

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany

Sunday, January 29, 2017





PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sunday, January 29, 2017
Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany
Reflection: “Beatitude” - 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!

Seeking Blessing

Prelude: “Sonatina” by Georg Philipp Telemann
 (Tracie Klaehn, flute)

★ Introit: “Spirit, Open My Heart” 🎵 MV #79

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 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.

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: "This Little Light of Mine"

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
 Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine.**

...Don't let anyone whiff it out, I'm gonna let it shine.

...See it shine in my hometown. I'm gonna let it shine.

**...See the light spreading round the world. See all the
 faces shine.**

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.

Ministry of Music: "Kingsfold" *arr. Anna Laura Page*
 (Cast in Bronze bell choir)

Opening Our Hearts

"Was Es Ist" by Erich Fried - *read by All.*

**It is nonsense
 says reason
 It is what it is
 says love
 It is calamity
 says calculation
 It is nothing but pain
 says fear**

It is hopeless
says insight
It is what it is
says love
It is ludicrous
says pride
It is foolish
says caution
It is impossible
says experience.
It is what it is
says love

We take silence, now, to open our hearts to love.
 Breathe deeply and ponder:

- ❖ What in your life or in the world needs to hear the wise love words, “It is what it is.”
- ❖ Release what you can: reason, calculation, fear, pride, caution.
- ❖ Can you move your heart towards acceptance: It is what it is.

Pain and Blessing

Ministry of Music: “Love is the Light of the World”
arr. Wayland Rogers
(Voices United choir; Midori Marsh, soloist)

Scripture: Matthew 5: 1-12 (NT, pg.1)

About Scripture

Today’s scripture opens the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus has been teaching the crowds who gathered to hear him. But now, he sits in the company of his disciples. They have

recently been recruited from their everyday life and work to follow Jesus. Now they must learn what following means.

In Jesus' scriptures, the Old Testament, Moses went up on Mount Sinai and met the holy. When he returned to the Israelites, he brought them the law, the Ten Commandments.

Matthew images Jesus as the new Moses. He, too, is on a mountain. But he doesn't bring a set of rules that must be obeyed. He brings words that do two things. First, Jesus' Beatitudes acknowledge the challenges of life-sorrow, conflict, powerlessness, temptation, and cruelty. Thankfully, the gospels do not ignore what each of us knows: life is tough at times, and love is costly.

The Beatitudes don't bemoan our fate. They offer us transformation and hope. In the holy scheme of things. Love takes our pain and gives us hope that good can come from loss, that suffering will be redeemed and that love, even if it is costly, will have the last word.

The Beatitudes ask us to have faith in the holy economy of love's power which we call resurrection. They urge us to live boldly and to trust that even when we can't see it, love is at work in us and in our world.

We hold a radical faith that counters the way of the world. Love is stronger than death. Hope abides. Power does not win the day. We all make a difference. And when we live by faith and love, then in spite of what is swirling around us, we are happy, blessed, fortunate People of the Way.

May blessing be. May blessing be.

Reflection: "Beatitude" Rev. Meg Grieve

★ Hymn: "Blest Are They"  VU #896

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)



“To all my Parkminster friends, I would like to say a sincere “Thank you” for your cards, food, visitation and donations. Another “Thank you” goes to the many workers who helped with his service and reception. The church played an important part in Harvey's life and your thoughtfulness and support is truly appreciated”. Norma Hutton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUDGET INFORMATION SESSION - will be held **after today's service**. Find out about the budget and have your questions answered ahead of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - will immediately follow the service on **Sunday, February 5**, 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 – children are welcome.

ANNUAL REPORTS - An electronic copy of the Annual Report will be sent out to the congregation on Monday, January 30. A limited number of hardcopies will be available in the Upper Hall beginning on Tuesday, January 31, and also at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 5.

PASTORAL CARE: REV. MEG - Meg is currently covering for Elaine Beattie (interim pastoral care minister). You may contact Meg by leaving her a confidential voicemail at the church 519-885-0935 ext. 23 or at rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com

PARKMINSTER JOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE - The committee has begun to meet and we are pleased to inform you that the ad for two Full-Time Equivalent Ministerial positions at Parkminster has been posted on the relevant websites (UCC, UC Observer, Parkminster), and the print ad will be in the March issue of the Observer. The Parkminster Joint Search Committee will continue its confidential work in this process of selecting new ministerial personnel until positions are filled. We will report back to the congregation as appropriate. The committee thanks you for your continued support. D.Oborne, D.Russell, co-chairs

This week let us pray for:

World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle:

Cyprus, Greece and Turkey

Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle:

Linden Park United Church, Hamilton

~ GRATITUDE ~

The image on the cover of today's bulletin is a condensed version of the word list which follows on the next few pages.

This list was collected from the congregation during last Sunday's service ("Salt & Light"); reflecting on what they are grateful for.

acceptance of each person's gift, large or small
 all members who do the work I no longer can
 Barb Monteith
 being forgiven
 being here
 belonging

Canada
 care - people who care
 caring community
 caring congregation
 caring for others
 caring people
 choir
 choir community
 choir friend and Neil
 comfort that faith provides for all who need it
 all who need it
 community
 community support to members
 community - supportive
 Community - a place where I can belong
 community at Parkminster
 community that is Parkminster
 community through singing together
 community - welcoming
 congregation as unique as the sanctuary
 desire to help all those in need
 euchre club for ensuring friends can continue to participate
 family
 fellowship
 fellowship with friends
 friends
 friends at Parkminster
 friendship
 friendship of Parkminster congregation
 good Friends
 great leadership
 health
 health to attend the service
 help when needed most
 inclusiveness
 learning and growing
 Listening for God Group laughter & thoughtfulness
 living in Canada
 love
 ministry community
 love for the children from all around
 love of family and Parkminster people
 love our new spiritual home
 loving and supportive community

loving family
 loving people
 Meg's clear calm compassionate leadership
 memories of Harvey Hutton
 Monday morning Small Group Faith Community
 morning
 music
 music - vocal scholars
 Neil
 music variety
 Neil and Angie
 Neil and music in church
 Neil's leadership
 openness
 outpouring of support from Parkminster family
 Parkminster
 peace
 place that sustains us
 place to gather up
 place to let go
 prayers for me
 presence of God at Parkminster
 recognizes my needs
 Rev. Meg she is our rock who united us
 Rev. Meg's leadership
 Rev. Meg's thoughtful deep theology
 second chances
 Shirley Elliot
 space- room for different feelings and beliefs
 spiritual nourishment through music
 support to TCOW youth and leader
 supportive faith community
 the good fortune to be born in Canada
 the people
 tolerant community
 unconditional love
 warm welcome to newcomers
 welcome blessing to begin the service
 welcoming caring community for new attendees
 welcoming, loving, supportive church family
 wisdom and perspective of others
 words spoken in music and sermons

