

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

300 Sunset Blvd., Peterborough ON K9H 5L3
Tel. 705-748-4881

www.northminsteruc.ca Email: info@northminsteruc.ca

Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry
Email: minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, May 9th, 2021

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER & CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY

Music as We Gather

Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community

Birthday wishes for *Reanna McIlveen* [18]

Acknowledgement of the Land:

As we gather, we acknowledge that we meet and live on the traditional territories of the Mississauga Anishinaabe People. We give thanks for their care for the land over thousands of years and for their deep spirituality and honouring of the Creator and the creation. May we live with respect in God's creation and in harmony with our neighbours.

Call to Worship:

One: The Holy calls us to see beyond the stereotypes around us.

All: The Holy One calls us to see people for who they are not what they look like, how they are able or who their partner might be!

One: We are called to love and accept.

All: We are called to compassion and action! Hallelujah! Let us worship together!

One: Amen!

All: Amen!

Opening Hymn: VU217

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,
sing praises, hallelujah!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O lights of evening, find a voice:
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 3 Earth, ever fertile, day by day
brings forth rich blessings on our way:
sing praises, hallelujah!

The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
let them God's glory also show:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

4 And everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part:
sing praises, hallelujah!
All who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and yield up all your care:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

5 Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: As we celebrate the empty tomb the Holy reminds us...

All: ...we are challenged to accept and share the new life and new hope of our resurrection faith.

One: In the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ...

All: ...Amen.

Epistle Lesson:

1 John 5:1-6

^{5:1} Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Young at Heart Time:

"The Gift Bag"

Psalm Selection: VU818

Psalm 98

One: All the ends of the earth

All: have seen the saving power of God.

One: Sing to God a new song,

All: for God has done marvelous things.

One: Your right hand and your holy arm have brought victory.

All: You have made known your salvation, and revealed before the nations your saving power.

One: You have remembered your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

All: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

One: All the ends of the earth
All: have seen the saving power of God.

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
All: break into joyous praise, sing psalms.

One: Sing psalms to God with the harp,
All: with the harp and melodious voice.

One: With trumpets and the sound of the horn
All: make a joyful noise before our sovereign God.

One: All the ends of the earth
All: have seen the saving power of God.

One: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
All: the world and its inhabitants.

One: Let the rivers clap their hands,
All: the hills sing together for joy before God.

One: You come to judge the earth, O God,
All: to judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

One: All the ends of the earth
All: have seen the saving power of God.

Gospel Lesson:

John 15:9-17

^{15:9}As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

One: As the Holy One informs our resurrection faith through the stories of our forebears, may we once again know we are challenged and encouraged to live a life of hope and love.

All: May those stories inform, guide, and challenge us as children of the Holy.

One: In the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ...

All: ...Amen.

Hymn:

"We are One in the Spirit"

Meditation:

"A Gentle Behemoth"

The New Creed:

One: Let's share together in the New Creed:

**All: We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Music for Meditation

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

Dedication of Our Gifts

A Minute for Local Mission:

"The Environment: Another Victim of the Pandemic"

For well over a year, we have been dealing with the ramifications of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Loss of life, income and employment instability, isolating protocols, fear, increased racialization, one level of government blaming another for inadequacies in pandemic responses, new stay-at-home orders, and an escalation in hate crimes. We have seen statistic after statistic relating to infection rates and drop dispersal, infection models and vaccination rates. We have also seen clip after clip and picture after picture of the faces that the pandemic has touched. As we have become COVID-19 pandemic-centric because of its far reaching and devastating impact, what has fallen by the wayside? What have we lost sight of?

We are now beginning to hear the cries from environmental activists and groups reminding folks that our planet is, and has been, facing a climate pandemic for decades. Although the air quality seemed to improve in the early stages of the initial global lockdown, that quality has since begun to decrease again. We are still seeing the effects of global warming and extreme climate change in the severe storms and wildfires happening around the globe.

Locally, Peterborough Green Up and others are reminding us that we can still do our part, especially as the weather improves, by walking or cycling more, utilizing public transit, using our own bags or containers when we shop in establishments that will allow you to bag your own merchandise, and we need to remember to recycle whenever possible.

It is important that as we continue to move within the pandemic framework that has become our new normal, we not lose sight of those other "victims" of COVID-19 like the environment and climate change. Please continue to support the local efforts to heal our wounded planet.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (VU916):

One: Let us share together in a paraphrase of the Jesus Prayer...

**All 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 beings!
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 for ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU602

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds
 our hearts in Christian love;
 the unity of heart and mind
 is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Maker's throne
 we pour our ardent prayers;
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
 our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share each other's woes,
 each other's burdens bear;
 and often for each other flows
 the sympathizing tear.
- 4 This glorious hope revives
 our courage on the way;
 that we shall live in perfect love
 in God's eternal day.

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: As our time together comes to an end...

All: ...the presence of the Creator stirs us to live faithfully and love openly as we celebrate
 our Easter faith!

One: May we cherish that journey as we live and love together as a resurrection people.

All: In the name of Jesus, the Risen Christ, Amen and Amen!

Music as We Depart

Prayer Cycle

As church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.
Regional Council Prayer Cycle
for the week of May 9, 2021

**Trinity United Church
Napanee, ON**

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]