

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018
Lent 4

Rev. Joe Gaspar



"... For God so loved the world.."

John 3: 16



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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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 “Shall We Gather at the River” *arr. John Carter*

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: For God so loved the world;

**All: The robins and nuthatches,
the maples and the oaks,
the deer and the squirrels,
the bass and the people.**

One: For God so loved the world;

**All: In success and failure,
in sickness and health,
in the ordinary and the extraordinary.**

One: For God so loved the world;

**All: Enough to live among us,
enough to call us to God's work,
enough to offer us new life.**

One: For God so loved the world;

All: That we will worship in joy and gratitude.

Adapted from a prayer by Katherine Hawker found at <http://liturgyoutside.net/Lent4B.html>

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

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: 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. 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

**All: In the hearing of our tradition,
In the reflections of our minds,
In the stirring of our souls,
May we trust what emerges,
And it embrace it as a gift of the Spirit. Amen.**

★ Children's Song: “Praise Our Maker” 🎵 VU#316

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 – John 3: 14 – 21

One: This is the good news of Jesus.

All: **Thanks be for this grace.**

John—John is the fourth gospel[†](good news). Its author makes no attempt to give a chronological account of the life of Jesus (which the other gospels do, to a degree), but rather "...these things are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." John includes what he calls signs, stories of miracles, to help in this process.

[†] The stories of Jesus—Matthew, Luke and Mark being the others.
Chris Haslam-www.montreal.anglican.org/comments/bpr02m.shtml

John 3: 14-21—More than likely, this passage is John's own analysis of what the coming of the Son of God really means. Faith in Jesus Christ brings new life. Judgment occurs not at some heavenly court which decides between good and evil, but here and now in the way we respond or reject the life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Adapted—John Shearman <http://seemslikegod.org/lectionary/>

Lent—Lent is a short season of six weeks intended to prepare us for the great celebrations of Easter. The word *Lent* comes from the old Anglo-Saxon and Old German words for spring marked by days that lengthen. The idea of penitence and fasting during Lent may have begun in earlier, hungrier times as a means of spiritualizing real shortages of food at this time of year.

Adapted—John Shearman <http://seemslikegod.org/lectionary/>

Question for Reflection

- If Christian belief isn't about agreeing on a certain set of facts than what is it about?

Wise Words - “*Forget Everything*” - John Squadra

Ministry of Music

“Bist du bei mir”

J.S. Bach
(Midori Marsh)

Reflection

★ Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision” 🎵 VU #642 (vss. 1 - 4)

RESPONDING

Offering – invitation

Offertory

“The Prayer”

Carol Sager & David Foster
(Midori Marsh & River Guard)

★ Dedication: “Creator God You Give Us Life” 🎵 MV #27 (vs. 3)

**All: When with our hearts, our hands, our minds,
we share our gifts with all the world, our spirits soar
beyond the veil, to touch the very face of God.
Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices
chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the
page, we comprehend your mystery.**

★ 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: "Though I May Speak"

♪ VU#372

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Blessing "Peace of the Earth"

(Traditional Guatemalan, arr. John Bell)

**The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;
the peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you.**

Postlude: "Rondeau"

by Henry Purcell

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

Ushers:..... Wendy Ridgway; Roberta Hickey; Anne & Doug Stephens

Greeters:..... Karen & Paul Schertzberg

Lay Reader(s):..... Kathleen Vanderlinden

Guest Organist:..... Robert Hudgins for Neil Murray

Choral Scholars:..... Midori Marsh; River Guard

Sunday Morning Activity Helpers: Linda Bird; Wendy Rudd; Rob Vanderlinden

A/V Coordinator:..... Sandy Quehl

A/V Operator:..... Terry Ridgway

Counters:..... Ron & Sue Usaty

Chancel Arrangements:..... Trudie Robbins

Coffee Hour Dessert:..... Karen Schertzberg

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)



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Parkminster member, Dennis Vines. Visitation at Erb & Good funeral home, this afternoon from 12noon to 1:00pm. The funeral service will follow at 1pm in the funeral home chapel, reception to follow. As a caring congregation we hold Dennis's family in the light, supporting them with our prayers to offer comfort during their time of sorrow.