



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

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**Sunday, October 8, 2017**

## **We Give Thanks**

**Rev. Joe Gaspar & Rev. Heather Power**

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**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!*

## **NOW WE GATHER**

Prelude: “Lord, I Want to be a Christian” *arr. by Brad Nix*

★ Introit: “Come, You Thankful People, Come” 🎵 VU #516

Welcome

One: The stories of our faith resound with calls to seek the Sacred through thankfulness and gratitude. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and look where you are now say the Hebrew scriptures. Let us remember that we have reached the land of milk and honey. Let us remember that we are here by

the grace of innumerable gifts, that we inhabit a planet at just the right distance from its star to support our living. Let us remember all those who have formed us, nurtured us, challenged us.

Jesus says, friends, look at the birds of the air; unable to farm, yet fed. Consider the lillies of the field; unable to sew, yet beautifully clothed. Listen to you breathing, feel your heart beat; no thought or intention, yet alive.

Marvel at creation; not earned, but given.

Paul urges the early church to rejoice in the Lord always. With an awareness of grace, both remembered and observed how can we not? Joy is the gift for the heart where gratitude takes root.

We gather to give thanks, to remember the Giver and to take our place in the community of the gifted.

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 (*An-ish-in-aabe*), the Haudenosaunee (*hau-de-no-sau-nee*), 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 and Greeting One Another

★ Children's Song: "Grateful"  MV #182

Story Time

Today the children and youth will remain in the Sanctuary for the service rather than leaving for their regular Sunday morning activities. There are activity sheets available on top of the book case in the Narthex if they would like one.

*Our regular Sunday morning activities for children will resume again next week.*

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.

## Opening Our Hearts

### **Messenger**

*by Mary Oliver*

My work is loving the world.  
 Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—  
     equal seekers of sweetness.  
 Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.  
 Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?  
 Am I no longer young, and still not half-perfect? Let me  
     keep my mind on what matters,  
 which is my work,

which is mostly standing still and learning to be  
     astonished.

The phoebe, the delphinium.  
 The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.  
 Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart  
     and these body-clothes,  
 a mouth with which to give shouts of joy  
     to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,  
 telling them all, over and over, how it is  
     that we live forever.

## 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.**

### NOW WE DISCERN

Ministry of Music: “For the Beauty of the Earth” *by John Rutter*

 Scripture: Philippians 4: 4 - 9 (NT, pg. 198)

## Reflection

★ Hymn: “For the Fruit of All Creation”  VU #227

### NOW WE SHARE

Offertory: “Let All Things Now Living” *arr. by Lloyd Larson*

Dedication: “What Can I Do?”  MV #191

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

**Ever-giving God, we bring our gifts of time, talent and treasure as a response to the many gifts you offer to us. We have been blessed in so many ways; may our response this day be a means of blessing others. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

★ Hymn: “God of the Sparrow”  VU #229

★ Commissioning and Blessing

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

Postlude: "Triumphal March"      by G.F. Handel

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

- Ushers:** ..... Norma Hutton and Brian Harper
  - Greeters:**..... John & Sheila Rule
  - Lay Reader:** ..... Linda Bird
  - Chancel Arrangements:** ..... Pat Harris
  - Coffee Hour:** ..... There will not be a coffee hour today.
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- The Ministry of Parkminster:**.....All of us
  - Ministers:**.....Rev. Heather Power (x 22) & Rev. Joe Gaspar (x 23)
  - Music Director:**.....Neil Murray (x 25)
  - Office Administrator:**.....Melanie Chisholm (x 21)
  - Custodian:**.....Allen Switzer (x 26)
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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*For a complete listing please refer to the weekly "What's UP" email.  
If you would like to receive "What's UP", please contact the church office.*

**Upcoming October Worship Services:** Please take special note of these October services.

**Sunday, October 15 – Communion:** Normally World Communion Sunday is the first Sunday in October, but since there was a lot going on in our first service with Joe and Heather, it was decided to forego World Communion Sunday and have our traditional monthly communion on October 15.

**Sunday, October 22 – COVENANTING SERVICE for us and Joe and Heather at 3:00pm:** This is the service confirming Joe and Heather's ministry with us. Confirming this relationship is a significant part of their joining our community. The presider will be Rev. Fred Monteith and the guest preacher will be Rev. Phillip Cable. Please note this date. We hope to see as many of us here to support them as possible.

**There will be a 10:00am morning service as usual on October 22.**

*Nancy Dykstra, Chair of Worship*

**Pastoral Care – Rev. Joe Gaspar and Rev. Heather Power:** 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 Heather or Joe at church by phone at **519-885-0935 (Heather at ext. 22 or Joe at ext. 23)**. Voicemail messages will be checked regularly.

**Post-Thanksgiving Food Drive:** The need for food is always there and a simple donation can mean so much to individuals and families in need. Please help to support the efforts of The Food Bank of Waterloo Region! **Boxes for non-perishable food items will be in the Upper Hall Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.** Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. Please note "Food Bank" on your offering. Questions? Please contact Brian Harper at [gbharper2@gmail.com](mailto:gbharper2@gmail.com)

*Thank you for your generosity! ~ Wendy Watson, Chair of Outreach*

**Open House for Laura Forde:** Laura is hosting an Open House to celebrate her kidney transplant. She welcomes her Parkminster friends & family to drop in as they are able, anytime **from 1:00pm to 5:00pm on Saturday, October 14** – the gathering will be held in our double classroom. Desserts and refreshments will be served. Children welcome!

**“JOY DAY”:** Waterloo Presbyterial invites all Parkminster women and their friends to “JOY DAY”. Join us **Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at Parkminster, from 10:00am to 2:00pm**. Tickets are \$15 (purchase on or before October 15). Lunch is included. Please contact Barbara Seaton for more information (519-623-1359).

**This week let us pray for:**

**World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle**  
Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

**Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle**  
Burkholder United Church