”      🎵 MV #41

**O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia calling us home.  
O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.**

Gaia, creation, calls us “home,” to beauty, to peace, into the cycle of living and dying, into becoming and changing.  
*Ponder this.*

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 Discern**

Ministry of Music: “Child of the Wild Wind”  
(written by Bruce Cockburn, adapted by Lee McWebb)

📖 Scripture:

Acts 8: 26-39

(NT, pg.127)

## About Scripture

Today we read from the Book of Acts, the early history of Christian community. Jesus has gone and Spirit has descended on the disciples at Pentecost. Now, they are taking the gospel as they know it, to the people. The stories just before today's are the first stories of the gospel in non-Jewish regions. The disciples are confronting people who are pagan or fertility goddess worshipers, or followers of Zeus or Jupiter. The challenge is to speak the religious language of the locals.

Philip is the disciple we meet today and his conversation is with an Ethiopian who worked in the court of the Queen of the Ethiopians. He was her CFO, so to speak, a person with a profile and power. Interestingly enough, the eunuch is reading the prophet, Isaiah, after being in Jerusalem to worship. Clearly, he was a seeker, searching for new meaning in his life.

Philip was sent to the Ethiopian by the spirit and met him on a wilderness road. They met in the uninhabited territory where there was freedom to create a new life. Philip became his spiritual guide, opening his spirit to the great breathing spirit of the holy.

When wilderness became water, the Ethiopian asked to be baptized and his life became sacrament.

We ponder today how our lives become holy or sacramental when we find wisdom in the wilderness and water as a blessing.

Reflection: "Touchstones" – *John Watson and Lee McWeb*

★ Hymn:

"Called by Earth and Sky"

🎵 MV #135



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

**Ushers:** ..... Marjorie Eveleigh, Doris Heselwood, and  
 ..... Norma Hutton  
**Greeters:**..... John & Sheila Rule  
**Lay Reader:** ..... Wendy Watson  
**Musicians:** ..... The Band: John Watson, Matthew Watson,  
 ..... Wendy Watson, Lee McWebb, Angie Murray  
 ..... and Neil Murray  
**Flowers:**..... a gift from Elaine Beattie  
**Counters:**..... John & Susan Bain  
**Refreshments:** ..... Marion Mutton & Gord Chambers

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**The Ministry of Parkminster:** .....All of us  
**Ministry of Word, Sacrament & Pastoral Care (Interim):**  
 ..... Rev. Meg Grieve (ext. 23)  
**Music Director:** ..... Neil Murray (ext. 25)  
**Office Administrator:**..... Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)  
**Custodian:**..... Allen Switzer (ext. 26)

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**In Loving Memory of Ross Beattie:** It is with deep sadness that we share the recent passing of Ross Beattie, loving and devoted husband to Rev. Elaine Beattie. Ross will lovingly be remembered by many Parkminster friends. For many years, Elaine provided Parkminster with compassion and encouragement so freely given as a pastoral care minister. So it is now, as a caring congregation, we extend our love and most heartfelt sympathies to Elaine, her family and friends as they mourn their loss. We pray they will feel comfort and support from our prayers as we hold them in the light.

A service was held Thursday, August 24, at Henry Walser Funeral Home in Kitchener. Rev. Meg participated in the service along with other ministers close to Ross and Elaine.

*The arrangement at the front of the Sanctuary is lovingly placed by Elaine and her family – a gift for the Parkminster congregation.*

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(please refer to the weekly "What's Up" email for a complete listing)*

**Pastoral Care – Rev. Meg Grieve:** 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 Meg at church, **519-885-0935, ext. 23** or by email at **rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com**

**September/October Services: A message from Nancy Dykstra, Chair of Worship/Music** - September is always a time of transition but this year it is a BIG one! There is the usual shift back to school and restarting September routines. Added to that, our time with Meg is ending, and our new ministerial team is arriving. Some among us may be wondering what September will look like. Below is a general outline for worship for 5 weeks as the summer ends. Please take note of these worship dates:

**Sept 3 - Labour Day Weekend:** Rev. Fred Monteith preaching

**Sept 10 - Rally Sunday:** time to reconnect with each other and consider how you might participate in the life of Parkminster this fall/year.

**Sept 17 - Farewell Service for Rev. Meg:** a final Communion, a time to bring our covenanted relationship to a close.

**Sept 24 - Blues Sunday:** Meg's last Sunday with us - a musical celebration of our time together (Meg loves the blues!) and an ice cream sundae party in the gym afterwards.

**Oct 1 - Welcome Rev. Joe Gaspar & Rev. Heather Power:** our new ministerial team. Their first service with us.

**September – Your “Second Chance Month”:** September doesn't have an assigned house group (we have 9 house groups to cover 10 months). So...we're appealing to any who weren't able to help during your assigned month (or who liked it so well you want to do it again), to sign up on the sheet in the upper hall, or contact Mary Reynolds at 519-886-0474 or email [jackr2002@aol.com](mailto:jackr2002@aol.com). Your help with this is very much appreciated.

**Helping First People - Backpack Program – THANK YOU!** Janet Holland extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the Backpack Program for the “The Healing of The Seven Generations (H7G)” & “Anishnabeg Outreach” organizations. Monetary donations, along with a large amount of school supplies were received. As Janet delivered the donations she was greeted by H7G's Founder and Exec. Director Donna Dubie, who shared, “I am honoured to receive your gifts”. ***By the way, did you know?...*** There are over 25,000 indigenous people living in our region, with a growing student population in WLU, U of W and Conestoga College. The Healing of The Seven Generations org. is located on Frederick Street in Kitchener. They offer a variety of services such as a shared weekly meal, tutoring and counselling to over 300 clients. You can find out more by visiting the H7G's website: [www.healingofthesevengenerations.ca](http://www.healingofthesevengenerations.ca) Thank You for demonstrating your desire to commit to just relationship with First Peoples. Your gifts mean so much!