

# PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018  
Lent 5

Rev. Joe Gaspar

**...I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

**Jeremiah 31:33**

LDS Scripture of the Day



## 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                    “Poor Wayfaring Stranger”     *arr. by Mark Hayes*

### **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: Holy One, dwell within us.

**All: Whisper in our ears;**

One: Glimmer in our vision;

**All: Imprint your will upon our hearts.**

One: That we may be your people

**All: That you might be our God.**

One: Here we are, gathered as the people of God

**All: With open and full hearts, ready to worship.**

Adapted- Joanna Harader <https://spaciousfaith.com/2012/03/19/call-to-worship-lent-5b/>

★ Introit: “Holy Spirit, Come Into Our Lives” 🎵 MV #6



## 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—Rex A. Hunt

[http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy\\_collection/year\\_b\\_liturgy\\_collection/year\\_b\\_pentecostafter/pentecostb2452015.html](http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy_collection/year_b_liturgy_collection/year_b_pentecostafter/pentecostb2452015.html)One:

## EXPLORING

### Prayer of Preparation

**All: May the sacred Wisdom  
that lies deep within us  
be awakened,  
by the words we hear,  
by the thoughts we ponder,  
by the memories we recall,  
by the feelings that arise.  
May we be opened to  
a love we cannot imagine  
and a life of joy and compassion.  
Amen.**

★ Children's Song: "Come, Children, Join to Sing"    🎵 VU#345

### Story Time

**There are no activities today. Books and activity sheets are available in the Narthex and Toddler Room.**

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 – Jeremiah 31: 27-34** (*The Message: The Bible In Contemporary English*)

### **Acclamation**

**One:** This is the witness of Israel.

**All:** **Thanks be for this testimony of faith.**

**Jeremiah**—Jeremiah the prophet was either born or began his ministry in 627 BC. During his life, Babylonia succeeded Assyria as the dominant power in the Middle East. He was a witness to the return to worship of the Hebrew God (instituted by the Judean king Josiah), and then (after Josiah's death in battle in 609), the return of many of the people to other religions. When Babylon captured Jerusalem in 587, Jeremiah emigrated to Egypt. God called him to be a prophet to Judah and surrounding nations, in the midst of political and religious crisis.

Chris Haslam- [www.montreal.anglican.org/comments/cpr28m.shtml](http://www.montreal.anglican.org/comments/cpr28m.shtml)

**Jeremiah 31: 27-34**—The future promise in vv.27-28 is just as certain as the punishment that the exiles have known. They can rely on the promise that God will build them up again. They have learnt that they cannot restore themselves: they have to rely on God totally. The use of the phrase, "Behold, the days are coming" implies a short period of time and not some distant future event. The feeling of relief is almost palpable with the promise in vv.29-30 which states the exiles will no longer suffer for the sins of their forbears. The new covenant which is fully promised by God will be placed on the heart of each person and is not mediated by Moses or the prophets. The people have been unable to keep the conditional covenant set up at Sinai in which they promised to be God's people. To hear these words of hope in which they will be God's people with a new relationship must have been an extraordinary relief. The time of punishment and exile is over...Israel is always secure in the relationship that she has with Yahweh even in exile. Indeed, God declares "I will be their God and they shall be my people": in the Sinai covenant the people have to say they will be God's people...Many people view this passage only through Christian eyes but I hope that by seeing how this was addressed to the exiles in Babylon first, we can appreciate the unique messages of hope in the Old Testament. The Israelite people are the heirs to the first new covenant. They are offered a new opportunity

initiated by God to be in relationship. In the New Testament, Christ has become the bearer of the New Covenant which is celebrated in the Eucharist, in which we remember this new act of salvation for the world by God. We are offered forgiveness and the opportunity to begin again.

Adapted-Anna Grant-Henderson <http://otl.unitingchurch.org.au/index.php?page=jeremiah-31-27-34>

**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

- When has faith been a source of liberation for you?
- Are there any bold risks that faith is inviting you to take? What's holding you back?
- Are there any bold risks that faith is inviting the church to take? What's holding the church back?

Ministry of Music “Lonesome Valley” by Brad Nix & Joseph Graham  
(Lani Kerbl, soloist; Jamie Hofman, percussionist)

### Reflection

★ Hymn: “Amazing Grace” 🎵 VU #266 (vss. 1 - 4)

## RESPONDING

### Offering – invitation

Offertory “Near the Cross” arr. by Joel Raney

★ 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

#### Lord's Prayer 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 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.

Jim Cotter © 1988 VU #916

## RETURNING

★ Hymn: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"      🎵 VU#375

## ★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Blessing "Peace of the Earth" (*trad. 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: "Allegro"      *by William Boyce*

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

**Ushers:**..... Anne & Eric Yardley; Roberta Hickey

**Greeters:** ..... Janet Holland; Lyn McNiffe

**Lay Reader:** ..... Isobel Field

**Guest Musicians:** ..... Lani Kerbl; Jamie Hofman

**Sunday Morning Activities:** ..... **No Sunday Morning Activities**

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

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

**Counters:** ..... Ron Usaty; Colleen Usaty; and  
..... Cedric Charette & Amanda Kalbfleisch

**Chancel Arrangements:** ..... Trudie Robbins

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** ..... Wendy Ridgway; Lyn McNiffe

**Coffee Hour Dessert:**..... Isobel Field; Wendy Ridgway

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**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)

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## **“WHAT’S UP at Parkminster!” Sunday, March 18, 2018**



**These are only a few of the things happening at Parkminster. For a complete update, please refer to the “What’s UP” email sent out every Friday. If you would like to receive “What’s UP”, or place an announcement, please contact the church office at [parkuc@golden.net](mailto:parkuc@golden.net) . Deadline for submission – 10am Thursdays.**

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT PARKMINSTER: MARCH**

**March 18: no activities today - our leaders are taking a well-deserved day off for the March Break!**

March 25: regular activities resume with Rev. Heather teaching the younger class.

### **WELCOME BANNER**

Parkminster is getting a Welcome Banner and we'd love to have design suggestions from the congregation. It will be a standing banner to be used in the lower hall on Sundays, at pot-lucks in the gym and any other events at which we welcome people into our community of faith. If you have a design/photo that you'd like to submit for consideration please send a .jpg to Maedith at [maedith.radlein@gmail.com](mailto:maedith.radlein@gmail.com) by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Emails only please. Thanks!

## REFUGEE FUND: We're almost there!

Thanks to the generosity of many, we are a mere \$5,000 from our fundraising goal of \$30,000 to bring Khairiya's sister and family to Canada. If you haven't had a chance but would still like to contribute, now is the time! Cheques may be made to Parkminster United Church, indicating "Refugee Fund" on the Memo line, or by going on the church website and clicking Canada Helps. Thank You!

## MINISTERS' MESSAGES

**Holy Week Services:** We are in the most important part of the Christian year as we embrace Easter. You are invited to come and experience the fullness of this season through a variety of worship experiences as we live into the story of Jesus' final days and resurrection. A complete listing of Holy Week services (on green paper) is available in the Upper Hall.

**Rev. Heather Vacation:** Rev. Heather will be away from March 11 - 24. While she is away, Rev. Joe is available for pastoral care needs. You may contact him at ext. 23 or via email: [revjoegaspar.parkminster@gmail.com](mailto:revjoegaspar.parkminster@gmail.com)

**Pastoral Care:** If you or anyone in the congregation requires pastoral care support, please contact either Rev. Joe or Rev. Heather by calling the church. Heather (ext.22) or Joe (ext.23). Voicemail messages will be checked regularly. You may also send a confidential email message either to [revjoegaspar.parkminster@gmail.com](mailto:revjoegaspar.parkminster@gmail.com) OR [revheather.parkminster@gmail.com](mailto:revheather.parkminster@gmail.com).  
*Ask the ministers about visits with Theo, the therapy dog!*

**New Members at Parkminster:** Are you interested in becoming a member of Parkminster either by transfer of membership or reaffirmation of faith? We will be celebrating a New Members Sunday on May 13<sup>th</sup> as part of our worship service. If you would be interested in becoming a member at that time, please speak with Rev. Joe.

**Ministers' Day Off:** Rev. Joe and Rev. Heather take Friday as their day off. However, they are always available should an urgent matter arise that cannot wait until their Sunday to Thursday work schedule. Certain congregational leaders as well as Melanie have been given their cell numbers and can be contacted on your behalf.

## THIS WEEK LET US PRAY FOR

**Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle – Mount Pleasant United Church**

## **PHOTO DIRECTORY REMINDER**

Photos will begin on Tuesday, March 20 through to Saturday, March 24. The second week of photos runs from Tuesday, April 3 to Saturday, April 7. Ten full days!!

Please arrive ten minutes before your scheduled time. A host will greet you as you arrive and a 'sitting form' will be completed. Photos are taken in the Family Room, and then you move to the Toddler Room (behind the sanctuary) where you view the photos on their computer and choose the one you want for the directory. That is the 8 x 10 that you will also receive free of charge. Families can purchase other portraits at this time if you wish. IPC accepts cash, cheques or credit and debit cards. So, it's all done in this one appointment...takes about 30 minutes.

What should you wear?? IPC suggests a rich colour coordinated wardrobe, whatever that means. Please dress for a full-length portrait. If you have questions, or have to cancel at the last minute, please call Mary Reynolds at 519-501-4355 or 519-886-0474, or email Amanda Kalbfleisch at [amanda.kalbfleisch@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.kalbfleisch@gmail.com).

## **ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS**

If you would like to advertise your services in the photo directory now being produced, please contact Bud Adams at 519-746-6282 or [budandmarilyn@hotmail.com](mailto:budandmarilyn@hotmail.com)

## **FRAGRANCE AT CHURCH**

Please be mindful of other people's allergies or sensitivities to fragrance so we may live more fully into our mission of being an inclusive church. Thank you.