

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Advent 2 – PEACE

Rev. Heather Power & Rev. Joe Gaspar





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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!

Gathering

Prelude: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” *arr. by Rebecca Faith*
(flute, Tracie Klaehn)

Welcome

Statement of Welcome

One: 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 (A-nish-NA-bay) the Haudenosaunee (Ho-di-no-SHOW-nay), 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

Advent Candle Lighting:

Week Two – PEACE

One: On this second Sunday of Advent we light again the first candle on our wreath, the candle of Hope.

Today we continue our journey by lighting the second Advent candle: the candle of Peace.

This candle reminds us of God's promise of peace:

“Thus says the Lord God, I will make a covenant of peace with Israel; It shall be an everlasting covenant; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

As we light this candle, please join in singing our Advent song,

♪ I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
lead me home, lead me home.

One: Let us pray:

All: Holy One, as we continue our Advent journey, help us to focus on your promise of a peaceful future.

For although we know that there is not peace, we also know that you call us to shape the world in your image.

May the light of this candle ever brighten our path and help us to prepare and wait for the fulfillment of your promises.

Our journey continues, Amen.

★ Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" ♪ VU #1
(vs. 4 – 7)

Passing of the Peace



One: God is the source of peace within us.

All: In humility and surrender let us claim it.

One: Jesus is the way of peace among us.

All: With courage and faith let us live it.

One: The Holy Spirit is the unity of peace between us.

All: With generosity and joy let us share it.

One: May the peace of Jesus, the Christ be with you...

All: And also with you.

Exploring

★ Hymn: "Put Peace into Each Other's Hands" 🎵 MV# 173
(vs. 1, 2 & 5)

Story Time – Puppet Play with Tracie Klaehn & friends

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. 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

Holy One, in these darkening days,
we come seeking peace.
We seek serenity within ourselves.
We seek harmony within our families.
We seek goodwill among our neighbors.
We seek a ceasefire among all nations.
We seek not just the absence of conflict,
But the presence of shalom—
the abiding peace
the healing life
the unrelenting justice
that are enlivened through our stories of faith
and by God's call to us in Christ. Amen.

*Adapted from spaciousfaith.com

Scripture **Luke 1: 26 – 38**

Luke 1: 26-38 The presence of angels in the birth narratives in Luke's Gospel is the ancient Jewish way of saying metaphorically that God was initiating a unique and self-revealing event. As in the story of Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 18 & 21, God acted beyond all expectations. The message of the angel Gabriel to Mary was the same: "Nothing shall be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

Luke— Three gospels* (good news) in the New Testament offer similar portraits of the life of Jesus; Luke is the third of them. Its author, traditionally Luke the physician who accompanied Paul on some of his missionary journeys, draws on three sources: Mark (via Matthew), a collection of sayings (known as Q for Quelle, German for source) and his own source. It is a gospel that emphasizes God's love for the poor, the disadvantaged, minorities, outcasts, sinners and lepers. Women play a more prominent part than in the other gospels. Luke never uses Semitic words; this is one argument for thinking that he wrote primarily for Gentiles (non-Jews).

*The stories of Jesus—Mark and Matthew being the others.

Chris Haslam <http://montreal.anglican.org/comments/atksgm.shtml?>

Questions for Reflection

- What is God doing today, here in our midst, too wonderful for our imaginations or our words?
- In what ways have you been or are you being called to give birth to God in your family, workplace, community or world?

Wise Words

Ministry of Music: “Come, Come Emmanuel” *by Joel Raney*

Reflection

★ Hymn: “Mary, Woman of the Promise”  VU #16

Responding

What Parkminster Means to Me – Wendy Ridgway

Offering – invitation

Offertory: “Still, Still, Still” *arr. by Ken Bauer*
(flute, Tracie Klaehn)

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

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. (I'll sing with joy.) I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

★ Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer *(from our faith tradition)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Returning

★ Hymn: "All Earth Is Waiting" 🎵 VU #5

★ Commissioning and Blessing

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

**Peace be with you, peace forever,
peace be with you, my friends.
Till we meet again, may God be with you.
Peace, peace, peace.**

Postlude: "Noel #1" *by Claude Balbastre*



Prayerful Support: It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Parkminster member, Pat Proud. As a caring congregation, we extend our love and most heartfelt sympathies to Pat's family and friends as they mourn their loss. We pray they will feel comfort and support from our prayers as we hold them in the light. Pat's husband, the late Rev. Arnold Proud, was Minister Emeritus of Parkminster. Pat's funeral was held on Dec. 5th at Henry Walser Funeral Home, officiated by Rev. Joe Gaspar.

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

Ushers: Kathy & Isaias Teves, Max Cohen and
..... Emma Foster Cohen
Greeters: Clare, Jon, Charlie, Ellie & Mary Klingenberg
Lay Reader:..... Andrea Gaspar
Chancel Arrangements:..... Chancel Committee
Candle Lighters:..... arranged each Sunday morning in Advent
Flute: Tracie Klaehn
Story Time Puppeteer:..... Tracie Klaehn
Counters: Ron Usaty, Colleen Usaty
Coffee Hour: Audrey McWilliams, Trudie Robbins
Coffee Hour Dessert: Clare & Jon Klingenberg

The Ministry of Parkminster:..... All of us
Ministers:..... Rev. Heather Power (x 22) and
..... Rev. Joe Gaspar (x 23)
Music Director:..... Neil Murray (x 25)
Office Administrator:..... Melanie Chisholm (x 21)
Custodian:..... Allen Switzer (x 26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For full details please refer to the weekly "What's UP" email.

(If you would like to receive "What's UP", please contact the church office.)



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Please refer to the insert in today's bulletin.



MEETING TODAY

HOUSE GROUP #7: Please come to the Family Room after church today to organize our January schedule. Thanks – Sue Usaty.

2018 HOUSE GROUP SCHEDULE

Just a reminder that the 2018 schedule is posted in the upper hall, showing the house group leaders and members, and the assigned month. Thank you to everyone for your participation over the past year.

MINISTERS' MESSAGES

Christmas Eve Candle Lighters: Do you plan on celebrating Christmas by coming to church on Christmas Eve? Would you like to be part of the service? We are looking for people to be part of the Advent/Christ candle lighting liturgy at both the 7pm Family Service and the 10pm Communion Service. It involves lighting the candles and reading a short script. Let us know if you're interested. revjoegaspar.parkminster@gmail.com (519- 885-0935 ext. 23) revheather.parkminster@gmail.com (519-885-0935 ext. 22).

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.

Ministers' Day Off: Rev. Joe and Rev. Heather take Friday as their day off during the week. For urgent matters that cannot wait until their Sunday to Thursday work schedule, please contact the church office and they will be contacted for you.

This week let us pray for: **World Council of Churches Focus - Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle - Erindale United Church, Hamilton**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children and Youth at PUC: Sundays are an exciting time to gather in community at PUC and that's no exception for our children and youth! Did you know that we have expanded from a one-room option to two classes? We have one for younger children and one for older children and youth! Thank you to the C.E. Committee, Rev. Heather, and of all the volunteers who are offering their gifts and enthusiasm on Sunday mornings with our young people!

Here's what's coming up in the weeks ahead!:

THIS MORNING! - Pageant preparations (Rev. Heather with the classes)

Sunday, Dec. 17 - Pageant Sunday - all are welcome to be a part of telling the story with roles for all ages! Be a part of this "no-rehearsal-required" Pageant that shares the Christmas story with a fun twist. Invite your friends!

Sunday, Dec. 24 (10:00am) - Christmas Activities and Celebrations with Rev. Heather

FOOD TRUCK SURVEY – A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

This week you received an email asking you to complete a survey on our food truck outreach. We must decide whether or not we continue this initiative. The survey can be done online, by clicking on the link in the email you received, or it can be done on paper. You will find your paper copy inserted in today's bulletin. If you do a paper copy please put it in the Council mail box when completed. Thank you for taking the time to give us your input. We would appreciate getting responses by Monday, December 11.

~ Maedith Radlein, Council Chair

GREETER NEEDED FOR OUTSIDE DOOR

Inclusive Ministries is looking for someone to greet at the outside door on the 2nd Sunday of the month. We watch for new people to our building and make sure that they know where to hang their coats, where the washrooms are and where to go into the Sanctuary. We believe it makes them feel more comfortable and this task is very pleasant. It is greeting old friends and new. It means you come at 9:30 once a month, but your contribution makes a difference in the lives of people attending Sunday services. If this sounds like a job for you, please contact Liz Forde at eforde@sentex.ca or by phone at 519-576-1233.

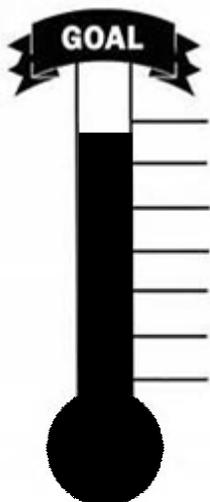
AUDIO / VISUAL HELP IS AVAILABLE!

Please contact our A/V coordinator Sandra Quehl, should you require help with the Sanctuary projector for your group's next event or meeting. Operators are standing by! You may reach Sandra by email at quewat1@outlook.com

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our progress to date: As of December 6th, we are at 86% for the Local Fund budget. A further \$49,600 is required to meet our projected operating costs for the year of \$342,300. For Outreach, we are at 80%. A further \$16,080 is required to meet our year-end Outreach goal of \$80,000.

Outreach Goal - \$80,000



← at 80%
\$63,920

Local Fund - \$342,300



← at 86%
\$292,700