

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH

building connections – living faith – acting for justice

January 9, 2022

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONGS

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime VU 71 st. 1, 3, 4

'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
the mighty Gitche Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
 Jesus, your King is born, Jesus is born in excelsis gloria.

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
 Jesus, your King is born, Jesus is born in excelsis gloria.

O children of the forest free, the angel song is true;
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:
 Jesus, your King is born, Jesus is born in excelsis gloria.

Words: Jean deBrebeuf Music: French folk song
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Arise, Your Light Is Come VU 79 st. 1, 4

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst into song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

Words: Ruth Duck Tune: FESTAL SONG
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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

O Sovereign of the universe, we stand in your temple, proclaiming your splendor and majesty. You are the Holy One! You are full of glory! You speak, and the oaks whirl and the cedars fall! We stand in your presence in awe and humility. We stand in your presence with boldness and courage. We look and listen for your presence here today. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The voice of the Lord flashes flames of fire.

All: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Leader: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness!

All: Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned as sovereign forever.

All: In God's congregation, all say, "Glory!"

based on Psalm 29

HYMN Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You VU 232 st. 1, 2, 4

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.

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.

Words: Henry van Dyke, alt. Tune: HYMN TO JOY
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CHRIST CANDLE/CHILDREN'S TIME

Once there was a person who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people began to follow him. But they didn't know who he was. So, one day, they simply had to ask him. "Who are you?" and he said, "I am the light."

HYMN This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Traditional gospel song
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CENTERING OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

Holy One, Beloved One, we come before you in thanksgiving, for you are the One who even in our darkest moments, brings new light and renewed hope.

You know us and call us by name. You offer us your blessing and give us that which is truly important in life:

You furnish us with the faith we need to look at life, and realize how rich and full it can be.

You fill us with generosity and compassion, so we might share that which is most important with our brothers and sisters in need.

You offer us insight and wisdom to discern how to live in your world.

You imbue us with courage and strength to be able to stand on the side of all who are marginalized.

You bestow us with creativity and imagination.

You help us to see the wonder and beauty that is life in relationship with one another, the creation, and with you.

For all of these gifts – we give you our thanks.

Yet, our lives are not perfect. Sometimes, our lives and the lives of those with whom we are the closest are overwhelmed by struggle.

We remember in our hearts all who are not well; those in hospital, those awaiting test results, and those so filled with fear that they do not seek medical attention. Grant them a sense of your healing presence and the courage to face the coming days with grace.

We pray for those who are grieving and who feel an overwhelming sense of loss.

Again, O God, we are burdened with the weight of the pandemic in this area and across the globe. We pray for those who have lost loved ones, for those who are undergoing treatment, and for those struggling to recover from the virus.

We pray too for those who are feeling isolated and whose mental health is suffering. Also, the people for whom the economic turmoil creates stress and the fear of what the future might bring.

We remember and give thanks for front line workers who continue to need strength and stamina in the face of the risks they are subject to every time they go to work.

We think of those who are facing other hardships.

Our world, O God, seems filled with turmoil. Wars and unrest continue to shake our security.

Help us to end our warring madness, and realize that we must live in peace if we are to live at all. Help all those who struggle with physical or mental war to know your peace, and help us to spread that peace so it envelops the world.

Holy One, we ask that you be with us today, tomorrow and into the future. Together, we pray in the words, Jesus taught us:

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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING

As stewards of the church, we are called to give our time, talent and treasure to the church. I understand your time is a very precious gift. Many of you already volunteer your time here at Parkdale to help with the daily operations and/or ministries of the church. Thank you. In addition, all of us have been blessed with various talents, whether we are aware of it or not. We have been called to use these talents to serve the church. I urge each of you to prayerfully discern how your talents may benefit Parkdale. If you feel God is calling you to use your talents to benefit Parkdale, I urge you to talk to me. In addition to our resources of time and talent, God calls us to support the church with our treasure. Your treasure helps with the daily operations of the church; in addition, it helps reach others in need way beyond these walls. So, I will ask you to prayerfully consider giving to Parkdale; and if you can not at this time, please know you are still welcome. There is a basket at the back of the sanctuary for your gifts. Thank you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Carols for Seekers

Based on *La Marche des Rois* and Coventry Carol, arranged by Joseph Martin

READINGS

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.

³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,^(b)
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.
³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

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MESSAGE

SENDING HYMN

A Light Is Gleaming

VU 82 st. 1, 2, 4

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.

Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
our memories and tears.

A light is gleaming...
When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
"God's light will ever stay."

A light is gleaming...
So let us live in the brightness God has given,
and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here a sparkle and a blaze,
warming all our days.

A light is gleaming...

Words and Music: Linnea Good
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BENEDICTION

You are each precious in God's sight. Go from this place, claiming your identity as children of God. God has called you by name. Go into the world answering God's call. Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING We Are Marching VU 646

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. (2X)
We are marching, marching, we are marching, we are marching in the light of God. (2X)

Words and Music: South African traditional
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POSTLUDE

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