



HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH

Minden, Ontario

SUNDAY, APRIL 7th, 2024

All are Welcome!

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOCUSING MOMENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND: Unison

Highland Hills United Church acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe nation. We acknowledge the enduring presence of First Nation, Metis, and Inuit people on this land. We are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect.

Written by Jeff Werner, while at Wasaga Beach U.C., Wasaga Beach, Ont. Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2023, p.29. Used with permission.

THE APPROACH

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Today, throughout the world, Christians are called to worship.

ALL: They may be called by the carillon of the chimes in a large city.

One: They may be called by a single tolling bell, drifting over the snowy prairie landscape.

ALL: They may be called by the cool, sun-bespeckled glade.

One: They may be called by a sunrise or sunset over an expanse of water.

ALL: They may be called by the towering majesty of a mountain.

One: They may be called by a crocus peeking through the snow.

ALL: They may be called by the harmony of violin and guitar.

One: Whenever and however, people throughout the world are called to a place and an attitude of worship. Let us join in worshipping the Divine.

Written by Mary Grant, Forest Hill U.C., Fredericton, N.B. Gathering, Lent-Easter 2024, p.42. Used with permission.

HYMN: “Jesus, Stand Among Us” VU #396

- 1 Jesus, stand among us
in your risen power;
let this time of worship
be a hallowed hour.

- 2 Breathe the Holy Spirit
into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows
from each soul depart.

3 Lead our hearts to wisdom
till our doubting cease,
and to all assembled
speak your word of peace.

A NEW CREED: Spoken in Unison

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.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

TIME FOR THE YOUTHFUL:

HYMN: "You Tell Me That the Lord Is Risen" VU #185

1 You tell me that the Lord is risen,
that you have seen his face.
Then tell me why you crouch in fear
and hide within this place.
You say that he spoke words of peace
and stood just as before.
But 'til I touch his very flesh
I will not trust your joy.

2 You claim a resurrection here,
that God has broken death.
No easy words like these will soothe
the pain that tears my breath.
How well do I recall his face,
compassion, strength in fear.
How deep my grief that he should die.
Spare me your words of cheer!

3 'Now peace be with you. Come, my friend,
my wounded body see.
Let the rich courage of your doubt
bring you to fresh belief.
Fear not to wonder at the Word,
to search the depths of grace.
Reach out and touch, here is my hand.
Receive the gift of faith.'

- 4 'How blest are they, how fortunate
who know without the sight.
But Thomas, you are favoured too,
for searching yields its light.'
So may each pilgrim in the Way,
each road to Christ be blest,
'til lips declare, 'My Lord and God!'
Christ's body one at last.

THE WORD

Scripture: John 20:19 - 31

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Jesus Is With Us!”

OUR RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and

THE LORD'S PRAYER: spoken VU #914

HYMN: “Thine Is the Glory” VU #173

- 1 Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.

Refrain Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

- 2 Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting. **Refrain**

- 3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. **Refrain**

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: In Unison

God of questions and answers, of doubt and belief, these gifts we bring are our response to the queries about your way. As you invite us to share in all the mysteries of life, we give thanks that you bless us continually. Receive all that is presented—assurances, questions, answers, blessings, and longings. May our gifts be a source of new life in this world. Amen.

Written by Laura J. Turnbull, Penticton, B.C.
Gathering, Lent-Easter 2024, p.48. Used with permission.

SUNG BLESSING: VU# 703 vs 1

**1 In the bulb there is a flower;
 in the seed, an apple tree;
 in cocoons, a hidden promise:
 butterflies will soon be free!
 In the cold and snow of winter
 there's a spring that waits to be,
 unrevealed until its season,
 something God alone can see. ©**

SENDING FORTH:

One: May you feel our Creator lovingly rush toward you in answered prayer.
 May you notice the banquet of spring that the resurrecting Christ lays
 out before you. And may you know by the Spirit that new lie has begun.

ALL: Amen!

Written by Karen Boivin, Osgoode-Kars U.C., Ottawa, Ont.
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A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

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