

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH

building connections – living faith – acting for justice

November 7, 2021

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG

Let there be peace on earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, we are family.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now;
with every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Words and Music: Jill Jackson/Sy Miller
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INTRO

Here at Parkdale United Church, we use three short phrases to describe our ministry: building connections – living faith – acting for justice.

Building Connections: We believe church is about community, building relationships, creating a village, so you don't have to journey alone.

Living Faith: How do we live out our faith? How do we practice what we learn from our sacred texts, our worship services, our book studies and Bible studies to make the world a better place for all?

Acting for Justice: We strive to stand up for the marginalized, oppressed, and those who are suffering. We do this by reaching beyond the walls of Parkdale to those who need a little more love and attention.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work and play on the borrowed traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Stoney Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

OPENING PRAYER

God of our past, present, and future, we have come to this place as a people of hope. We hope for a future without war, and a world that lives together in peace. In years past, and in the present day, many people have stood up for justice and peace, with some paying the ultimate cost. May we continue to work towards peace in this torn world. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: From east and west, north and south, we gather on this day of remembrance to give thanks and praise.

All: We come to be inspired by the Word of God and honour the sacrifices of those who have committed themselves to service before self.

One: In times of peace, in times of conflict, and in times of uncertainty,

All: We remember that we are not alone.

One: We are the people of God, connected across time and space, from generation to generation.

All: We are united by the love of the One who said: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

One: As we gather to remember, let us sing and pray.

All: Let us worship God together!

HYMN

Sing a Song for Peace and Justice

Sing a song for peace and justice, speak for those who cannot speak!
Claim the world for peace and justice: let the strong support the weak.
Light a candle in the darkness; hope and freedom must not die!
Hope and freedom must not die!

You who live in happy places, who can laugh and speak and sing,
listen for the other voices mute with fear and suffering.
Light a candle...

Thousands cry in nameless prisons, plead with powers who hold the key:
plead that human rights be honoured, that the innocent go free.
Light a candle...

Words: Shirley Erena Murray Tune: CWM RHONDDA
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CHRIST CANDLE

The presence of God symbolized by this Christ candle, the visible reminder of the invisible Spirit walking with us.

CENTERING OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

O Canada

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Lieutenant Colonel John McRae

Words of Remembrance

One: They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

All: **Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.**

One: At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

All: **We will remember them.**

Last Post

Minute of Silence

Rouse

PRAYER

Eternal rest grant to them, O God, and may perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls, through your great mercy, rest in peace. Amen.

OFFERING

There are many ways to give to the church: This week, as I attended our monthly council meeting, I was reminded that this church is advised by a group of dedicated leaders that have the best interest of Parkdale in their hearts in every decision they make. This group not only volunteers their time, but their endless talents make huge difference to the culture and future of this church.

I want you to know that your gifts of time, talent and resources you give to the church are valuable to this community and wider community.

I ask you to please take a minute to prayerfully consider giving to the church. If you feel called, there is a basket at the back of the sanctuary. If you are unable to give at this time, please know you are still welcome and loved. For those of you who continue to give through automatic payments, thank you.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Creation will be at peace (J. Paul Williams/Laura Anna Page)
Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE

God is Passionate Life VU 695

Words and Music: Colleen Fulmer

God of wisdom and truth, we pray for the leaders of the nations, for wisdom and courage in those who stand firm against terrorism; for patience and persistence in all who work to secure freedom, justice and peace on earth.

God is passionate life...

God of time and eternity, you travel with us through deep waters, yet never abandon us in the storm. We live still in darkened days, yet never without your healing light. Renew our confidence, rekindle our hope, deepen our faith, guide us in truth, and give us peace in our day.

God is passionate life...

God of compassion, we pray with those who cry: For women and men who are battered in body or spirit, for children who sleep the fitful sleep of grief, for all who are imprisoned by walls or worries, for all who wonder if they can ever live again, for the least, the lost and the last, and for the dead.

Give us the strength of compassion, that we may never shield our eyes and hearts from pain, but seek to heal and bless.

Bless us with courage and arm us with hope, that we may lessen the suffering of our world. We pray for those who still suffer as the result of war. For those who live with the pain and scars of bodily injury; for those whose minds are shattered by the horrors which they witnessed or endured; for those who have been bereaved; Grant to them peace of mind and heart, and relief from all their suffering.

God is passionate life...

Help us to realise that all striving after justice must begin with ourselves, and not with others. Make us to be those who work for peace and seek always to express your love in the world. Help us to encourage the spirit of reconciliation by being those who forgive, rather than those who try to establish their rights. We ask that this may be so.

God is passionate life...

Please join me in saying the words Jesus taught us to say: Our Mother/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. Amen.

READINGS

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- ² a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- ³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- ⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- ⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- ⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
- a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- ⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
- a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- ⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
- a time for war, and a time for peace.

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.^[a] ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MESSAGE

TIME FOR REFLECTION

PARTING HYMN

Behold a broken world

Behold a broken world, we pray, where want and war increase,
and grant us, Lord, in this our day, the ancient dream of peace:

Where every battle-flag is furled and every trumpet stilled.
where wars shall cease in all the world, a waking dream fulfilled.

No force of arms shall there prevail, nor justice cease her sway;
nor shall their loftiest visions fail the dreamers of the day.

Bring, Lord, your better world to birth, your kingdom, love's domain;
where peace with God, and peace on earth, and peace eternal reign.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith Tune: ST. ANNE
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BENEDICTION

Remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us.

Take up the shield of God and remain steadfast.

Fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

Put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

May the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the hope of the Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING

Walk with Me VU 649

Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned where love shines through.

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POSTLUDE

MINISTER

Kim Holmes-Younger

ORGANIST

Antonina Cox

LAY READERS

Nick Finn, Chet Marlett

WORSHIP HOSTS

Wayne & Charlotte Flood, Emily Flood

SCREENS

Beth & Jim Balshaw

SOUND

Ted Moon