



HIGHLAND HILLS UNITED CHURCH

Minden, Ontario

SUNDAY, MAY 12th, 2024

All are Welcome!

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOCUSING MOMENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND: Unison

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked this land. We acknowledge the traditional territory of the Mississauga and the Ojibwe Anishnabek peoples and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. May we also walk here with respect.

THE APPROACH

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Gather together, people of God! Come to this sacred space, this building, these chairs, these floors, and this ceiling. Recognize the work of those who came before us! Yes, recognize ALL that those who came before us have left for us: the love of this community, the shared sacred story, the ministry in the world we have shared.

ALL: They shaped the world. We are shaping the world of today!

One: Yes, you have shaped the world we live in. You've contributed to God's kingdom. Now let us explore how we shape the world of tomorrow, how we might use our worship to bring God's dream into reality, how we might plan for the future.

ALL: We come to encounter the divine presence and to let it transform us!

Written by Eric Heber-Daly, Executive Minister, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council
Gathering, Lent-Easter 2024, p.42. Used with permission.

HYMN: "We Praise You, O God" VU #218

- 1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

OPENING PRAYER:

Spoken in Unison

Creator God, we offer our praise and wonder for the world you have given us. We rejoice in today—the new shoots springing forth from the earth, the sun warming us, the clean drinking water to quench our thirst when we simply turn on a tap, the cozy reclining chair or couch at home where we can crash for a Sunday afternoon nap. Holy Spirit, help us to be aware and attentive as we celebrate all the good gifts around us. Help us to be good stewards of the wonders of God’s living earth. Help us to truly live with respect in creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who walked on this same blessed earth as us. Amen.

Written by Mary Parson’s, Munn’s U.C., Oakville, Ont.
Gathering, Lent-Easter 2024, p.44. Used with permission.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

LEARNING TOGETHER:

HYMN: “Take Time to Be Holy” VU #672

- 1 Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.
- 2 Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.
- 3 Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.

THE WORD

Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 & John 17:6-17

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“What Do We Do Now?”

OUR RESPONSE

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and
THE LORD’S PRAYER: sung VU #960**

HYMN: “Christ Has No Body Now but Yours” MV #171

Refrain

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

1. No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope
of the people of God. **Refrain**
2. No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy
of the city of God. **Refrain**
3. No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice.
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace
for the children of God. **Refrain**
4. Through ev’ry gift, give back to those in need;
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with ev’ry gift a benediction, be
to the people of God. **Refrain**

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: In Unison

**Lord God, we ask you to receive these gifts of our hearts and of our hands.
Please use them in the name of Jesus, our risen Christ. Amen.**

Written by Kate Gregory, Trenton U.C., Trenton, Ont.
Gathering, Lent-Easter 2024, p.48. Used with permission.

SUNG BLESSING: VU# 242 vs 1

**1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light. ©**

SENDING FORTH:

One: We are called to be vessels that carry the precious message from the God of love. We are called to give of ourselves so that the world can be made whole. Let us resist the urge to make it all about us. Let us reach out in love and bring healing hope to the world.

ALL: Amen!

Written by Beth W Johnson, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask.
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A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

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