



SEASON OF CREATION

Welcome to worship!

Sunday Sept 20, 2020,

3rd Sunday of Creation Time / 16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Worship Leaders:

Pastor Steven Loweth & Rev. Lionel Ketola

Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Announcements & Today's Worship Theme

We Gather to in Joyful Celebration

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

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us are gathered today. We pay my respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways. Amen.

Call to Worship – Rev. Nora Vedress – Calvary United Church Mt. Albert SK

In the midst of the world's chaos
come to this place and find peace.

When your mind is overwhelmed with what you see
come to this place and find hope.

If your heart is heavy, with fear, with worry, with sorrow,

come to this place and find strength.
As you long for community in a world that is torn apart,
come to this place and find love.

Come people of God,
and in this place, in this moment,
find peace, hope, strength and love,
as we worship and pray together.

Opening Hymn: Gather us in

VIDEO

Prayer of the Day

**God, you split rocks in the wilderness,
and gave your people abundant drink, as from the deep.
Come to us, Lord.
Give us that abundant water.**

**You made streams come out of the rock,
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.
Come to us, Lord.
Send the waters down upon us.**

**You turned the desert into pools of water,
the parched land into springs of water.
Come to us, Lord.
Create springs in the parched desert of our hearts.**

**As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
Come to us, Lord, and fill our longing. Amen.**

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

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.**

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Song: **As the Deers Pants for the Water**

VU 778

Psalm 42

VIDEO

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation

with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word **Thanks be to God**

Reflection: Pastor Steven Loweth

Gospel Acclamation: Sung Alleluia (VIDEO: Mt. Tabour Lutheran Church, SC)

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Matthew 21:23-32

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

We Joyfully Respond to the Good News

Invitation to the Offering

Let us pray:

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts

**For the blessing of this and all our days, we thank you, Gracious God.
Accept, we pray not just our offerings of financial support,
but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all that you have done for us.
May these gifts bring wholeness and joy to our world. Amen.**

Prayers for the People

(Inspired by Psalm 78: 15)

God of a Wilderness people,
You split rocks open in the wilderness.
You called water to pour forth from the fissures.
To quench your people's thirst.
To calm your people's complaints.
To teach us how to trust.

You split rocks open in the wilderness.
You split rocks open in my heart.
You called living water from there, too.
To change your people's path.
To fuel your people's journeys.
To teach me how to believe.

You are splitting rocks open in our communities.
You are calling forth the rush of our voices.
To flush out your people's complacency.
To bubble up your people's creativity.
To teach us how to act out in faith. (Again)

You are splitting and pouring and helping and churning,
You are rumbling and turning and raining and charging,
and we are trying to follow along.
Not understanding.
Not knowing. And, yes, complaining.

And You.
You don't give up.
So, go ahead.
We're here.
Listening.
Learning.
Breaking.
Trying.
For You.

God of your Wilderness people, hear our prayer.

God who refreshes your parched people,
hear the prayer concerns that we lift up to you now.

Prayers of intercessions are spoken

All of these prayers we ask in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray: **"God, our Mother and Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name ... Amen."**

Hymn of the Day: VU # 641 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song VIDEO

Blessing and Commissioning

(based on Matthew 21: 23-32)

Go now to will and to work for God's purposes.
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.
Be filled with the same love that God has for all creation.

And may God quench your thirst with love and consolation;
May Christ Jesus strengthen you and encourage you;
And may the Holy Spirit lead you on and make your joy complete. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH RE-OPENING SURVERY – (Claremont & Goodwood)

On Wed Sept 30th you will be receiving a survey from the joint Church Re-opening committee. It will be emailed and also hand delivered to members without internet. This survey will give the Re-Opening Committee and your church's Board feedback to guide their decision making process about re-opening. You will also receive a copy of the joint committee's **DRAFT Re-opening Plan** for your review & feedback.

Surveys are due Monday October 5th.

Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback!

Two Fall Book Study Group Groups – buy your book now!

Thursdays at 7:00 pm: Lenny Duncan Book Study Group: Our last two sessions of this Fall book study group on Rev. Lenny Duncan's book: **"Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S."** will take place Thursday Oct 1 & Thurs Oct 8th at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

New Book Study Series: Beginning Friday October 9th 10:30 am: Book Study Group: 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act, by Bob Joseph. After this book we will read Bob Joseph's second book: **Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips and Suggestions to make Reconciliation a Reality.** This group is open to all members of Claremont, Fairbank and Goodwood United Churches, and friends. So please order your copy of both books now!

Next Joint Church Re-Opening Committee: Thurs October 8th, 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Goodwood United Church: New time: Online Check-in: Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Once our check in time has come to a conclusion, the group will proceed with our weekly Bible Study / "Conversations about Life", so feel free to join us for this as well.

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" Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community.

Past Services are being uploaded to Youtube

We are now live streaming to our YouTube Channel. The service will also be available for watching later. Please use this link to visit the uploaded services site.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HPD2ai10bo-qbNaXvNVtw>

Continued Financial 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.
next page.



Send e-transfers for **Claremont United** to: treasurercuc@outlook.com

Send e-transfers for **Goodwood United** to: goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com

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



Find us online! Check out our websites!

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

www.claremontunitedchurch.com

www.goodwoodunitedchurch.com



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