



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Fourth Sunday of Easter EARTH DAY April 22, 2018

Rev. Heather Power & 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

“Mercy, Mercy Me”

*by Marvin Gaye
(The Band)*

Welcome

Statement of Welcome

One: Today we seek the Holy in the wonder and reverence of creation. Scripture tells us time and again to care deeply for the oppressed, to love each other, and to proclaim and work for justice. In faith we are committed to the transformation of the world. We are committed to transforming our relationship with the planet and with each other, again and

again until the whole Earth community lives in life-giving, sustainable harmony.

In our time and place this striving toward harmony includes our relationship with the First Peoples, a relationship which has seldom been healing and empowering. With gratitude and respect, we recognize now 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 rarely been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

Adapted-Kairos Earth Sunday Resource

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: Morning has broken!

All: We gather to greet the new day by praising God.

One: We are created for relationship with the Holy, each other and the earth.

All: Let us join in remembering those relationships today and every day.

One: As a community of faith may we commit to new ways of honoring God's creation as a means of sharing Jesus' transforming love,

All: Let us seek God's grace, justice and mercy together in this place and beyond.

Adapted— <http://worshipwords.co.uk/6408-2/>

★ Introit: "Morning Has Broken" 🎵 VU #409

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 neighbour 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.

(During the passing of the peace anyone who would like to come forward for story time is invited to do so)

EXPLORING

Prayer of Preparation

**All: God of wonder, creation sings your praise,
open wide our imaginations
that in hearing the stories of our faith
we may be moved to take our place
in the great chorus of creation,
giving voice to the praise
for which all things were created. Amen.**

* Adapted from a prayer by Alan McSween www.4thpres-grvl.com/mydocuments/sermon_06142009.pdf

Ministry of Music

“Garden Song”

by John Denver

Story Time

Following the story time, children and youth will leave during the hymn 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.

★ Children’s Song: “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker” 🎵 MV#30

 **Scripture—Genesis 1-2: 1** (*The Message: The Bible in Contemporary English*)

Acclamation

One: This is the witness of Israel.

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

Genesis—Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It begins with two versions of the creation story, neither of them intended to be scientific but telling us why we are on earth. In the story of Adam and Eve, it tells us that we are responsible, under God, for the care of all creation. It then continues with the stories of the patriarchs: Abraham (who enters into a covenant (or treaty) with God), Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

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

Genesis 1-2:1— A hymn of creation extols the goodness of heaven and earth, and praises the Creator who has made all things very good. This passage says much about God and how humans in the ancient near east viewed their relationship to God. Long ago, people in the Near East asked how the earth came to be. A single creation story (with variants) was known throughout the region; one such, dating from at least 1700 BC, is *Enuma Elish* from Mesopotamia (now Iraq.) It and Genesis 1 have a similar sequence of events,

Adapted-Chris Haslam- http://montreal.anglican.org/comments/archive/archbyrdg_genesis.shtml

Questions for Reflection

- How could you be a better steward of creation?
- Have discoveries about our universe in the last 50 years changed how you understand God? How?

Ministry of Music “Words of Chief Seattle” by Amy Stephen

Wise Words Reading—*Another Creation Story*

★ Hymn: “Touch the Earth Lightly”  VU #307
(vss. 1 & 2)

Reflection

★ Hymn: “Touch the Earth Lightly”  VU #307
(vss. 3 & 4)

★ **Sung Blessing “Halle, Halle, Halle”** 🎵 VU #958 (sung 2x)

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

Postlude

“Beautiful Day”

by U2
(The Band)



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are placed in memory of Doug Wagner, deeply loved husband of Franceen. Doug passed away ten years ago in March.

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

Ushers: Mary & Peter McLean; Susan & John Bain

Greeters: Sarah Bruce

Lay Reader: Ruth Farley

Sunday Morning Activities: Wendy Rudd; Skye Power; Rev. Heather Power

The Band: Colleen Usaty, River Guard, Jamie Hofman,
..... John Watson, Benjamin & Lee McWebb, and
..... Jeff Stacey and Neil Murray

A/V Coordinator: Sandra Quehl

A/V Operators: Colleen Usaty & Dana Usaty

Counters: Steve & Sarah Quanz

Chancel Arrangements: Virginia McQuay

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)

“WHAT’S UP at Parkminster!”



Here are just 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 the “What’s UP” email, or place an announcement, please contact the church office at parkuc@golden.net . Deadline for submission – 10:00am Thursdays.

THANK YOU

Thank you from the Rule Family: Sheila Rule and family wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the people of Parkminster for their expressions of sympathy, kindness and donations made to charities in the recent loss of beloved husband and father, John Rule. This support has provided Sheila and her family with great comfort in their time of great sorrow. John will be greatly missed by his many Parkminster friends.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

Farewell for River Guard and Midori Marsh: – River and Midori are almost finished their program at WLU and with that ending comes a goodbye to Parkminster as well. What a gift they have been to us both as phenomenal members of our choir and as part of the Parkminster community. We will be saying goodbyes on April 29. In the morning we'll have a time to thank them during the service. In the evening Midori and River are offering us a farewell concert, starting at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

Buddhism in Bhutan: Following worship, join Karen Cartmell in the sanctuary for a special presentation.

LIFT WORK UPDATE

Date Change: With Sunday, June 10th being our annual "Music Sunday" and church picnic, lift work has been delayed to allow for uninterrupted lift service up to and including June 10th. The old lift will be removed on June 10th, long after the picnic is over. Installation of the new lift will begin Monday, June 11th (8am to 5pm), leaving the lift unusable for approx. 1 month. During construction, Sunday worship will be held in the gym. We will keep you posted with any updates. Your patience is appreciated.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Spring Clean-up! Our annual Spring Clean-up is happening Tuesday, April 24th. Join us for fresh air and exercise while making our church home beautiful! If you'd like to lend a hand, come over any time after 5pm & let Bert Blackburn know you're coming. Your help is greatly appreciated!

MINISTERS' MESSAGES

Pastoral Care Support: Both Rev. Joe and Rev. Heather are available for pastoral care support. You may contact either of them at church (Sunday-Thursday), or leave them a confidential voicemail or email.

Administrative Professionals Day: Please note that the office will be closed over the lunch hour on Wednesday, April 25th so that Rev. Heather and Rev. Joe can treat our Office Administrator, Melanie, to a special lunch.

This Week Let Us Pray For: **World Council of Churches:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia; **Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle:** Applewood United Church, Mississauga

In Celebration of Earth Day

by Kelly Roper

(greenliving.lovetoknow.com/Earth_Day_Poems)

In celebration of Earth Day,
Why not plant a tree?
It will produce fresh air,
And be a joy for all to see.

In celebration of Earth Day,
Go and visit a local park.
Get back in touch with nature,
Its sites and sounds in light and dark.

In celebration of Earth Day,
Try to be more aware,
Of how your actions affect this world
And devote yourself to its care.

