



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sunday, July 30, 2017

Reflection: “Baker Woman God and the Great Surprise”
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!

Kin-dom Search

Prelude: “Nocturne in B flat Minor” *by Chopin*

★ Introit: “God Who Gives to Life its Goodness” 🎵 VU #260

Welcome

One: There is nothing as startling as the realm of the holy. It comes as surprise and it offers possibilities that can turn the world upside down. Today the parable of the yeast in the dough brings us the challenge of the radical gospel we trust and live by.

Today, we remember our relationship with First People. 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

Welcome in the 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.**

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**...Hide it under a bushel? No, I'm gonna let it shine.
 ...Don't let anyone whiff it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
 ...See the light spreading round the world, see all the
 faces shine.**

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

**Well, surprise! Surprise! God is a surprise!
 Right before your eyes; it's baffling to the wise.
 Well, surprise! Surprise! God is a surprise!
 Open up your eyes and see.**

This is the chorus of a familiar children's song that documents several bible stories that are based on the unexpected, on surprise.

When have you been surprised by the holy? When have you been led by the unexpected into the unexpected? Can you give thanks?

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.**

A Great Surprise

Ministry of Music: “Prelude in A Major” *by Chopin*

 Scripture: Matthew 13: 33 (NT, pg.14)

About Scripture

Today, we read the one verse parable about the realm of the holy, the parable of the leaven. Usually this parable gets rolled in with the parable of the mustard seed, or with other parables that the gospel editors gather into one place.

Today, I want this parable to stand alone because it has the power to change everything. And I do mean everything.

When we think of yeast or leaven, we think positively. We see nice high loaves of bread or dense pumpernickel or tasty cinnamon buns. Without the action of the leaven, we would not have great toast or delicious sandwiches. For us, yeast is a good thing.

Not so for Jesus’ people. And these are the people for whom the parable was told.

It goes back to one of the foundational stories for Jewish people, the story of the Passover. This story is the story of freedom and liberation, when Moses led the Israelites out of bondage to Pharaoh and into the wilderness and the hope of a promised land.

Because time was of the essence, the people were instructed to make unleavened bread for the journey. This was to save the time it takes leavened bread to rise. Now when Passover is celebrated, Jewish families clean their houses thoroughly to remove any crumbs of leavened bread. They bring out Passover dishes and kitchen ware that have never been used with yeast products. They eat Matza and

bake with it, as a way to remember God's freedom and the formation of a people.

So, when the hearers of the parable read the realm of the holy is like the making of leavened bread, incredulity would be the response, The image up-ended a sacred truth that the Jews had held for centuries.

The same is true of the image of the baker as a woman. Women were not honoured in Jesus' day because they were often "unclean" because of their bodily functions. Touching an unclean woman made the toucher unclean as well. Here we have the baker of kin-dom bread imaged as a woman. That is as crazy as imaging God as a crack addict or a prostitute or a high and elected government leader who tweets a lot.

Really. The realm of God that Jesus taught about every day of his public ministry is compared to what is despised and unclean. Well, surprise!

What does this mean for us? What expectations does it shatter? If we follow in Jesus' way, what are we asked to do? To be?

Reflection: "Baker Woman God and the Great Surprise"

★ Hymn: "Like a Healing Stream"  MV #144

Living the Surprise

Offertory: "Träumerei" *by Schumann*

Dedication: "What Can I Do?"  MV #191

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

Well surprise, surprise, God is a surprise. Nothing is beyond God. Nothing escapes love's power to transform. Nothing is simply impossible.

Today we return thanks for the hope that the holy is all in all and that redemption will happen in the most surprising places. We offer our gifts for the sake of others and for the sake of the world. Amen

Baker Woman Prayers

★ Hymn: "I Feel the Winds of God" 🎵 VU #625

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Blessing "Peace Be with You" 🎵 MV #215

Postlude: "Sonata in E Major – second movement"
By Beethoven

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

Ushers: Terry Ridgway; Brian Harper
Greeters:..... Marion Mutton & Gord Chambers
Lay Reader: Wendy Ridgway
Musician: Gail Harper (filling in for Neil Murray)
Chancel Arrangements: Chancel Committee
Counter:..... Jim Bowman

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)

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**

Thinking of Making Parkminster Your Home? If you would like to transfer your membership from another church or would like to join Parkminster by profession of faith, please connect with Rev. Meg over the summer for more information.

A Note from the Office: Please note from Tuesday, Aug 1st to Friday, Aug 4th the church office will be closed daily for a brief period over the noon hour. Otherwise it is business as usual, Tuesday to Friday.

Do you like being outside? Want to get those daily steps in?
Help us hand out survey flyers!

Your Parkminster Summer Students are conducting a new survey of the neighbourhood to help identify new kinds of programming and areas in need.

Help us help you by signing up to hand out flyers for the survey next week. **We will be going out into the neighbourhood on Monday, July 31st to Friday, August 4th.** Come on out for as many or as few days as you are able, for as long as you are able. We will provide you with the flyers, a location map, and some extra sunscreen. There will also be snacks!

Please contact Laura From at laura.elizabeth.from@gmail.com or 519-277-0473 to sign up, or fill out your information on the sign-up sheet after church!