



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Sunday, July 29, 2018

Rev. Joe Gaspar and Rev. Heather Power

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: "I Am Thine, O Lord" *arr. by Joel Raney*

Welcome

Statement of Welcome

One: Today we begin by remembering our relationship with the First Peoples, a relationship which has seldom been healing and empowering. With gratitude and respect, we recognize now the people 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 & Concerns

Call into Community

One: God, whose hands held the fish and tore the bread, we gather with a mysterious hunger,

All: that feels like boredom, anxiety, restlessness, emptiness.

One: God, whose hands blessed the fish and broke the bread, we gather, hungry for a new way of living,

All: of recognizing what is too much, and what has been given.

One: God, in whose hands a few fish fed thousands and a few loaves delivered a banquet,
we gather, hungry for a new beginning,

**One: where we are enough and we have enough,
to be your people in your creation.**

All: We gather, a community ready to be nourished by the bread of life. Let us worship. Let us be fed.

Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Roderick Hamilton <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/wpstarters.htm>

★ **Introit:** “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You” ♪ VU #232

**Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.**

**You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals join the mighty chorus
 which the morning stars began;
 God's own love is reigning o'er us,
 joining people hand in hand.
 Ever singing, march we onward,
 victors in the midst of strife;
 joyful music leads us sunward
 in the triumph song of life.**



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.**

EXPLORING

Prayer of Preparation

All: **In our struggle to hear your Word, O God,
 bless even our doubts,
 our wonderings,
 our wanderings,
 our soul-struggles,**

life's deep questions,
and deeper mysteries.
Teach us to love our questions
as well as our answers.
Amen.

Parkminster Faith Story—Kathleen Vanderlinden

★ Hymn: "Tis the Gift to be Simple" 🎵 VU #353

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed;
to turn, turn will be our delight
'til by turning, turning, we come round right.



Scripture—John 6: 1-15, 24-35

(The Message: The Bible in Contemporary English)

Acclamation

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 6: 1-15, 24-35— The feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle that appears in all four gospels. John's version of the tradition varies from the others in that this miracle depicts yet another of the distinctive signs by means of which Jesus

reveals his divinity. The passage cannot be read in isolation from the rest of the chapter. As in other instances throughout the Fourth Gospel, John used this miraculous sign to introduce a discourse by Jesus about its true meaning (vss. 25-59), including another of his “I am ...” sayings (vs. 35): “I am the bread of life.” For John, miracles had much more to them than seeing them happen and benefitting from them. This one led to a discourse by Jesus about being the bread of life. Many scholars believe that John used this discourse in place of the narrative of the Last Supper in the other three Gospels. The story also recalls the feeding of the Israelites during their wandering in the wilderness. Verses 24-35 make three significant points: The miracle was another of the signs identifying Jesus as the Messiah/Christ, the Son of God. Somewhat ambiguously, however, it pointed beyond Jesus to God who is the source of all life. Finally, by placing particular emphasis on his statement, “I am the bread of life,” it identifies Jesus completely with God. This is a more spiritual and theological reflection than one finds in the other Gospels.

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

Questions for Reflection

- How do the themes of abundance and scarcity weave their ways into your life?
- How has your understanding of, and relationship with Jesus evolved over time?

Ministry of Music: “Better Place” *by Rachel Platten*
(Kathleen Vanderlinden, soloist)

Reflection – Rev. Joe

(My reflections often contain material from other sources that are awkward to acknowledge when speaking. Please pick up a copy of the sermon or check the website if you would like more information.)

★ **Hymn:** “All Who Hunger” ♪ VU #460

**All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.**

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

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
 lay down, O weary one, lay down
 your head upon my breast.'
 I came to Jesus as I was,
 weary and worn and sad;
 I found in him a resting place,
 and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Behold, I freely give
 the living water; thirsty one,
 stoop down, and drink, and live.'
 I came to Jesus, and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
 my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in him.**

MINISTER'S MESSAGE – VACATION NOTICE

Rev. Joe will be away on vacation from Monday, August 6 to Sunday, August 19. In his and Rev. Heather's absence **please contact Rev. Jenn Hind (Emmanuel UC) at 519-635-2184 for urgent pastoral care situations and funerals.** Worship will be covered as per the shared services schedule in the month of August.

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

In August Parkminster will be partnering with other Waterloo United Churches. Services will rotate each Sunday with each church hosting once. Please note times vary depending on the host church. Everyone is welcome.

Aug 5 - Emmanuel hosting (10:00am), Rev. Joe Gaspar presiding

Aug 12 - Parkminster hosting (10:00am), Rev. Kellie McComb presiding

Aug 19 - Westminster hosting (10:30am), Rev. Jenn Hind presiding

Aug 26 - First United hosting (10:30am), Rev. Margaret Runhart presiding

LIFT UPDATE – GREAT NEWS!

We are happy to announce that construction has ended and our new lift has passed inspection. **The lift is now fully operational permitting us to return to the Sanctuary for Sunday worship moving forward.**

At this time we'd like to thank the many volunteers who faithfully co-ordinated & set-up the gym every Sunday in July to make worship possible. We also extend our appreciation to members of the Property Committee for their behind the scenes work & time devoted to this project. We also thank you, the congregation, for being patient and understanding during this time of construction.

~ *Maedith Radlein, Chair of Council and Bert Blackburn, Chair of Property*

WAIT ... THERE'S MORE!

- **Food Trucks:** Volunteers are URGENTLY needed for August. If you can free up a few hours to help, please contact Jack Reynolds at jackr2002@aol.com to discuss available dates and shifts.
- **Backpack Collection Program:** Parkminster will once again be supporting Healing of the Seven Generations Backpack Program this year. We will be collecting school supplies between now and Labour Day weekend. Items can be dropped off in the purple bucket in the foyer. Please direct any questions to Lisa Hicknell, Adrienne Hofman, or Carolyn Rudolph.
- **All Nations Grand River Water Walk, Sept 15-29:** You can support the All Nations Grand River Water Walk, Sept 15-29 by sponsoring any number of kilometers, at \$10/km. For more information visit our website.
- **4th Annual Neil Murray Night:** Tickets On Sale Now! Join us for a great evening of fun Sept. 29 at 7:30pm at the Navy Club in Waterloo. Contact the office or Bruce Mutton for tickets. Cost: \$20 per person; \$10 students/teens.