

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2017

Inside each new day we are
awakened to a new beginning.
A chance to live, to give,
to grow and to love.





PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sunday, May 28, 2017

**Sharing Milestones
 &
 A Farewell for Kelly Moores**

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!

FIRST STEP

Prelude: “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” *arr. by Mark Hayes*

★ Introit: “Sing, Sing Out!” 🎵 MV #180

Welcome

One: In this Easter season, we explore what it means to be an Easter people, a people who know that love is stronger than death. We acknowledge that for all of us, life is a journey and with each phase of the journey, we have the opportunity to deepen our spirits and find new and relevant faith. We celebrate that spirit-journey today.

Today, we celebrate milestones in our lives. We share in Abbie Hicknell's confirmation, in the graduation of Dana Usaty and Madeline Waywell from high school, and Laura Mutton from University. And we think of our own milestones, happy and sad, seeking the holy in each one.

As well, 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 welcome the great Easter gift of transformation. Love is stronger than death.

Joys and Concerns and Sharing Peace

*Today, you are invited to greet those around you
with the blessing of peace.*

★ Children's Song: "And on This Path" ♪ MV #8

Story Time

Today is picnic Sunday, and after story time the children will share worship time with the congregation.

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.

The First Affirmation

Before anything, before creation itself, in the silence of eternity, in the mystery of what might be, before anything, there was an ancient, deep, abiding love. Some of us call this love "God." Some name it "wholeness." Some experience this love as the ground of our being, the energy that holds all of us in hope.

All of us, no matter what age we are, take on the soul-work of imagining God in our lives. Take a few moments and find deep silence. Ask, "Who is God for me today?"

Affirmation: I trust God, the love energy who holds my life and the world's life in hope.

SECOND STEP

Ministry of Music: "Sing a New Church" *arr. by Jeffrey Honore*

Moving On: Celebrating New Beginning

This spring, Madeline Waywell and Dana Usaty are graduating from high school and heading for University. Laura Mutton is graduating from University and moving to the next stage of her adult life.

We offer them our blessing for the next phase of their lives. We congratulate them on the milestones they have reached, and wish them a loving and meaningful future.

 Scripture: Mark 1: 9-13 (NT, pg. 34)

About Scripture

Today we read the story of Jesus' baptism and his time of temptation in the wilderness. These are familiar stories and today we view them through the "journey" lens.

Jesus' whole adult ministry was a journey. He was an itinerant preacher and healer who traveled the roads of Galilee and its surrounding territories. He journeyed to meet people where they were and as he journeyed, he also found himself. With every encounter, he learned more of his purpose and his capacity. He gained a sense of self and he gained trust in his connection to God.

Early on in his public life, Jesus travelled to the Jordan River where his cousin John was baptising. The baptism that John offered was a baptism of repentance, which means to turn around, to face a new direction. With his baptism, Jesus turned from his private life in Galilee to his public life as a transformer, as a lover of the least, as a person with a deep spirit life. Baptism initiated Jesus into his identity as God's beloved child on whom God's favour rested.

No sooner had this happened than Jesus found himself on another trek, this one into the wilderness where his new identity was challenged and his purpose tested. For forty days, he faced temptations to satisfy his ego and he faced the greatest temptation, to abandon God. On his solitary

wilderness journey, Jesus made spirit-shaping choices. The journey to the Jordan gave Jesus his identity and the journey in the wilderness confirmed that identity.

The same holds true for us.

The Second Affirmation

In John's gospel, Jesus calls himself "the way." Of course he leads us on the way, on the journey to right relationship, to justice, to inclusion, and to peace. More than that, he is our way. He is our example and our exemplar. When we journey through life, he is our companion and guide and our lives share his purpose.

Take a few moments of deep silence and ask if Jesus is your "way."

Affirmation: As I journey through life and face life's risks and its delights, I affirm that Jesus is my way.

★ Hymn: "One More Step Along the World I Go" 🎵 VU #639

THIRD STEP

Life is not always easy. Sometimes, the journey feels uphill and lonely. We acknowledge the times of pain and loss. We know what it means to be broken hearted and in need of the courage to carry on. Here is a blessing for those who have faced death and lesser losses:

*When there is no way,
no path, no road made plain,
may there be wise ones
who inspire you to see
where the way could begin.*

(Jan L. Richardson)

The Third Affirmation

When the disciples were desolate after Good Friday, Jesus came to them and breathed on them the spirit-blessing of peace. As he was preparing them for his death and rising, he promised them the gift of an Advocate, a gift of spirit to sustain them and strengthen them. We are invited to live by this promise of sacred spirit-presence, and take comfort in it.

Find the deepest silence you can. Breathe in spirit, breath. Have you ever felt the presence of spirit in a time of pain? Have you experienced peace in the chaos that comes with loss?

Affirmation: As I journey through love and loss, I know the blessing of compassionate spirit and a peace that the world of the everyday cannot give.

Offertory: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” *arr. by Marilyn Ham*

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

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

We are grateful for our faith that shows us the compassionate way and sustains us in hope. With thanks, we offer our gifts that our faith might make a difference in our world.

Confirmation for Abbie Hicknell

The Last Affirmation for Abbie Hicknell

You come to your confirmation day, Abbie, with a growing faith and a desire to belong to Parkminster United Church. Will you take your place in this community and share your gifts for the common good?

Confirmation and the Laying on of Hands

Blessing

The Last Affirmation for Parkminster

We have asked large questions today about our connection to God, to Jesus, and to spirit. Some may have replied with certainty. Some may have opened up more wondering. Some may be thinking in new directions.

No matter where we are, we are included in this community, part of the congregation who is committed to inclusion and caring for the world. We have abundant life to share, peace to bring, welcome to offer, and justice to make.

I invite you to stand and join hands with those around you in solidarity and hope. This is a question for Parkminster as a people:

Will you use your gifts in the ministry and mission of Parkminster United Church, and act lovingly for the sake of the common good? **(We will.)**

Here is blessing for each of you and all of us:

*That you will go into the heart of the Holy
and find the heart of the world;*

*That you will go into the world
and find the heart of the Holy.*



Farewell for Kelly Moores

★ Hymn: “Bless Now, O God, the Journey” 🎵 VU #633

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Alleluia 🎵 MV #52

Postlude “Allegro” by G.F. Handel

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

Ushers: Dorothy Duxbury; Thelma & Swain Van Camp
Counters:..... John & Susan Bain
Chancel Arrangements: Thelma Van Camp

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)

Projector and Soundboard Training Today

There will be a brief training session on use of the projector and soundboard **immediately after the service**. Beneficial for those assisting with worship, funerals or special events. All are welcome. There should still be plenty of time for yummy picnic afterward. Contact: Daniel Ackland

Sunday, June 4 – Joint Worship Service

Please note that next Sunday, Parkminster will be participating in a **joint worship service at First United, beginning at 10:30am**. We share this worship with First, Emmanuel and Westminster United Churches. Special guest preacher: Rev. Maggie McLeod. Theme - Truth & Reconciliation. Neil Murray will share music leadership with the combined church choirs.

Summer Worship Needs Your Help



Because of vacation schedules, House Groups are not operating during the summer. Volunteers are needed during July and August for greeting, ushering, as lay readers and to provide juice/lemonade. **Sign-up sheets are in the upper hall**. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

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**

This week let us pray for:



World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle:

Angolan, Mozambique

Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle:

St. Davids-Queenston United (Niagara Presbytery)

Neil Murray Night – Tickets On Sale Soon!

Summer vacation is soon here and September isn't even in our thoughts, but we are already starting to organize our annual "**Night with Neil and the Neil Murray Band**"! Be sure to mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 30, 7:30pm at the Navy Club in Waterloo**. It's a great evening of fun!

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, June 6th. You may buy the tickets from the church office, after church on Sundays, or reserve them by calling either the office (519-885-0935) or Bruce Mutton (519-894-1687). **Cost: \$20 per person; \$10 students/teens**. Cash or cheque.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Please join us for this fun event, the proceeds from which are used for our many works.

