



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
275 Erb Street East, Waterloo, ON N2J 1N6
519-885-0935 | parkuc@golden.net | parkuc.ca

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Reflection: “Nevertheless, She Persisted”
With thanks to Les Robertson

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!

Nevertheless...

Prelude: “Jesus Loves Me” *arr. by Joel Raney*

★ Introit: “Come Touch Our Hearts” 🎵 MV #12

Welcome

One: Today we hear the familiar story of Jesus’ feeding the 5000. It is the story of hunger satisfied, of compassion shared, and of new possibility. It is a healing, empowering story.

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

Welcome in the Spirit

★ Children's Song: "I Am the Light of the World" 🎵 VU #87,v.2

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

Today, we read the story of the feeding of the 5000. It is the story of the crowd's need and Jesus' kindness. It is the story of Jesus' hospitality and the crowd's rsvp, "yes!" It is the story of gracious generosity and hunger satisfied.

You are one of the 5000. For what are you hungry, right now?

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.**

...She...

Ministry of Music: "You've Got a Friend" *by James Taylor*
(Jamie Hofman, soloist)

 Scripture: Matthew 14: 13-21 (NT, pg. 16)

About Scripture

Today we read the miracle story called "The Feeding of the 5000." It is the only miracle story to appear in all four gospels. Biblical scholars take this as a sign of importance. It is a key story in the public ministry of Jesus and a key story in our understanding of his purpose.

There are several reasons for this. First, it is a clear example of Jesus' compassion. He has just learned of the death of his cousin, John the Baptist. He heads off with his disciples to find some quiet space to sorrow and to take a measure of the moment. His alone time didn't last long, for the crowds followed him, seeking his wisdom and healing.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them. Mark says that to Jesus, the people were like sheep without a shepherd. He taught them and he healed their brokenness. It was not long until a busy day was behind them, evening was upon them, and they all needed food and rest.

Jesus challenged the disciples to feed the hungry crowd. They did what most humans would do. They balked at the enormity of the task, at their small resources in the face of great need, and at their limited power to make a difference.

It was at this moment that Jesus took over, took bread and blessed and broke it. He did the same with a few fish while his disciples watched the miracle of love's creating enough. We see "communion" written into the flow and intention of this miracle.

Long before Jesus gathered in the upper room with his friends and shared the bread of life with them in the face of death, we see gracious generosity. We see how what is broken makes us whole. We see holy intention for our lives and the lives of people everywhere. God is enough.

Matthew reports that 5000 sat and ate that day. Five thousand men, that is, as well as women and children. Women and children were not included in official counts in Jesus' day. Women were not numbered among the learners in the synagogue. Actually, they were excluded. They were not part of any official census. They would not have been cited as participants in a public religious event. They were *persona non grata*. How amazing is it that, in that very male context, Matthew bothered to notice and mention the women.

We may not have taken note of the crowd demographics. For us, women and children and men is church. It is our reality and we have concern when our community is not inclusive. In Jesus' day, the recording of the presence of women would have been shocking. Jesus and his followers were doing a brand new thing by being

more welcoming and accepting. On that “feeding the 5000” day, women participated, and not by catering or cleaning up. They were present just as the men were present. You see, in Jesus’ eyes, every life was precious. No matter what, each matters. This way of inclusion is our way, our blessing and our challenge.

Reflection: “Nevertheless, She Persisted”
With thanks to Les Robertson

★ Hymn: “God Is Passionate Life” 🎵 VU #695

...Persisted

Offertory: “I Need Thee Every Hour” *arr. by Joel Raney*

Dedication: “What Can I Do?” 🎵 MV #191

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

Nothing escapes love’s power to transform. No one is unworthy. Nothing is simply impossible.

Today we return thanks for the hope that the holy is all in all and that redemption will happen no matter who we are. We offer our gifts for the sake of others and for the sake of the world. Amen

Prayers of Gratitude that We Belong

★ Hymn: “May the God of Hope Go with Us” 🎵 VU #424

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Blessing “Peace Be with You” 🎵 MV #215

Postlude: “Con Moto” *by Maurice Greene*

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

Ushers: Marilyn Hill & Bud Adams

Greeters:..... Bud Adams & Marilyn Hill

Lay Reader: Jim Bowman
Soloist: Jamie Hofman
Chancel Arrangements: Chancel Committee
Counter: Steve & Sarah Quanz
Juice Hour Host: Joscelyn Alexander

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**

Office Vacation Coverage: Marilyn Hill will be covering the office the week of August 7th while Melanie is on holidays. **Thank You Marilyn!**

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.

Hardcopy Sermons: If you would like a paper copy of Meg's sermons, please contact the office to have one printed.

Online Bulletins & Sermons: Did you know you can find bulletins & sermons on our website? Just follow these simple steps:

1. Go to www.parkuc.ca (our home page)
2. Place your cursor on the tab that reads "Sunday Worship", sub-titles "Sunday Bulletins" & "Sunday Sermons" will appear
3. click on the item you want - a listing of bulletins/sermons shows in date order
4. click on your selection to view

Helping First People - “Backpack Program”:

With a deep desire for reconciliation, 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.

Schools on First Nations reserves continue to be underfunded by as much as 30% compared to what schools for non-Indigenous children receive. Every year *The Healing of The Seven Generations* in partnership with *Anishnabeg Outreach* in Kitchener, work together to provide backpacks for Aboriginal community members in elementary, secondary and post-secondary education settings. The backpack program is no longer receiving the corporate support it once did. If the program is to continue, it will be through the individual support of Indigenous people and their allies. In the past, upwards of 300 backpacks have been distributed throughout the Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph, and surrounding communities. The program seeks to honour community members who are continuing their journey in schooling, regardless of their age or placement in life!

The backpacks consist of a variety of supplies for students in all types of educational institutions: backpacks, a pair of running shoes, paper, binder, pens, pencils, pencil crayons, markers, pencil case, eraser, pencil sharpener, USB sticks (for the older youth and adults) etc. **All of the items to fill the backpacks are brand new!**

Janet Holland is gathering supplies for backpacks until August 20th, contributions to this program are most welcome. If you are interested, please call Janet at 519-746-1992.

“Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness.” ~ Seneca

Your gift is greatly appreciated.

