

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Heather Power & Rev. Joe Gaspar



*Annual Congregational Meeting
following Worship*



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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519-885-0935 | parkuc@golden.net | parkuc.ca

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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

“Sing a New Song”

*by BJ Putnam
(The Band)*

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: Gather us in, the broken-hearted and the joyful.

All: Gather us in, the weak and the strong.

One: Gather us in, the fearful and the brave.

All: Gather us in, the young and the old.

One: Gather us in, to sing of God's works.

All: Gather us in, to praise Jesus Christ.

One: Gather us in, to worship and wonder.

All: Gather us in, to know God's love.

One: Come, let us worship!

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

**Creating God,
Remind us of your love as we hear
and explore these words.
Open our eyes – open our hearts –
that we may be strengthened
and renewed by your Word.
Amen.**

~ Adapted from a prayer by Amy Loving, and posted on [The Worship Closet: The Place for Creative Worship Ideas](http://worshipcloset.com/baptism-of-the-lord-sunday-year-b-words-for-worship/).

★ Children's Song: "Draw the Circle Wide" 🎵 MV #145

Story Time Introducing our NEW Curriculum!

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 – Isaiah 40: 21 - 31

With its themes of comfort for the people and the transience of human powers by contrast with the enduring nature of God, Isaiah 40:21-31 is some of the most beautiful poetry in the Bible.

The chapter opened with orders to proclaim the good news of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3-5, 9), but v. 21 starts over with forceful rhetorical questions (“Have you not known? Have you not heard?”) that call into question whether the proclamation has been received. The theme of knowing and hearing runs through the entire book of Isaiah (1:3; 5:19; 6:9; 48:6-8, etc.), and this text assumes, like many others, that its hearers will struggle to comprehend its message.

Even a brief consideration of the state of the hearers makes clear why this good news would have been difficult to process. It is widely recognized that Isaiah 40 and following speaks to a different historical situation than chapters 1-39. It comes in the wake of the Babylonian exile, perhaps around the end of the exile, in the 530s BCE. It may be that different Judeans experienced exile differently -- there were probably various groups in various places. Some, like those who were with the former king Jehoiachin in Babylon itself seem to have received rations from the royal court and may have eventually been treated reasonably well (2 Kings 25:27-30).¹ Others, however, may have been located in what were essentially labour camps. Even in the best case, the homecoming and restoration in Judah would have been a very difficult matter, however. The land had been devastated and not rebuilt. Thus, although the return from exile is often imagined as joyous (e.g., Psalm 137:6), Nehemiah 11:1-2 reports that there was no crush of people begging to live in the destroyed city of Jerusalem. It was without a temple or effective walls; the comforts and protections that a city would normally have afforded in the ancient world were missing. In fact, the people had to cast lots to see who would live there, and they “blessed all those who *willingly* offered to live in Jerusalem.” After fifty or more years in exile, most of those returning would have hardly known the place. Exile was hard, but returning was difficult, too.

The closing metaphor, “they shall rise up with wings like eagles” is the poetic pinnacle of the passage, and evokes the Exodus again (see Exodus 19:4: “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself”; also Deuteronomy 32:11). The biblical witness is that from age to age, God hears the cries of the people and empowers them -- in exhaustion, in oppression, and in other moments of greatest need. In some ways, this Isaianic poetry goes beyond the Exodus accounts, in that God not only protects the people, God bestows on them wings of their own. Since wings are frequently described as a supernatural attribute (Psalm 17:8; Isaiah 6:2; 31:5; Jeremiah 48:40; Ezekiel 1:6ff., Malachi 4:2, etc.), they indicate an unusual gift of divine power. This exceptional poem appropriately marks one of the most significant events in the history of God and God’s people.

Adapted from commentary by Christopher B. Hays,
http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2359

Questions for Reflection

- *Where do you feel God is leading you? Where do you feel God is leading this congregation?*
- *What hopes do you bring in this time of renewal and new ministry within this place?*

Ministry of Music “These Feet Got Joy” *by Craig Curry*
(soloist, Midori Marsh)

Reflection

★ Hymn: “Like a Healing Stream” 🎵 MV #144

RESPONDING

Offering – invitation

Offertory “Softly and Tenderly” arr. by Joel Raney

★ 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+

**God within us, God beyond us, God among us,
May the Mystery always be named and
known among all peoples and in all times.
May creation give way
to the rule of love and the power of life. Satisfy our
hunger, and grant us a
hunger to see the whole world fed.
Restore us to right relationship with You,
with creation, with others, with ourselves.
Strengthen us to reject all
that would lead us away from You,
Come to us when we choose death over life.
Give us courage to follow your call in this moment.
For in your love we find the only power, the only
home,
the only honour we will ever need, in this life and the
life to come.
Amen.**

+Adapted from paraphrases found in the New Zealand Prayer Book (1989) and one by Sarah-Dylan Breuer found at http://www.theworshipwell.org/pdf/Lords_Prayer_Paraphrase.pdf

RETURNING

★ Hymn: "Go, Make a Difference"

♪ MV #209

★ 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:

“Today is the Day”

*by Lincoln Brewster
(The Band)*



It is with great sadness that we share the recent passing of Reginald Pendlebury (Don Pendlebury & Sheril Stinson) and the recent passing of Parkminster charter member, Jim Boland (Joan). May our prayers support both the Pendlebury & Boland families and friends as they mourn their loss.



The flowers in the sanctuary today are placed by Thelma Hamilton in loving memory of her husband, Lum.

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

- Ushers:**Doris Heselwood, Lee Osborne, Nancy Dykstra
- Greeters:**Ariam & Ariarani Ariaratnam
- Lay Reader:**.....Maedith Radlein
- Soloist:**Midori Marsh
- The Band:**.....River Guard, Jamie Hofman, Lee McWebb,
.....Jeff Stacey, Angie & Neil Murray
- A/V Coordinator:**Sandy Quehl
- A/V Operator:**.....Rob Vanderlinden
- Chancel Arrangements:**.....Chancel Committee
- Coffee Hour:**Nancy Dykstra, Andrée Gerard
- Coffee Hour Dessert:**refreshments in the Narthex prior to Annual Meeting

- 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)

Refreshments will be served in the Narthex prior to the start of the meeting.

Limited hardcopies of the Annual Report & Remit 6 are available in the Upper Hall.

Parkminster United Church • Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 4, 2018

AGENDA

1. Chair's Remarks
2. Opening Prayer/Celebrations/Memorial
3. Motion that the congregation approve Maedith Radlein as chairperson of this Annual Congregational Meeting
4. Motion that the congregation approve Sheril Stinson as secretary of this Annual Congregational Meeting
5. Motion that all active adherents of Parkminster be allowed to participate and vote in this Annual Congregational Meeting
6. Motion to accept the Agenda
7. Motion to accept the minutes of:
 - a. Annual Congregational Meeting dated Feb. 5, 2017 p. 29
 - b. Congregational Meeting dated May 7, 2017 p. 33
 - c. Congregational Meeting dated May 28, 2017 p. 35
8. Motion to accept the 2017 Committee reports as recorded in the 2017 Annual Report
9. Finance Report, pp 22-25 - Jack Reynolds, Treasurer
10. Motion by Jack Reynolds to approve the 2018 Operating Budget as presented in the 2017 Annual Report
11. Outreach budget, p. 27 - Jim Bowman. Motion by Jim Bowman to approve the 2017 Outreach Budget
12. Resettlement Committee proposal - Rob MacQueen
13. Trustee Update - Jim Bowman
14. Honoring the retiring committee chairs and members.

15. Nominating Committee report, p. 8 - Jeanne Foster
16. Motion by Jeanne Foster to approve the Leadership Team for 2018-2019 (insert) as outlined by the Nominating Committee
17. New Business: Presentation of Remit 6 – Karen Schertzberg and Maedith Radlein
18. Closing Prayer
19. Motion to Adjourn

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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.)

FRAGRANCE AT CHURCH



At Parkminster we pride ourselves on being an inclusive church as we strive to bring down the barriers to full participation in the life of our church community. Some of us have allergies or sensitivities to fragrances such as perfume, cologne, fabric softener, scented shampoos and lotions. This makes participation in worship and other events difficult if not impossible for some of us. *Please be mindful of this so that we can live more fully into our mission of being an inclusive church.*

MINISTERS’ MESSAGES

Study Leave – Rev. Gaspar will be away on study leave from February 5-11. Please contact Rev. Power during this time with any enquiries or requests for pastoral care.



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 – Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City; **Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle** – Fulton Stone, Ker and Tapleypoint United Churches



CHILDREN & YOUTH AT PUC



It's a New Year and we're off to a great start with our Sunday activities each week! We're really excited about our ***new* curriculum: "Deep Blue Kids"** which has already been receiving positive feedback from children and families. Here's what's happening: **Today** - hear about new curriculum during Story Time!

BOOK STUDY

Working towards right relationship with Indigenous Peoples

As a denomination and as a congregation we are trying to move towards reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours. Every Sunday morning we state that "we commit to just relationship in the present". Have you wondered what that could mean? One opportunity to learn what it could mean is to join a book study aimed at developing understanding about Indigenous spirituality. It will be 4-5 sessions long, **starting this evening, Sunday, Feb. 4th 7pm-9pm**. The book is called "Quest for Respect". You can browse the book and learn more in the gym today after the service and if you're interested in joining, you can sign up then or email Adrienne Barrett-Hoffman or Nancy Dykstra: abarretthofman@gmail.com or nancydykstra@gmail.com
First meeting: Jeanne Foster's home, 93 Maplewood Place on Sunday February 4th, 7:00pm – 9:00pm



NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY THIS SPRING

There'll be a new Parkminster photo directory this spring. **The photographer will be here March 20-24 and April 4-7**. Many volunteers are needed. **We are especially keen to get a**

volunteer to obtain advertisements for the directory. If you have a few hours to spare volunteering to drive people to appointments, host the tables etc., please *contact any member of the Membership & Pastoral Care Committee. Appointments can be booked online as of Sunday, February 11th. Computers will be available after church for those who would like help with booking.*

Instructions for online booking will be shared through email during the week of February 4th. Each family/person photographed will receive a free colour directory & 8 x 10 portrait. Orders can be made for further portraits/family pictures but there is no obligation to purchase more.

WATERLOO PRESBYTERIAL UCW

On Monday, February 5th at 9:30am, Forest Hill United, hear guest speaker Rev. Paul Miller present: "Challenging Changes: Where do we go from here?". Coffee & muffins served at 9:00am.

KIDS PARTY! (Parent's Night Out!)



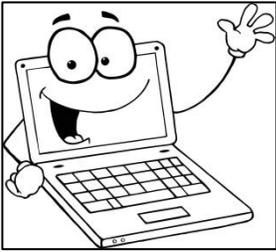
Save the date: Saturday, March 3rd from 5:00pm-7:00pm:

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 with Rev. Heather:

revheather.parkminster@gmail.com

AUDIO/VISUAL ASSISTANCE



AUDIO / VISUAL Help is Available! Please contact our A/V coordinator Sandy Quehl, should you require help with the "big screen"/projector for your group's next event/meeting. quewat1@outlook.com . Operators are standing by!