

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

Transfiguration Sunday



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!

GATHERING

Prelude

“Our Song”

by Dala

(soloist, Kathleen Vanderlinden)

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: Gathering in this sacred place we anticipate new wonders each week.

All: Wherever two or three are gathered to worship, a holy spirit is present.

One: Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed, even this day, even in this place.

All: We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary but when we leave today may our hearts be open to all the wonders of God's beautiful world. Come, let us worship!

★ Introit: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

♪ VU #232

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.



Adapted from Rex A. Hunt

http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy_collection/year_b_liturgy_collection/year_b_pentecostafter/pentecostb2452015.html

EXPLORING

Prayer of Preparation

**Send your Spirit among us, O God,
as we meditate on your love.**

**Prepare our minds to hear your Word,
move our hearts to embrace what we hear,
and to carry the message of love to the world.
Amen.**

★ Children's Song: “This Is the Day”

♪ MV #122
(sung twice)

Story Time with Tracie Klaehn and friends

Following 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 9: 2 - 9

Where does earth end and heaven begin? When is God's realm already here, and where do we say it hasn't appeared yet? How do we engage the liminal spaces between the human and divine to perceive a new reality that can transform our existing broken one? The transfiguration of Jesus is disorienting to his disciples, and confuses us, as readers, with all its pyrotechnics and voices from above; yet the message is affirming. "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him" (Mark 7:9). Haven't we all wanted to hear so clearly who to follow and to trust? It must have been liberating for the first disciples to know that their instincts about leaving their former lives behind and follow this countercultural teacher and healer around the countryside were correct. The hope they had in the love he displayed, the inclusion he taught, and the integrity he embodied was warranted. But what do the disciples do now with this assurance? Try to preserve the moment by building them all a place to live and from which to teach? Tell everyone they know what they saw and heard as confirmation of what they had always felt to be true? The transfiguration answered a big question they had about the identity of Jesus and themselves as his followers. We, like the early disciples, are called not just to teach the ethics of Jesus but to spread hope and a faith that love conquers all.

Adapted from: <https://www.seasonsonline.ca/files/feb11-18-fusion.pdf>

Questions for Reflection

- *Think of a time when you had no adequate words to express the wonder and awe that you were experiencing. It might be a time when you encountered amazing beauty in creation. It might be a time when you were overcome by some aspect of the miracle of human life. It might be a time when you were rendered speechless by your sense of holy presence. What did you experience? What were your feelings? What difference did it make in your life? Sometimes we use an expression like a "mountaintop experience" to identify such a moment. What words would you use to label it on the map of your own life journey?*

Ministry of Music

"Joyance"

by Ron Mallory

(Cast In Bronze handbell choir)

Reflection

★ Hymn: “Oh, a Song Must Rise”  MV #142

RESPONDING

Offering – invitation

Offertory “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
arr. by Arnol Sherman
(Cast In Bronze handbell choir)

★ 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 – Paraphrase+

Jim Cotter © 1988 VU #916

**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 of 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 forever. Amen.**

RETURNING

★ Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" 🎵 VU#642

★ 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: "Postlude in D" *by Francesco Manfredini*

Parkminster United Church honours all copyright laws holding licenses which cover copying activities that assist with congregational singing, computer projections, song sheets, bulletin inserts, and recording services, etc.

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

Ushers:..... Gale & Bert Blackburn; Dave Rankin & Jane Ruttle
Greeters:..... Phil, Sophie & Rachel Demsey
Lay Reader:..... Jennifer Allan
Candle Lighter:..... Gabriel Bruce
Guest Musicians:..... Kathleen Vanderlinden; Cast In Bronze handbell choir
A/V Coordinator:..... Sandy Quehl
A/V Operator:..... Owen Rudolph
Counters:..... Colleen Usaty and Ron Usaty
Chancel Arrangements:..... Chancel Committee
Coffee Hour Hosts:..... Bill & Heather Spall

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.)



ASH WEDNESDAY

Please join us **February 14th, 7:30pm at Westminster United** for a shared Ash Wednesday service of the Waterloo United Churches.

THIS WEEK LET US PRAY FOR

World Council of Churches Focus – Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland; **Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle** – Kincardine United Church

NEW REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP!

At the February 4th Congregational Meeting, Parkminster unanimously supported a motion to sponsor one of Khairiya's sisters, her seven children and nephew Fadi. Siham's husband was killed a year and a half ago during bombing in Syria. The family is now living in a tent in Lebanon. Please help bring this family to Canada! **We have committed to raise \$30,000 in donations by March 18th.** We will then add another \$12,000 from the existing Re-Settlement Fund. Cheques should be made to Parkminster United Church, with "Refugee Fund" noted in the Memo line. Thanks for your support!

KIDS PARTY! (Parent's Night Out!)

Save the date: Saturday, March 3rd from 5:00pm-7:00pm: Children are invited to join us for a supervised time of fun, food, and fellowship! Dinner will be provided along with activities here at the church while parents have the opportunity to enjoy their own time out! RSVP Rev. Heather: revheather.parkminster@gmail.com

WELCOME MICHELLE & THEO!

Parkminster is blessed with many caring individuals who provide pastoral care and support in a variety of ways for our congregation. We are delighted to announce a new visiting ministry with Michelle Zurbrigg and her therapy dog, Theo. Theo has passed a rigorous exam for calm, gentle demeanor and obedience and he and Michelle are ready to visit those who might enjoy this special animal visit.

Studies show that just fifteen minutes spent bonding with an animal promotes hormonal changes within the brain. Stress levels drop as the brain produces serotonin (the "feel-good" hormone), along with prolactin and oxytocin. This is why therapy animals are good companions for all ages! If you would like to schedule a visit with Michelle and Theo, please contact Rev. Heather or Rev. Joe.

TAX RECEIPTS

2017 Tax Receipts will be **available for pick up Sunday, February 18th.** To help save on postage, we encourage everyone to check for their envelope before leaving church next week. Envelopes not picked up that Sunday will be mailed out on Tuesday, February 20th. Thank you.

FRAGRANCE AT CHURCH

As some people have allergies or sensitivities to fragrances, this makes participation in worship and other events difficult if not impossible. Please be mindful of this so that we can live more fully into our mission of being an inclusive church. Thank you.

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.

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.