

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH

building connections – living faith – acting for justice

January 16, 2022

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONGS

When the Wind of Winter Blows MV 71

When the wind of winter blows, bringing times of solitude,
fill the silent icy night; be our hearts' compassion.

Holy Light, warm our night; warm the time of winter. (2X)

When we shiver in despair, when the chill of death comes near,
hold us, Spirit, calm our fear, while the evening deepens.

Holy Light, warm our night; warm the time of winter. (2X)

When in days of fallen snow, change confounds or love burns low,
from the ashes may there rise phoenix of our growing.

Holy Light, warm our night, warm the time of winter. (2X)

Words: Ruth Duck Music: Lori True

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Bathe Me in Your Light MV 82 st. 1, 3

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
Fill me with your promise of love that knows no length.

Words: John Oldham Music: Ron Klusmeier

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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

Gracious and loving God, source of all wholeness, forgiveness, and mercy, may your Spirit heal those who are torn, mend those who are broken, and protect those who are fragile. Enable us, O God, through the gift of your steadfast love, to remember who we are and whose we are. In your love, may we be true and faithful disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: No matter how far we wander from you, O God,

All: your steadfast love finds us.

Leader: No matter how unjust the world seems to us, O God,

All: your steadfast righteousness sustains us.

Leader: No matter how vulnerable our lives seem to us, O God,

All: your steadfast presence gives us hope.

Leader: No matter how unloved and uncared for we feel, O God,

All: you hear our cries and answer our prayers. Thanks be to God!

HYMN There's a Spirit in the Air VU 582 st.1, 2, 4, 5, 6

There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:

"Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world."

Lose your shyness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done:

God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!

Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:

God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!

When a stranger's not alone, when the homeless find a home,

praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay, live tomorrow's life today.

Words: Brian Wren Tune: MOZART (VU 506)
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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

The Singer and the Song

When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream...

...the silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more;
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

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CENTERING OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

God of All, your people Israel sang in their time of how the heavens declared your glory. How would they characterize the Universe that we, in our time keep hearing about?

God of All, it is you we gather to meet. To become aware again that it is with you that all life has to do. We are dealing with your work all the time, but we need to know you and know ourselves known to you.

Now as we gather up our thoughts for a word with you, we find that we are a confusion of wants and needs. Some vital, some trivial, and we're not sure which are which. But we remember that you promised us hearts of flesh for our hearts of stone.

If you could manage to get us to receive that gift – there isn't much more we'd need to ask for. If you could keep our hearts of flesh from turning to stone. If you could keep us loving, no matter how we try to get out of it. Everything else would follow.

Gracious God, we come to you with a confusion of ourselves. We take flight from the burdens you call us to, and cling to the ones we should be casting on you.

Gracious God, you have given us to each other in this congregation, in our neighborhood, and in the planet Earth. Everyone is to receive these gifts, bear each others burdens, receive each others' ministries. If you can get us to be like that, everything else will follow.

God in your mercy, hear our prayer. God of mercy, we take time to remember before you the forgotten ones, as well as the ones who weigh heavy on our hearts. Poor – Imprisoned – Homeless – Lonely, especially the homebound– the unemployed and the addicted – O God, we can name some of them.

God of justice, we remember those who have charge over us. Positions of leadership and influence. Keep us praying for them. Keep us caring for them – that they might never feel used in their difficult decision making.

We pray especially for the Peace Makers. They are having it tough everywhere. We remember the principalities and powers that seem to be running off with the world accountable to no one. Raise up servants, O God, with the wisdom and perseverance to manifest your victory over the powers of destruction. Give us eyes to see their redemption drawing near, and lives ready to receive it. God in your love, hear our prayer and the prayers you taught us to say:

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.

READINGS

Psalm 36:5-10

⁵Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

⁷How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

¹⁰O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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HYMN

Many Are the Light beams

VU 588 st. 1-4

Many are the light beams from the one light.
Our one light is Jesus.
Many are the light beams from the one light;
we are one in Christ.

Many are the branches of the one tree.
Our one tree is Jesus.
Many are the branches of the one tree;
we are one in Christ.

Many are the gifts given, love is all one.
Love's the gift of Jesus.
Many are the gifts given, love is all one;
we are one in Christ.

Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one,
servant spirit of Jesus.
Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;
we are one in Christ.

Words: Cyprian of Carthage, tr. David Lewis Tune: LAGORNA AR MANGA
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MESSAGE

BENEDICTION

And now, from the One who is indeed the giver of all good gifts: go and share what God has given you; go and proclaim that God's love is here; go in the power of God's Spirit to make all things new. Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING May God's Sheltering Wings MV 214

May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love, and hold you in her love.

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