

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH

building connections – living faith – acting for justice

Easter 3 – May 1, 2022

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONGS

Morning Has Broken VU 409

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing, fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon Tune: BUNESSAN
Used with permission, [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) #A716718

Dance with the Spirit MV 156

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life abornin'
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Words and Music: Jim Strathdee
Used with permission, [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) #A716718

INTRO

Here at Parkdale, we have a vision to be a Christian community recognized for our commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, social justice and environmental responsibility. How are we going to accomplish our vision? By living out three core practices:

Building Connections: By building relationships with each other and our neighbours, we gain a better understanding of how to live and support each other and the greater world. By being tolerant and accepting of each other's differences, we can build a community that is diverse and inclusive!

Living Faith: When we take what we learn from our worship services, our book studies and what we learn from each other out into the world, we are living out our faith, and this spreads the good news of Christianity to all the world.

Acting for Justice: We are called to participate in charity, seek justice, and be good stewards of the earth. When we do this, we make the world a better place for all to live.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Tsuut'ina, the ÎStoney 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

HYMN Come, Children, Join to Sing VU 345

Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!
Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!
Let all with heart and voice, saved by God's gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!
Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!
Christ calls his people friends, the helpless he defends,
a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!
The whole creation o'er let all God's love adore,
singing forever more: Hallelujah!

Words: C.H. Bateman, rev. R.G. Hobbs Tune: MADRID
Used with permission, OneLicense.net #A716718

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing praises to the Eternal One.

All: Today we praise the sacred with enthusiasm.

Leader: Rejoice in the morning light.

All: We rejoice in the never-ending love of God.

Leader: Sadness and anger have darkened our paths.

All: Yet in the light of hope we celebrate a new day.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Easter, we have come from different places, carrying different burdens, different expectations, different hopes, but together we pray: God of the road to Damascus, shatter our ego, disturb our certainties and open our hearts to new possibilities and new truths, that the scales of our prejudices, dogmas and mistakes may fall away and, like Saul, we may become the people you truly made us to be. Amen.

CHRIST CANDLE

The Risen Christ lives today!

We are witnesses to these things.

We sing praise to God who came to us in the flesh.

May his love ignite within us!

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN Hush! Hush! MV 167

Hush, all God's children. Hush, won't you listen
somebody's callin' mah name.
Oh mah Lawd, what shall I do?

Words and Music: African-American spiritual
Public domain

CENTERING OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God who comes to us in the simplicity of everyday elements, you enrich life in community and celebration. Show us how to live as a community, even as we struggle with our current realities. God who comes to us through story, you remind us who we are through familiar words, and through the unfamiliar drama of our lives. Open our hearts to the story you are telling us, the story of which we are a part, the story you are composing for the sake of creation.

SUNG RESPONSE

A New Heart for A New World

Create a new heart, holy Lord,
Beckon our lives through your word,
Open our eyes to your call,
United as one for your world.
Heighten our minds to your thoughts,
Heal us of pride and of hurt,
May we go forth in your name,
We pray our hearts change.

Words and Music: Trish Watts/Monica O'Brien
Used with permission, [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) #A716718

God who comes in sadness, your presence is promised most profoundly when we are hurting, when we are overwhelmed, when we see no way through. Reassure us that you do walk with us in our difficult days; give us faith when we lose hope. God who comes in illness, we remember those who are sick, those whose health is compromised, those who are facing death. We also remember those who are serving them in their pain and isolation. May we all support each other as we embrace the ministry of healing to which you call us.

SUNG RESPONSE

Create a new heart, holy Lord...

God who comes in the ordinary, free us from looking for you only in the special or the extraordinary. Free us to encounter you in the everyday. Ignite your light in each one of us. We pray this in the name of our risen and living Saviour, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray:

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 disciples of Christ, we are called to reach out and serve others with our God-given gifts.

It takes all of us to become church, and we do that by giving of our time, talents, and treasure. We ask you to join us - help build our church, our community. Your gifts matter. If you feel called to give, there is a basket at the back of the sanctuary. If you give through automatic payments- thank you. If you are unable to give at this time, know you are still welcome and an important part of our community.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

With Every Breath

(Ken Medema)

READING Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

From New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

MESSAGE

SENDING HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

VU 509

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord...

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I have set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord...

Words and Music: Daniel L. Schutte
Used with permission, [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) #A716718

BENEDICTION

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine. When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

CHORAL BLESSING Sent Out in Jesus' Name MV 212

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.
The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do, to set it really free.
O help us to obey, and carry out your will.

Words and Music: Traditional Cuban
Public domain

POSTLUDE

Alleluyahs

(Simon Preston)

CANDIDATE MINISTER

Kim Holmes-Younger

ORGANIST

Antonina Cox

LAY READER

Beth Balshaw

WORSHIP HOSTS

George and Irene Norton, Diane Arseneault

SCREENS

Beth & Jim Balshaw

SOUND

Kevin Kepke