



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sunday, July 9, 2017
Reflection: “The Light Yoke”
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!

Burdened?

Prelude: “The Power of Jesus’ Name” *arr. by Brad Nix*

★ Introit: “Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet” 🎵 VU #245

Welcome

One: Today, we find ourselves in the summer season of rest and renewal. We seek peace for our spirits and space in the busyness of our everyday. We seek renewal and rest. We seek comfort and courage.

Today, we remember that we have made our spiritual home on the traditional land of the Six Nations tribes. As settlers from many places in this world of ours, we need to reconcile our relationship

with those whose land we now occupy and repent of the hardship colonization has brought to Aboriginal people.

We acknowledge, with regret, that our shared 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 affirm our faith in the power of love and the gift of the spirit.

Joys and Concerns

Welcoming One Another

★Children's Song: "Know That God Is Good" 🎵 MV #104

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

One of the most compelling invitations that comes to us from Jesus is the invitation to come into his peaceful and loving presence, to release the burdens we bear because we are human, and to yoke ourselves to his healing compassion.

What burdens do you need to release?

Welcome the love that brings wholeness and hope.

Song

**We are becoming peace.
We are becoming peace,
wells of patience, wells of grace,
make our souls a holy place.
We are becoming peace.**

Seeking Release

Ministry of Music: “Because He Lives” *by William Gaither*
(duet by Darlene Basse & Delores Benedik)

 Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30 (NT, pg. 12)

From The Message

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion?
Come to me. Get away with me and you will recover
your life. I will show you how to take a real rest. Walk
with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn
the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything
heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and
you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

About Scripture

Today's scripture is from Matthew's gospel. It follows Jesus' teaching (the Sermon on the Mount) and is part of his instructions to his disciples. Jesus works hard to establish a "praxis" of discipleship, that is a way of life that integrates theology and belief with day-to-day actions. The goal is to integrate what the disciples believe and say with what they do.

Remember that Matthew was written for Jewish Christians, those whose religious life began in the synagogue and, after embracing Jesus' teachings, left to form small communities of Jesus' followers. As this separation of synagogue from Christian community became more obvious and fractious, it was crucial that the Christians differentiate themselves from the synagogue. In this passage, Jesus is helping his followers get clear on faith and action.

Living in a tense political world and in a tense religious world was costly. Stressful. Anxiety-producing. So Jesus reached out to his own and offered them comfort and rest. He invited his own to come to him with their burdens and worry. He would offer them release from weariness and offer them a better way to be human. He offered his own "yoke" which connected the disciples to his peace and loving kindness. And he offered to "yoke" them together so that, in partnership, they might be more productive for the kin-dom of the holy.

Jesus' offer did not put his followers on easy street. It did give them love's work to do, work that was supported by his wisdom and by one another.

We, too, live in a tense world. We, too, have our load to carry. We, too, are offered rest for our spirits. And the way? Come unto him.

Reflection

"The Light Yoke"

★ Hymn “Come and Find the Quiet Centre” 🎵 VU #374

Living Free

Offertory: “That’s What I’ll Be” *by Chester See*
(solo by Kathleen Vanderlinden)

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

★ Offering Prayer, said by all:

Today brings hope and possibility. It brings new life and new beginnings. Today is one more opportunity to affirm our deep faith that in spite of our fears, love is stronger than death.

Our calling is to make this hope live for others. We offer our gifts for the sake of transformation and the promise of new life for all. Amen

Prayers for Easy Spirits

★ Hymn: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” 🎵 VU #684

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Alleluia 🎵 MV #52

Postlude “Gavotte in D Major” *by J.M. Leclair*

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

Ushers: Dorothy Duxbury & Barb Pryor

Greeters:..... Pat & Ted Harris

Lay Reader: Mary Willsie

Counters:.....

Juice Hour:..... 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

(full listing in "What's Up" email)

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

Summer Worship Needs Your Help

Because of vacation schedules, House Groups are not operating during the summer. Volunteers are needed during July and August for greeting, ushering, as lay readers and to provide juice/lemonade. **Sign-up sheets are in the upper hall.** Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Neil Murray Night – Tickets Now on Sale!

Saturday, September 30 @ 7:30pm - Navy Club in Waterloo

Pick up or reserve your tickets today after church! **Cost: \$20 per person; \$10 students/teens.** Cash/cheque – pay at the door. You may also buy/reserve tickets from the church office (519-885-0935) or call Bruce Mutton (519-894-1687). Thank you for your support!

Facebook Update

If you have any events to advertise, photos from events you'd like to share, or have any questions about Parkminster's social media, **please email Laura Mutton at mutton.laura@gmail.com**

Choral Scholars April Concert

Did you miss the concert by our choral scholars Midori Marsh and River Guard? Or would you like to watch it again?

Midori's dad sent us the link to view it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX6SpVDRfek>

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

July 5, 2017

Greetings from the General Council Office.

I am writing to let you know of the voting results for Remits 1 to 4. All four remits were approved by a majority of the 84 voting presbyteries and 2136 voting pastoral charges of the United Church.

Remit 1: Three Council Model

Presbyteries: Yes: 74 No: 7

Pastoral Charges: Yes: 1672 No: 222

Remit 2: Elimination of Transfer and Settlement

Presbyteries: Yes: 74 No: 7

Pastoral Charges: Yes: 1792 No: 89

Remit 3: Office of Vocation

Presbyteries: Yes: 69 No: 12

Pastoral Charges: Yes: 1681 No: 190

Remit 4: Funding a New Model

Presbyteries: Yes: 70 No: 12

Pastoral Charges: Yes: 1472 No: 398

There is one final step in the remit process to be taken by the 43rd General Council when it meets in July, 2018. We will now be working to be ready for that prospect.

A Remit Scenario Planning group, co-chaired by Alan Hall (Executive Minister, Ministry and Personnel), and Peter Hartmans (Executive Secretary, Hamilton Conference), has been meeting over the past year to do preliminary thinking on the change process, depending on which of the remits received approval. This group will now be re-mandated as the Remit Implementation group, to have broad oversight over the plans for implementation of the changes that will follow if General Council gives its approval to the decisions that have been approved by remit. David Allen has agreed to step away from his position as Executive Secretary of Toronto Conference to accept the full time assignment as Project Leader for this work.

The 42nd General Council will reconvene for an electronic meeting on September 30, 2017 to put plans in motion for determining the boundaries of the regional councils, and a nominations process for the next General Council Executive, pending the final step in the remit process.

Thank you all for your participation in this important work of the church.

Sincerely,



Nora Sanders, General Secretary, General Council