

# PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

September 30, 2018

Reflection:  
“Entertaining Angels Unawares—  
Hospitality”

AS EACH HAS  
RECEIVED A  
*gift*  
USE IT TO  
*serve*  
ONE ANOTHER,  
AS GOOD  
*stewards*  
OF GOD'S  
VARIED GRACE:

1 PETER 4:10



**PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**  
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**Reflection: “Entertaining Angels Unawares—  
 Hospitality”**

Rev. Joe Gaspar - Rev. Heather Power - Rev. Fred Monteith

**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:** “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” *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: Listen...there is a call that waits to be heard by souls that long for healing...

**All:** ...from loneliness, for connection: from isolation, for relationship: from fragmentation, for wholeness.

One: Listen...the call emanates from a place beyond ego, beyond fear...stay with it...

**All: We will hold fast...we will listen...in faith...to the God who calls us into community.**

One: Listen...hear the call...come my people...come as you are...drop your masks. Here you are welcome to simply be. Here, in community there is healing.

★**Introit:** "Spirit, Open My Heart"      🎵 MV #79

## 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/lisaliturgies/prayers-and-litanies/greeting-of-peace>*

*Following the passing of the peace, children and youth will leave for Sunday School activities!*

*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, help us approach  
the stories of our faith  
open to surprise,  
that our hearts may be touched  
in ways we can't yet imagine.  
Amen.

 **Scripture—Deuteronomy 10: 12, 17-19 and  
Hebrews 13: 1-2**

### Acclamation

**One:** May God bless these readings to our understanding.  
**All:** **May it be so. Amen.**

**Hospitality**—In the Bible, offering hospitality is a moral imperative. God's people remember that they were once strangers and refugees who were taken in by God (Deuteronomy 10:19). How might this memory make someone respond to a stranger or a refugee? What would it mean to "love the alien as yourself" (Leviticus 19:34) in your own community or nation?

The Greek word *xenos* means "stranger", but also "guest" and "host". From *xenos* comes the New Testament word for hospitality: *philoxenia* means a love of the guest/stranger or enjoyment of hosting guests. Recall a time when you experienced the enjoyment of being a host...when you were the guest of a gracious host.

Do you notice how whenever Jesus shares meals with others, "guests" become "hosts" and "hosts" become "guests"? Contemplate the role reversals that occur in the story of the wedding feast at Cana (John 2:1-11). What happens when Jesus is 'hosted' by Zaccheus (Luke 19:1-10)? When Jesus comes as a guest to Martha (Luke 10:38-42), what does he teach her about hosting? How

might guests end up as hosts, giving us the gift of their presence? What happens when an act of hospitality not only welcomes strangers, but also recognizes their holiness?

How are strangers welcomed to your neighborhood? To your faith community? Can you identify individuals in your midst who seem to practice hospitality especially well? What do the physical spaces in which you live "say" to strangers and newcomers? How are strangers invited to share their gifts within your home ... your workplace ... your congregation? What architectural features - doors, furniture, accessibility ramps, gathering spaces - speak welcome, or don't?

Hospitality is made up of hard work undertaken under risky conditions. How might the effectiveness of individual gestures of hospitality be bolstered through the strength of community? How can being part of a Christian community help us overcome fear of being a host or a guest? How might corporate worship shape our moral imaginations and nurture a civic climate characterized by hospitality to the strangers in our midst?

<http://www.practicingourfaith.org/hospitality/>

## Questions for Reflection

- When have you experienced the presence of God in a stranger?
- Have you ever experienced healing through hospitality?
- Who are the people in our town, country and/or world most in need of our hospitality?

**Ministry of Music:** "We Gather Together" *arr. by Alan Lohr*  
(Cast in Bronze Handbell Choir)

## Reflection—"Entertaining Angels Unawares—Hospitality"

*(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: “Come, Now, You Blessed”      🎵 VU #592

## RESPONDING

**Offering – invitation**

**Offertory:** “Variations on a Theme by Vivaldi” *arr. by Dan Edwards*  
(Cast in Bronze Handbell Choir)

★ **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**

**Ministry of Music:** “Nobody Gets Left Behind” *by Brian Tate*

**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*

## RETURNING

★ **Hymn:**                                    “Draw the Circle Wide”                                    🎵 MV #145

### ★ **Commissioning and Blessing**

★ **Sung Alleluia**                                    “Alleluia”                                    🎵 MV #52

**Alle, alle, alleluia!**

**Alle, alle, allelu, alle, alleluia!**

**Postlude:**                                    “Allegro Moderator in E Minor”                                    *by J.M. Leclair*

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

**Greeters:**.....Eryn, Nolan, Audrey & Bennett Malseed

**Ushers:** .....Sheila Rule, Abigail Hicknell,  
 .....Glenn Harper and Rob MacQueen

**Lay Reader:** .....Sue MacQueen

**Candle Lighter:** .....Nolan Malseed

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

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

**A/V Operators:** .....Heather Watts and Sandy Quehl

**Chancel Arrangement:** .....Pat Harris

**Coffee Hour Host:**.....Joe Sheldon

**Coffee Hour Dessert:**.....Lyn McNiffe

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**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)

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The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are placed by David and Lee Osborne in loving memory of Sara Sylvia Holton, 17, who died last Sunday accidentally in Belleville, Ontario. Sara was the granddaughter of David's first cousin, Rolfe Morrison. A service took place in Belleville on September 28<sup>th</sup>.



### **This Week Let Us Pray For**

#### **Hamilton Conference Monthly Prayer Cycle:**

Barton Stone - Mount Hope United Church, Hamilton

#### **World Council of Churches Focus:**

Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

## **HELPFUL INFORMATION**

### **“What’s UP at Parkminster!”:**

**For a detailed listing of events, activities & notices, please refer to the “What’s UP” email sent out every Friday.**

If you have an announcement you'd like to include, please email the office with a brief message. Deadline is Thursday at 10:00am.

To receive “What’s UP” please contact the office. A limited number of hardcopies are also available in the Upper Hall.

**Community Events:** Local events are posted on the bulletin board beside the Family Room.

**Posters:** To maintain a clear sight line for the office administrator and to keep our glass clean, please refrain from taping posters to the main entry doors. Bulletin boards &/or “What’s UP” are great ways to advertise!

**Defibrillator:** A defibrillator is located on the wall at the top of the basement stairs.

**Wheelchair:** A wheelchair is stored in the custodian’s storage room (aka the penthouse). Please return it after each use.

**First Aid Supplies:** A container of supplies is located on the top of the coat rack across from the office.