



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sunday, September 2, 2018

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: “I Love to Tell the Story” *arr. by Joel Raney*

Welcome

Statement of Welcome

One: In gratitude and with respect we begin by recognizing the First Nations 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: Do you hear the call? Listen, the voice says,

**All: Come into the presence of God.
Come and find the holiness in your life.**

One: Come and be renewed.
Come and be sent out for ministry.

**All: Come and be encouraged.
Come and be challenged.**

One: Come as you are...

**All: the good and the bad,
the grief and the joy,
the fear and the faith,
the doubt and the conviction.**

One: Come together in community, you are needed,
you are accepted, you are welcome here.

★ **Introit:** "Come, Let Us Sing"

♪ VU #222

Passing of the Peace

One: Friends welcome each other. Welcome the stranger.
Welcome all who come. As Jesus welcomed everyone,
regardless of background or social status; as Jesus

welcomed enemies and friends, outcasts and leaders, foreigners and neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us be the Christ to everyone we meet. In this 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.

Adapted—Lisa Frenz <https://sites.google.com/site/lisasliturgies/prayers-and-litanies/greeting-of-peace>

EXPLORING

Prayer of Preparation

**All: Holy One, God of love whose Spirit enlivens us,
Help us to hear the living Word in the words;
Freed from prisons of fear and security,
Open us to lives of discipleship. Amen.**

Scripture Song of Solomon 2: 8-13 (OT page 623)

Acclamation

One: This is the witness of Israel.

All: Thanks be for this testimony of faith.

Song of Solomon—Biblical scholars still debate what kind of literature this beautiful collection of poems with vividly erotic metaphors really is. Is it dramatic dialogue? Is it a manual for love within the marriage relationship? Is it an allegory of God's love for Israel or Christ's love for the church? Or is it a celebration of God's gift to us of human sexuality? Attributed to Solomon, the text actually comes from Hebrew Wisdom literature of a much later date, but may have had origins in much earlier times.

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

Questions for Reflection

- In what circumstances or places do you find it easiest to experience the presence of God/the sacred/the holy?
- In what circumstances or places do you find it difficult to experience the presence of God/the sacred/the holy?

Ministry of Music “The Mystery of Love” *by Sufjan Stevens*
(Jamie Hoffman, soloist)

Reflection

(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:** "This Is God's Wondrous World" ♪ VU #296

RESPONDING

Offering Invitation

Offertory "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" *arr. Larry Shackley*

★ **Offering Dedication:** "What Can I Do?" ♪ MV #191

**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

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.**

RETURNING

★ **Hymn:** "Travel On, Travel On" ♪ VU #647

★ **Commissioning and Blessing**

★ **Sung Alleluia** ♪ MV #52

Postlude: "Gavotte in Bb Major" *by Arcangelo Corelli*

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

Greeters:Lyn McNiffe, Maedith Radlein
Ushers:Doris Heselwood, Pat Smith,
Virginia McQuay, Bob Hudgins.
Candle Lighters:Sylvia & Vivian Bertrand
Lay Reader:Jennifer Allan
Chancel Arrangement:Chancel Committee
Juice Hour Servers/Dessert: Bud Adams & Jamie Hofman

The Ministry of Parkminster: All of us
Ministers:Rev. Joe Gaspar (ext. 23)
Rev. Fred Monteith (ext. 22)
Rev. Heather Power (on leave)
Music Director:Neil Murray (ext. 25)
Office Administrator:....Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)
Custodian:.....Allen Switzer (ext. 26)



The flowers in the sanctuary are in memory of Dan McNiffe, son of Lyn. Dan passed away August 28, 2015.

THIS WEEK LET US PRAY FOR

World Council of Churches: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo
Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle: West Montrose United Church, Waterloo Presbytery



"WHAT'S UP at PARKMINSTER!"

For a full listing, 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 is 10am, Thursdays.**



A HUGE thank you goes out to Bert and Bud who spent an entire week stripping, cleaning, and applying several coats of wax to the tile floors on the basement and ground levels of the church. You may need to wear sunglasses!

UPDATE ON REV. HEATHER

Rev. Heather continues to make slow steady progress & greatly appreciates your prayers & best wishes. She will need another few months to fully recover her health, so as of September 1, the Rev, Fred Monteith will be filling in for her. We are thankful that Fred is able to support us at this time.

THE PARKMINSTER WALKING CLUB will resume on Wednesday Sept. 5, meeting at Parkminster at 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME BACK BBQ & CORN ROAST – September 9

Following the September 9 worship service all are invited for hot dogs and corn on the cob in the gym. Young families and kids can also have a great time outside – pony rides, games and more. Join your friends for this great 'welcome back' tradition at Parkminster. There is a free will offering to cover food costs. *Hosted by the Christian Education, Membership and Pastoral Care Committees.*

THE WATER WALKERS ARE COMING! A small group from Parkminster will prepare, serve and share a meal with approximately 15 core walkers at *rare Charitable Resesrve* on **Tue., Sept. 18**. The meal to be served at around 3 pm. Please contact Laura Hamilton by Wed., September 5th if you are interested and available to help with this. (Laura@divestwaterloo.ca or at 519-572-9594).

USE OF THUMB TACKS IN THE GYM

A reminder that the use of thumb tacks in the gym is not permitted. Thumb tacks can easily fall on the floor posing a safety hazard. Please also turn the portable bulletin boards inward after use, i.e., facing the chairs. When balls etc. hit them, even staples will fall out & they can also be a hazard. Thanks for your vigilance.

FIRST AID: *PUC's defibrillator is located on the wall at the top of the basement stairs. A wheelchair is available from the Penthouse.*

PARKMINSTER KNITTERS... Be a red scarf knitter for ACKKWA through our Inclusive Ministries. Contact Liz Forde at eforde@sentex.ca for more info.

MONDAY MORNING PLAYGROUP: Would you consider volunteering on a Monday morning once a month for the Monday Morning Playgroup for care givers and their young children? If so, contact Liz Forde eforde@sentex.ca 519-576-1233.