

# PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday, April 29, 2018**

**Rev. Heather Power & Rev. Joe Gaspar**



Look back with a  
*smile*

go forward with  
*courage*

*many wishes*  
for all that is good  
go with *you*



## PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

275 Erb Street East, Waterloo, ON N2J 1N6  
519-885-0935 | parkuc@golden.net | parkuc.ca

---

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter** **April 29, 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

“In the Garden”

*arr. by Rich Heffler*  
(Tracie Klaehn, flute)

**Welcome**

### **Statement of Welcome**

One: Today we remember 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.

**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: The spirit of God calls us from many places; some of us come from busy homes with many people some of us live alone.

**All:** We are a part of the family.

One: This week has been different for each of us; some of us have had happy news we want to celebrate some of us have faced grief and need to mourn.

**All:** We are members of God's family.

One: Yet we all come to this same place;

**All:** all of us seeking God's presence in our lives

**all of us seeking God's presence with each other. Together we become God's family.**

★ Introit: "Draw the Circle Wide"  MV #145

## **Passing of the Peace**

One: God is the source of peace within us.

**All: In humility and surrender let us cla**

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](http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy_collection/year_b_liturgy_collection/year_b_pentecostafter)

Following the passing of the peace 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.

## **EXPLORING**

### **Prayer of Preparation**

**All: Holy One, speak to us,  
Through the stories of your long ago people.  
Holy One, speak to us,  
Come into the stories of your people today.  
Amen.**



## Scripture—Acts 8: 26-40

### Acclamation

One: This is the good news of Jesus.

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

**Acts**— This book is the sequel to the gospel according to Luke. Beginning with Jesus' ascension, Luke tells the story of the beginnings of the church. By no means a comprehensive history, it does however describe the spread of the church from Jerusalem to all of Palestine, and as far as Greece. The episodes he reports show how Christianity arose out of Judaism. He shows us something of the struggles the church underwent in accepting Gentiles (non-Jews) as members.

Chris Haslam <http://montreal.anglican.org/comments/beas5m.shtml>

**Acts 8: 26-40**— This passage tells how the gospel became a missionary faith outside of Judaism. A eunuch whether Jewish or Gentile believer in Israel's God would have been excluded from every Jewish congregation because he could not have any male heirs, "sons of the covenant." The story is told as part of the main theme of Acts: To trace the expansion of the early church under the leadership of the apostles from Jerusalem to the Gentile nations of the world, especially to Rome, the capital city of the empire.

John Shearman- <http://seemslikegod.org/lectionary/>

### Question for Reflection

- What helps you have a sense of belonging in a group?
- Have there been instances when you have been called to expand your definition of "family"?

**Ministry of Music** "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"

*arr. by Patricia Hurlbutt*

(Cast in Bronze Handbell Choir)

### Reflection

★ **Hymn:** "Soil of God, You and I" ♪ MV #174

## RESPONDING

**Offering – invitation**

**Offertory** “Canto de Esperanza (Song of Hope)”  
(Cast in Bronze handbell Choir; Tracie Klaehn, flute)

★ **Dedication:** “What Can I Do?”  MV #191

**All:** 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**

**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

**Ministry of Music** “Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!” *by Howard Helvey*  
(Midori Marsh, soloist)

# RETURNING

## Saying Goodbye to Midori & River

### Introduction

### Reminiscing – Neil Murray/Lyn McNiffe

### Prayer

One: Let us pray, God of the past and God of the future:  
We give thanks for the time we have shared with  
River and Midori.

**All: Guide them as they move in new directions.  
May they go from this place,  
secure in the knowledge of our love and care,**

One: and trusting that wherever they may go,  
you are there Holy One,

**All: and because of that, they are always home.**

### Blessing

One: Let us bless and ask for blessing on Midori and  
River as they end their time with us,

**All: Go now, surrounded by our love, go in peace.  
Take with you all we have shared.**

One: May our memories be springs of water when we are  
thirsty; and reason for rejoicing always.

**All: May you continue to be a blessing to the lives  
you will touch,  
Even as you have been a blessing to us.**

One: May the music of the universe ever sound in your  
hearts and animate your lives,  
that all manner of goodness might flow through you.

**All: May the Holy One bless you and keep you,  
all the days of your lives. Amen.**

★ **Hymn:** “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” 🎵 VU #703

★ **Commissioning and Blessing**

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

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

**Postlude**

“Allegro”

*by Arcangelo Corelli*



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are in loving memory of Alan Duxbury, placed by his wife, Dorothy.

---

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

**Ushers:** ..... Alan Babensee, Mary McLean, Sarah Bruce, and  
..... David Osborne

**Greeters:** ..... Gord Chambers & Marion Mutton

**Lay Reader:**..... Pat Harris

**Sunday Morning Activities:**..... Lynn Harper, Iso McGregor, Skye Power & Rev. Heather

**Flutist:** ..... Tracie Klaehn

**Soloist:** ..... Midori Marsh

**Choirs:**..... Cast in Bronze Handbell Choir; Voices United Choir

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

**A/V Operators:**..... Heather Watts & Sandra Quehl

**Counters:** ..... Jim Bowman, Bill Spall

**Chancel Arrangements:**..... Virginia McQuay

**Coffee Hour Hostess:** ..... Lee Osborne

**Coffee Hour Dessert:** ..... Pat Harris

---

**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)

---