



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sixth Sunday of Easter **May 6, 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 “Morning Has Broken”

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: Strong mother God, working night and day,

All: Gather us in, provide for us.

One: Warm father God, hugging every child,

All: Embrace us as we give ourselves to you.

One: Young, growing God, eager, on the move,

All: Lead our hearts in the way of Jesus

One: Old, aching God, grey with endless care,

All: Grant us the wisdom of vulnerable hearts.

One: God of many names and God beyond naming,

All: You have called, and we have come, to worship, to be your people in this time, in this place.

★ Introit: “As the Deer Pants for the Water” 🎵 VU #766

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

Following the passing of the peace, the children are invited to come forward.

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

One: These shawls were made by someone who was moved to show love and kindness.

All: May they know the joy of being partners with God in caring.

One: Without even knowing who would receive it, these shawls were made specifically for the people who will receive them.

All: May they see the intricate love and care given to these shawls, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows upon all people.

One: These shawls were made to bring warmth to someone who feels a chill.

All: May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.

One: These shawls were made to bring comfort to someone in times of stress, grief, and during an illness and recovery.

All: May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.

One: These shawls were made to bring peace to someone in need of prayer.

All: May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn winding through their fingers.

One: These shawls were made to remind the recipient that they are part of this community.

All: May they feel touched by our love, moved by our guidance and held up by our support.

One: God of creation, redemption and sustaining grace, we praise you for the opportunity to take part in this ministry so that we might see a world beyond ours. We thank you for putting those in need on our hearts and in our minds so that we might fully live out your call to love and serve. We ask that you bless these shawls and those who will receive them. May they feel the love, comfort and peace of your presence. And may your light shine in them and be a beacon of the hope that is promised to all of us. Amen.

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.

★ Hymn: “Dear Weaver of Our Lives Design” 🎵 VU #623

EXPLORING

Prayer of Preparation

All: The way of Love and Wisdom speak to us in so many ways:
in the song of a robin,
in the voices of our friends,
in the stirring of our conscience,
in the knowing of intuition,
and also in the stories of our faith.
Holy One, as the story unfolds,
grant us a spirit of openness and
a heart of courage. Amen.

 **Scripture—Acts 16: 9-15**

Acclamation

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

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

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 16: 9-15— This important transition story marks the beginning of what scholars call a series of eyewitness accounts in which the pronouns switch from “they” to “we.” Scholars have assumed that the man who appeared to Paul in the night was Luke himself, the presumed author of Acts. The passage also marks the beginning of the Christian mission in Europe. Of all the congregations Paul founded, he had

warmest feelings for the Philippians, as his letter to that community shows.

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

Question for Reflection

- Can you think of a time when you paid attention to the restlessness in your heart? Where was God leading you?
- What does the term “salvation” mean to you? What are we saved from? What are we saved for?

Ministry of Music *solo by River Guard*

Reflection

★ **Hymn:** “I am the Dream” 🎵 MV #106

RESPONDING

Offering – invitation

Offertory “Give Thanks”

★ **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

**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:** “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” 🎵 VU #626

★ **Commissioning and Blessing**

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

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Postlude “This Is the Day”

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

Ushers:.....Dorothy Duxbury, Maureen Crawford and
.....Lee & David Osborne

Greeters:Peter & Mary McLean

Candle Lighters:Piper & Scotia Yorke

Lay Reader:.....Rob Yorke

Sunday Morning Activities:.....Lynn Harper, Iso McGregor, Mary Reynolds, and
.....Rev. Heather Power

Music:.....Jeannie Petrie, Bob Hudgins, River Guard

A/V Coordinator:Sandra Quehl

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

Counters:Marilyn Hill & Bud Adams

Chancel Arrangements:.....Thelma Van Camp

Coffee Hour:Rob Hehl & Kathy Hagedorn Hehl

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.**

TODAY

Refugee Sponsorship Information Session: Want to know more about our new Refugee Sponsorship Initiative? Interested in finding out how you can get involved? If so, plan to stay after today’s service for a short presentation.

MINISTERS’ MESSAGES

Sunday, May 13: Mother’s Day, Baptisms & New Member Sunday! Please join us for this very special time of worship and fellowship. As it will be a very full service we will not have verbal announcements this morning. We appreciate your understanding.

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

World Council of Churches: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; **Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle:** RSilver Spire United Church, St. Catherines

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Capital Projects Visioning: Interested in Parkminster’s future growth? Had some thoughts about possible improvements to the building? Well it’s again time for visioning around capital projects. If you’re interested in joining a committee to think about future capital projects – priorities & feasibility, **please send an email to maedith.radlein@gmail.com by Thursday, May 17, 2018.**

OCCASIONAL JOB OPPORTUNITY

Part Time Occasional Custodian Opportunity: Parkminster is in need of a person or persons who would be willing to be the backup for our Custodian, Allen Switzer. They are needed when there is a church event such as a wedding or funeral and other special events when Allen is unavailable, sometimes on short notice (e.g. due to illness). Tasks include necessary cleaning, greeting, lift operation, and set up and take down of table and chairs when needed. Remuneration is \$100 if setup and take down is not required or \$150 when set up and take down is required. **A detailed check list of duties is available at the church office where applications should be submitted by Friday, May 25 at 3:00p.m. For further information contact: church office 519-885-0935 ext. 21 parkuc@golden.net ; Virginia McQuay ginnymcquay@rogers.com ; or Marilyn Hill budandmarilyn@hotmail.com.**

AN ASPECT OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION FOR CHURCHES

Parkminster is part of a group of churches bringing a play to town at the end of May/beginning of June re: an aspect of the Truth and Reconciliation education for churches. **Save the Date! May 31 – June 3, 7:30pm.** Are you looking for ways to re-educate yourself about our colonial history? Come see the play **Discovery: A Comic Lament** to be performed in 4 locations in Waterloo Region. For more information, go to <https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events/discovery-comic-lament>