

# **PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

**Sunday, March 5, 2017**  
First Sunday of Lent



**THINKING DAY**  
*for Scouts, Cubs and Beavers*



**PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**  
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**Sunday, March 5, 2017**

First Sunday of Lent

**Reflection: “Choices, with Thinking Day Input”**

**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: “Stories of Jesus” *arr. by Larry Shackley*

★ Introit: “We Are Marching (Siyahamba)” 🎵 VU #646

*During the singing of “Siyahamba”,  
 Scouts, Cubs, and Beavers will bring in their flags.*

Welcome

One: Today, we welcome the Scouts, Cubs, and Beavers who share our space here at Parkminster. We welcome their participation in today’s worship, and offer gratitude for each young life and the adults who lead them.

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 as winter gives way to warmth and, as the days lengthen, we share 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.*

Ministry of Music: “Wondrous Love” *arr. by Brian Childers*  
(Cast in Bronze handbell choir)

★ Children’s Song: “Dance with the Spirit” 🎵 MV #156

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin’!**  
**Walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.**  
**Work and hope for the new life abornin’!**  
**Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

**...move**

**...sing**

## Story Time

Today, the children will stay in worship as we explore the theme of “Choices.”

There are North Wind and Sun worksheets available, along with lots of crayons, to help capture the children’s imagination and energy. Draw pictures of people, maybe of yourself, who are making a “North Wind” choice or a “Sun” choice.

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.

Scouts, Cubs, and Beavers Sing

## Exploring Choices

Ministry of Music: “His Eye is On the Sparrow” *arr. by Joel Raney*  
(Evelyn Palach, flutist)

Scripture: Luke 19: 1-10 (NT, pg.82)

## Jesus Chooses Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through the city on the way to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> A person was there by the name of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup> Poor Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short and the crowd was tall, he couldn't see beyond them. <sup>4</sup> So Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree in order to see Jesus who was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed Jesus gladly.

<sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, "Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

<sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to Jesus, "Look, Jesus! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today wholeness has come to this house, because this Zacchaeus, is, too, a child of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

### About Scripture

Today's scripture is about the rogue, Zacchaeus, Rome's chief tax collector in the city of Jericho. Zacchaeus was authorized to collect the taxes that Rome wanted from Israel's poor. As far as Zacchaeus was concerned, Rome turned a blind eye to the extra he was collecting for himself. Rome was powerful on the backs of Israel's poor, and the same people made Zacchaeus wealthy.

Needless to say, Zacchaeus was not the most popular citizen of Jericho. In fact, he was hated.

It is not clear why Zacchaeus had to see Jesus. Maybe it was curiosity on the tax collector's part. Maybe it was spirit at work. Maybe it was an example of 1<sup>st</sup> century cult of celebrity. Maybe Zacchaeus needed to be in the know. Knowledge is power after all. The reasons for Zacchaeus' hike up the sycamore-fig tree are foggy. But the reality is not.

When Jesus passed under the sycamore-shade, he looked up and saw the big-little tax collector. There was nothing casual about the meeting. Jesus challenged Zacchaeus directly, "Come down, Zacchaeus. I am going to eat dinner at your house tonight.

Now in Jesus' day, Jews didn't eat with just anybody. The meal-time companion had to be clean according to the Levitical honour code. No one sick like a leper, no one ostracized like a tax collector, no one known as a sinner or unclean or broken or mad was an acceptable guest at table. One of the outstanding things about Jesus was that he welcomed rather than excluded all meal time companions. This made him unique in whom he chose. It also annoyed the religious leaders who were very keen on the letter of the law.

We know that Zacchaeus had made some wicked and cruel choices. Jesus did not exclude him because of those choices. Jesus simply made kinder, more just ones. He was the Sun to Zacchaeus' North Wind.

Reflection: "Choices, with Thinking Day Input"

★ Hymn:

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

♪ MV #79

## Living What We Choose

Offertory: "Rain Come Down" *by Shawn Kirchner*  
(soloists: Midori Marsh, River Guard, Sarah Jewitt and Kevin Smith)

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

Offering Prayer, said by *all*:

**We are grateful for love and possibility, for the chance to share in the transformation of the world and in the work of expanding love's power. We understand that our life is beatitude, blessing, and we offer our gifts as blessing to our world. Amen**

Sun and Wind Prayers

★ 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!**

**...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!  
...Let it shine in my hometown, I'm gonna let it shine!  
...see the light spreading round the world. See all the faces shine!**

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Alleluia

🎵 MV # 52

Postlude: "The Rejoicing" *by G.F. Handel*




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The flowers in the chancel today have been placed by Barb Pryor and her family, in memory of her father, Frederick Pryor, who passed away a year ago.

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

Ushers: .....Lloyd Hart; Jack & Mary Reynolds  
 Greeters:.....Cobie & Charlie Love  
 Lay Reader: .....Kevin Smith  
 Counters:.....Bud Adams & Marilyn Hill  
 Musicians: .....Cast in Bronze handbell choir; Sarah Jewitt;  
 .....Kevin Smith; Midori Marsh;River Guard and  
 .....Evelyn Palach  
 Music Director: .....Neil Murray  
 Chancel Arrangements: .....Annette Dekker  
 Coffee Hour Hosts:.....Cobie Love  
 Coffee Hour Dessert:.....Charlie Love

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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)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HABITAT SPAGHETTI DINNER:** The Outreach Committee is hosting a spaghetti dinner on **Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** prepared and served by the Wilfrid Laurier University students' Habitat for Humanity committee. Join us in the Fellowship Hall – dinner will be served from 5:00pm-7:00pm. A free will offering is greatly appreciated.

**PASTORAL CARE: Rev. Meg & Rev. Elaine:** Elaine can be reached at **519-504-0935 (note tel # change)** or by email at [elainebeattie8@hotmail.com](mailto:elainebeattie8@hotmail.com). Meg can be reached at the church 519-885-0935 ext. 23 or by email at [rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com](mailto:rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com)

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY – LENT BOOK STUDY:** *Simply Pray* by *Erik Walker Wikstrom* is the book chosen for a small group ministry study during Lent. **Monday Evenings 7:00pm – 9:00pm March 8 to April 10.** The purpose of SGM (Small Group Ministry) is to deepen friendships and faith, learn something new, share ideas and promote change in a supportive, safe environment. Groups of 6 – 15 people meet weekly or monthly in homes or at the church for 4 to 12 sessions. We hope people new (and longtime) in the congregation will join us! **Contact: Jeanne Foster** [jeannefoster38@gmail.com](mailto:jeannefoster38@gmail.com) 519-742-9606 **or Elna Robertson** 519-746-5164 for more information or to join the group.

**55 YEARS OF UCW!** Ladies, come celebrate 55 years of UCW at the Waterloo Presbyterial Annual Gathering on **Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup>** held at the Guelph Country Club. The theme is “Journey Where God Leads Us”. The event runs from 9:00am – 3:30pm. Tickets are \$25 (includes breakfast & lunch). To reserve your place, contact: Elizabeth Kocher at 519-578-8248 ([bettykocher@yahoo.ca](mailto:bettykocher@yahoo.ca)) or Margot White at 519-742-6047 ([margot.white@sympatico.ca](mailto:margot.white@sympatico.ca))

**This week let us pray for:**

**World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle:**

Ireland, United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales

**Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle:**

New Credit United Church and Chapel of the Delaware: Oshweken