

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018

Rev. Joe Gaspar

I am God's child

Loved

and

Pleasing

to the

Creator





PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sunday, January 7, 2018

Rev. Joe Gaspar

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: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” *arr. by Lloyd Larson*

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

Call into Community

One: Come people of God, come and stand at the water's edge.

All: We come to watch, to listen.

One: Come people of God, wade into the waters of baptism.

**All: We come to be immersed in God's love,
to hear the words meant for us—**

All: "...you are my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased".

One: We gather as a community of God's beloved,

All: We gather in gratitude. Amen.

★ Introit: "Sing 'Till Sundown" 🎵 VU #78

Passing of the Peace



One: The peace of Jesus is more than a greeting,

All: it is more than the wish for a life free of conflict.

One: It is the peace that Jesus came to proclaim—

All: the harmony of a life of inclusion, justice and acceptance.

One: To pass the peace of Jesus is to wish upon your neighbor a life of right relationship with God, with others and with all of creation.

All: In this exchange we invite one another into the community of God proclaimed by Jesus,

One: and to which the Spirit calls and points.

One: In that Spirit I invite you to share the peace of Jesus with your neighbour...May the peace of Jesus, the Christ be with you...

All: And also with you.

EXPLORING

Prayer of Preparation

**Generous Creator,
In the stories of your ancient people,
May we hear our story.
By the Spirit of Love and Wisdom
May our ears listen,
may our minds know,
May our wills surrender,
May our hearts break open,
that like Jesus, we may become
Love in the flesh. Amen.**

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. 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.

Scripture – Mark 1: 1-11

Mark 1: 1-11 The early church believed that the teaching and the work John the Baptist fulfilled prophecies found in Exodus 23:20 and Isaiah 40:3. A dramatic if controversial figure, John preached repentance and baptism in the Jordan River as the way for Jews of his time to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Then Jesus joined the crowds that thronged to hear John's message and experience. The vision of the Spirit as a dove descending on Jesus after he had been baptized confirmed John's conviction that the Messiah would bring the gift of the Spirit to all believers.

Adapted www.seemslikegod.org/Lectionary/YearB_Epiphany.htm by John Shearman

Mark— Three gospels[†] (the good news) in the New Testament portion of the bible offer similar portraits of the life of Jesus and are known as the synoptic gospels. As witnesses to the events of Jesus' life and death became old and died, the need arose for a written synopsis. Mark was likely the first gospel to be written. When the other synoptic gospels were written, i.e. Matthew and Luke, they used the Gospel according to Mark as a source. This book stresses the crucifixion and resurrection as keys to understanding who Jesus was.

[†] The stories of Jesus—Matthew and Luke being the others.

Chris Haslam- <http://www.montreal.anglican.org/comments/badv1m.shtml>

Questions for Reflection

- What does it mean to you to be a child of God?
- To what extent do you define yourself by what you do?
- Describe yourself without reference to job, possessions or family.

Wise Words

Ministry of Music: "In Terra Pax" *by Jerry Estes*
(On earth peace to all those of good will, alleluia)

Reflection

★ Hymn: "Will You Come and See the Light" 🎵 VU #96

RESPONDING

Offering – invitation

Offertory: "The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy" *arr. by Lloyd Larson*

★ 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

Lord's Prayer – A Paraphrase+

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created things!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

+ Jim Cotter 1988, *Voices United*, p. 916.

RETURNING

★ Hymn: "I Am the Light of the World" 🎵 VU #87

★ 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: "Trumpet Tune in D" *by Antonio Vivaldi*



The flowers at the front of the sanctuary today have been placed by Isobel Field, in loving memory of her husband Jim Field.

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

Ushers:.....Jack & Mary Reynolds; Don & Roxy Linkletter

Greeters:Ron & Sue Usaty

Lay Reader:.....Elna Robertson

Audio/Visual Coordinator:.....Sandy Quehl

Chancel Arrangements:.....Chancel Committee – Pat Harris

Coffee Hour:Jack & Mary Reynolds

Coffee Hour Dessert:Sue Usaty

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)

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.)

CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP TODAY

UGO-IGO and M.O.P.s (Men of Parkminster): Your help is needed after church today to remove and pack away all Christmas decorations. When our work is done, we will have a finger food potluck and social time in the Family Room. Thanks! Sheril, Shelley & Norma

MINISTERS' MESSAGES

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.

GOOD NEWS!

Thanks to all for your generous sharing of gifts throughout 2017. We finished the year with a small surplus in the Local Fund (from which operating costs are paid), and came very close to meeting our Outreach target. A combination of factors helped--we had a great response in December, expenses came in below budget, we received a number of exceptional one-time gifts, and we had grants from the endowment fund to assist with our ministry transition (moving expenses, etc.). ~ Finance Committee

ANNUAL MEETING – SAVE THE DATE

The **Annual Report** and **Annual Congregational Meeting** (ACM) are coming soon! Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 4, 2018**. The ACM will immediately follow the morning worship service in the sanctuary. It is important for as many people as possible to attend as we will need to have quorum for important votes. We will need to approve the 2018 budget, approve a new slate of volunteers for chairs, council executive and committees, governance, etc. There will be coffee and light snack available. We expect that the Annual Report will be available to the congregation a few days ahead of the meeting.

Note: the congregational budget information session will be held after the service on **Sunday, January 28th**. Find out about the budget and have your questions answered ahead of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE EXPLAINED

The theme of the Christmas tree this year was "inclusiveness". The colours all blended together and the top represented the explosion of the rights of all people --gays, indigenous, women and those with challenges. Hope you enjoyed it. ~ Norma Hutton