



HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH

Minden, Ontario

SUNDAY, APRIL 28th, 2024

All are Welcome!

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOCUSING MOMENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND: Unison

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land, the country we call Canada, from coast to coast to coast. In naming this land mass, even more specifically Haliburton Highlands, and environs, we acknowledge this place as the Traditional home of the Anishinaabe peoples. As a community of faith, we seek to rebuild right relations with the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples, to learn from and with each other, and to live on the land with respect and gratitude for its creation and Creator. This is our commitment. Amen.

Written by Bill Perry, Consecon P.C., Caring Place, Ont.
Gathering, Lent-Easter 2024, p.30. Used with permission.

THE APPROACH

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: When we are seeking,

All: God points out the path.

One: When others are searching,

All: God points out the path.

One: Our lives are often signposts:

All: people together on the Way.

One: Our words are waypoints:

All: people together on the Way.

One: Where Christ's story and our stories meet:

All: people together on the Way.

One: Let us walk, roll, run, dance, hop and live!

All: People—together on the Way!

Written by Richard Bott, Grace U.C., Burlington, Ont.
Gathering, Lent-Easter 2024, p.42. Used with permission.

HYMN: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You" VU #232

1 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.

- 2 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.
- 3 You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
- 4 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.

A SONG OF FAITH:

Spoken in Unison

God is creative and self-giving,
generously moving
in all the near and distant corners of the universe.
Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.
Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.
We sing thanksgiving.
Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery,
of living things, diverse and interdependent,
of complex patterns of growth and evolution,
of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls,
we sing of God the Creator,
the Maker and Source of all that is.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

TIME FOR THE YOUTHFUL:

HYMN: "Like A Healing Stream" MV #144

1. Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth
like a healing stream
2. Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
to coax a new creation
yearning for an end to want and need
like a gentle rain.

3. Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war
like a river strong.
4. Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

THE WORD

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21 & Acts 8:26-40

Leader: Hear and listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Love, When the Spirit Says, ‘Love’”

OUR RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and

***THE LORD’S PRAYER:* sung VU #960**

New HYMN Review: “I Am a Child of God” MV #157

1. I am a child of God,
I am a glimpse of God’s new creation.
I am a child of God,
I am a child of God.
2. I am an endless prayer,
I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer,
I am an endless prayer.
3. I am an angry voice,
I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice,
I am an angry voice.

4. I am a cry for peace,
I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace,
I am a cry for peace.
5. I am a song of joy,
I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy,
I am a song of joy.

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: In Unison

O Jesus, we are the branches, you are the vine. Abide in us that our lives may produce fruit as your faithful disciples. May the offerings we bring this day bring your goodness and love to the world, so that God will be glorified. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Written by Taylor Croissant, Southminster U.C., Lethbridge, Alta.
Gathering, Lent-Easter 2024, p.48. Used with permission.

SUNG BLESSING: VU# 651 vs 1

**1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more. ©**

SENDING FORTH:

One: Go as God's beloved people, abiding in God's love, like the branch abides in the vine. May you feel the oneness of this connection, and may you leave here knowing that this connection to the Divine makes the difference. It makes all the difference.

ALL: Amen!

Written by Sheryl Spencer, Mount Forest P.C., Mount Forest, Ont.
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A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

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