



Welcome to worship!

Sunday May 17, 2020, 11:00 am

The 6th Sunday of Easter

A joint online Zoom worship Service with:
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches

Leaders: Pastor Steven Loweth & Rev. Lionel Ketola
One license # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who embodied God's love and compassion in such surprising ways. And he said: **I am the light of the world**

Acknowledgement of the Land ,

Today we begin our worship by acknowledging that the land on which we are leading this worship is the traditional territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. God of justice,

Help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways.
Amen.

Announcements & Today's Worship Theme

We Gather to in Joyful Celebration

Opening Hymn: Morning Has Broken [VIDEO](#)

Call to Worship

We worship the God who inhabits our world.

We don't need to look up and find God,

**We need only to look around within ourselves,
beyond ourselves, and into the eyes of others.**

We don't need to listen for a distant thunder,
we need only listen to the music of life,
the words of children, the questions of the curious,
and the rhythm of our heartbeats.

**Come, let us now worship the God who inhabits our world
and who dwells in our lives.**

Prayer of the Day

God of all time and space,
you initiated the relationship of love and generosity with creation
at a time before and beyond all knowing.
Through the Word and the Spirit, you continue in eternal love for all beings.
Fill us with a deep and abiding awareness of your presence,
your call, and your grace in our lives and in our world.
Shape us to into the people you have made us to be – poured out in creative mercy
for the sake of Jesus Christ in all creation. Amen.

Word

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.

Scripture Readings:

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Reflection: Rev. Lionel Ketola

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;

¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Acclamation:

VIDEO

The Holy Gospel of John 14:15-21

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Pastor Steven Loweth

We Respond to the Joyful News

Hymn of the Day: We are One in the Spirit

VIDEO

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Prayer

**Ever Present God,
With our offerings, we also present ourselves.
All that we have been,
All that we are,
And all that we shall become,
And our resolve to walk in your way.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

Prayers of the People

O God, who made the world and everything in it,
we pray with one voice, proclaiming your presence to all the earth.

For skeptics and believers,
For those who seek God at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews,
For all who search for life.

God in Your Mercy Hear Our Prayer

For all the leaders of Government in our Country and around the world and
For those who set the course at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews.

God in Your Mercy Hear Our Prayer

For friends and lovers, for neighbors and strangers,
For those who eat bread at home, at work, in the streets,
and in the pews,
For all who live in the world.

God in Your Mercy Hear Our Prayer

For the sick and troubled, for the fearful and alone,
For those in pain at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews,
For all who suffer.

God in Your Mercy Hear Our Prayer.

For those kept in memory, for those long forgotten,
For all who ever took the breath of life at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews,
For the dead and those who mourn them.

God in Your Mercy Hear Our Prayer

For those on our hearts and minds during this time.....

God in Your Mercy Hear Our Prayer

In God, we live and move and have our being.
From God, we have life and breath and all things.
Because Christ lives, we also live.

We are blessed by your presence.
We are filled with the Spirit.
Because Christ lives, we also live.
For we too are God's offspring.

Communion Hymn:

Taste and See

Video

Table

God of heaven and earth, Companion in life, Spirit of truth,
to you alone we turn our eyes and lift our hearts.

May God be with us

God is with us

Let us open our hearts to God

We open our hearts to one another and to God

Let us give thanks to God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Hallelujah, thanks and praise, ever-living God,
Worker of wonders, maker of miracles,
Author of all life and giver of life eternal!
Out of chaos and fear you bring beauty and hope.
Out of despair and death you create courage and new life.

Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen,
And with the faithful of all time and place,
We join in the song of praise and thanksgiving.

**Holy, Holy, Holy, God, power of life and love,
Heaven and earth are full of your Glory!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blest is the one who comes to bring your justice to the earth!
Hosanna in the highest!**

On the night before he died,
Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it,
Saying “Take and Eat, for whenever you do this,
Remember me.”
Likewise, after supper, he too the cup, saying,
“This is the new covenant between us, whenever
You drink of this, remember me.”

Loving and Creating God, we bless your name!
Send your life-giving Spirit
upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine
so we may be one in Christ at your table,
and as we serve our broken world.

We offer you this praise and thanksgiving, loving God,
Through Jesus Christ, who is with us in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. **Amen!**

With Jesus Christ among us, let us pray the words that Jesus taught us:
God, Our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name.....

At the breaking of the bread
The Gifts of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

Prayer after Communion

We give thanks, almighty God,
That you have refreshed us at your table
With the presence of Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
Increase our love for one another,
And send us forth into the world,
United in courage and peace.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Closing Hymn: Love Devine All Loves Excelling [Video](#)

Blessing and Commissioning

May the One in whom we live and move and have our being
fill us with a deep and abiding sense of God's presence in our lives.
And may the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you, now and always! Amen.

Sung Blessing: Be Not Afraid [VIDEO](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Goodwood United Church: **Online Check-in: Tuesdays at noon, on Zoom.** Instead of our regular “Conversations about Life” Bible study, our group wanted to offer the congregation an opportunity to connect via Zoom for a social hour to connect and check in with each other.

Claremont United Church: **Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon - Join us for a Zoom drop in meeting**
Everyone is invited to join us for these “virtual Brock Café” gatherings to connect with each other and check in with our congregational community.

Check out our websites! Both Goodwood United Church and Claremont United Church websites are updated with new material, so check them out!



Find us online! Check out our websites!

Check out our church websites for **new updates** during this time, including Sunday devotions, and also information about coping with stress during the COVID-19 pandemic.

www.claremontunitedchurch.com

www.goodwoodunitedchurch.com



Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/goodwoodunited>

<https://www.facebook.com/claremontunited>



Continued Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation's ongoing ministries during this time.

- Offerings can be **mailed to the church address itself**
- **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
- You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your bank.

For e-transfers to Claremont United Church, sent it to: treasurercuc@outlook.com

For e-transfers to Goodwood United Church, send it to: **Email to be announced next Sunday**

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation's ministry.