



## **Welcome to Worship!**

**Sunday June 20, 2021, 10:30 am**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

## **Pride Sunday**

**Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches**



**Join us on Zoom or our YouTube channel: CFG Worship**

**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Lionel Ketola, and Pastor Steven Loweth

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Words of Welcome

**Introit: MV 62 There Is Room for All**

**VIDEO**

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

There was a man named Jesus, who brought healing and new life to all whom he met. And he said **“I am the light of the World”**.

### **Acknowledgement of the Land**

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the history, spirituality and cultures of the First Nations who are the traditional custodians of the land where each of us is gathered today. Their relationship with the land remains central to their lives.

**God of new life, ground us in love and justice so we can work toward reconciliation and fulfill our treaty obligations with Canada’s First Nations peoples. Amen.**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Embraced in the Creator’s love,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured in the font*

We give thanks to you, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters.  
In love you created a world of breathtaking beauty and diverse goodness.

With the psalmist we give thanks that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

We praise you for the waters that sustain the earth:  
For snow and dew, oceans and wells,  
For the rain that nourishes plants and trees,  
For the streams that enliven the animals great and small,  
For Lake Ontario and Lake Skugog; for the Black River and the Don River.

Through the waters of the sea you opened up a path to freedom for the Israelites.  
Through the waters of his baptism you called Jesus to a ministry of love and justice.  
Through the waters of our baptism  
you connect us to the waters of all creation,  
and you remind us of our calling  
to protect and preserve the whole Web of Life.

All honour and praise are yours,  
Creator, Sustainer and Renewer of all living things.  
You are the Water we crave;  
You, O God, are Rain and River and Fountain.  
Fill us with your abundant life; now and always.  
Amen.

### **Opening Hymn: Let Us Build a House MV1**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Written By Rev. Cindy Bourgieos

Creating God—God beyond Gender,  
who makes no mistakes,  
who surprises us always,  
who molded the first person both male and female,  
who molded the first non-gendered human  
who loves all creation.  
Help us love the diversity of your creation.  
Help us accept all varieties of gender in ourselves and in others.  
Help us celebrate those who are different from us  
That we may learn to love each other as you love us,  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, both human and divine.

## We Gather Around God's 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.**

### **A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 4:35-41**

<sup>35</sup>On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup>But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup>He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Reflection:** Pastor Steven

**Scripture Song: MV 138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines**                      **Andrea LeBlanc**

### **A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (5:13-16)**

<sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Reflection:** Rev Lionel

**Hymn of the Day: We Are A Rainbow**

by David Kai

Used with Permission

**An Affirming Moment** -The Affirming Ctee, Claremont & Goodwood United Churches

Invitation to the Offering

**Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts**

Generous God, through the diverse web of creation,

You have blessed us with the gifts of abundant life.

May the gifts that we offer

help bring our world to blossom with healing, hope, and abundant life;

through Christ, the Tree of Life. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

*Adapted, from a prayer by Jann Aldredge-Clanton*

Wise and Wonderful creator of infinite variety,

forgive our petty striving to squeeze you

and your creation into our limited understanding.

Sophia - Lady Wisdom – flower of richest and rarest beauty,

forgive our ignorance and prejudice

that has kept us from seeing your sacredness in all creation.

Though you created us with wondrous diversity,

we have tried to restrict one another

into limited ways of being and doing,

and we are all the losers.

Forgive us and heal us of our racism, sexism, homophobia, classism,

and all other forms of brokenness that keep us from cherishing

your abundant, manifold creation.

Lover of all, **hear our prayer.**

At this time, we remember all who have asked for our prayers.

*Intercessions are offered*

Into your hands, Creator of all, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that your journeying and healing presence is with us through Jesus. Amen

**Closing Song:** Lovingly your Stars and Planets

Tune: VU 333 HYFRYDOL      Lyrics: Ian Sowton, 1994

*Music thanks to Gabrielle Untermann, Jane Plewman and Julia Shatford*

**Lovingly your stars and planets tread the blissful reach of space,  
where in their stupendous singing they return you grace for grace.  
Though we are a small creation, slight jewel in your crown of lights—  
you have made us too for learning Love's demands and Love's delights.**

**Ceaselessly, without conditions, you have put the lover's case  
while we spend our time inventing limits to our love's embrace.  
From all fraudulent exclusions save us, teach us neighbour's rights:  
liturgies of human loving have been set to various rites.**

**Loving trust is strong and gentle, beautiful as ancient lace.  
In your Christ is beauty showing that Love has a human face.  
Christ among us weaves strong unions that outwear all doubts and slights.  
Bless us fragile partners learning Love's demands and Love's delights.**

**Blessing:**

May the Holy One – known to us in many ways  
Send us forth with many blessings:

Bless our Pride -  
May it be a joyful reflection of our gratitude  
for who we were created to be.

Bless our celebration –  
May it be an expression of your own delight in your creation.

Bless our laughter –  
May it proclaim the freedom and liberation that you call us into.

Bless our diversity –  
May it be a source of Sacred Strength for us all.

And may the blessing of God:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit  
Be with us all, now and always! Amen!

**Sung Dismissal:** Go Now in Peace

**CFG Worship Choir** 

## Church News and Announcements

*... Including upcoming Worship Services through to Labour Day Weekend*

**Sunday June 27 - Pride Sunday Service**



**Sunday July 4 – Week 8 - Conclusion of our Series: “Why Julian? Why Now?”**  
**SERVICE OF ANOINTING AND HEALING** *(have a small bowl of oil available)*  
Preaching: Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve

**Sunday July 11 - Country & Western Theme Summer Service**  
**HOLY COMMUNION / 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Send us your hymn requests!**

Email Pastor Steve or Rev. Lionel with  
your “requests” for any country music  
hymns that you’d like us to include in  
this service. It will be a fun, musical service **with Holy Communion.**



Sunday July 18 – Summer Worship Service - with Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve

**Mon July 19 – Mon Aug 16 – Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve are on vacation**

- Sunday July 25 – Summer Worship Service – **Hosted by Fairbank United Church**  
**Worship Leader: Marilyn Elphick** (Zoom info to be sent out)
- Sunday Aug 1 – **No Sunday service – our summer break**
- Sunday Aug 8 – **No Sunday service - our summer break**
- Sunday Aug 15 – Summer Worship Service – **Hosted by Fairbank United Church**  
**Worship Leader: Marilyn Elphick** (Zoom info to be sent out)
- Sunday Aug 22 - Regular Zoom / YouTube worship – with Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve
- Sunday Aug 29 - Regular Zoom / YouTube Worship – with Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve
- Sunday Sept 5<sup>th</sup> - Long Weekend Summer Service – Rev. Lionel  
(Pastor Steve will be away).

## Goodwood United Church - Weekly Programs & Meetings

**The Knit-Wits: Wednesdays at 10:00 am.** This is **Goodwood United Church’s weekly ZOOM group** for Knitting, crochet and other needle craft. This group facilitates our congregation’s **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. They will keep you in stitches! To find out how to connect with this group on Zoom, contact Shirley Baster.

**Online Community Check-in: Thursdays at 10:30 AM, on Zoom.** Join us for an opportunity to connect and find supportive community through our regular weekly check-in meetings. At the conclusion of our check-in time, we move into our weekly **“Conversations about Life / Not your Typical Bible Study” group**. Feel free to join us!

**Book Study: Resumes Friday June 4 at 10:00 am on Zoom** – See Below for details of our new book study below.

## Claremont United Church - Weekly Programs and Meetings

**During June we will meet Wednesdays @ 10:00 am – Join us for our weekly Zoom “drop-in” meeting.** Everyone is invited to join us for these Zoom gatherings with our Claremont United community. Enjoy catching up with each other and sharing support.

**NEWS! NEWS!!** On Wednesday June 23, the congregation of Claremont United Church **voted to become an Affirming Ministry Congregation**, which means being Public, Intentional and Explicit about our welcome to 2SGLBTQ+ people! Stay tuned as exciting plans unfold regarding how we will live out our inclusive welcome as a church!



## DISCERNMENT PROCESS – CLAREMONT UNITED CHURCH’S FUTURE

At its last meeting, Claremont United Church’s Board has voted to begin a Discernment process which will use the “wisdom circle process” to discern what our future as a congregation could look like! This is a very exciting process to begin, as we seek the Spirit’s guidance in our reflections and discernment about our future shape & ministries. **This process will begin in the FALL of 2021**, to give us a little time for a summer break as things (hopefully) open up this summer.



### Join us for Worship on our YouTube channel - CFG Worship

- Join us for worship either on Zoom, or on YouTube, Sundays at 10:30 am
- Watch past services uploaded to our YouTube channel

Go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search **CFG Worship**.

### Join our BOOK STUDY GROUP for all 3 Churches & friends:

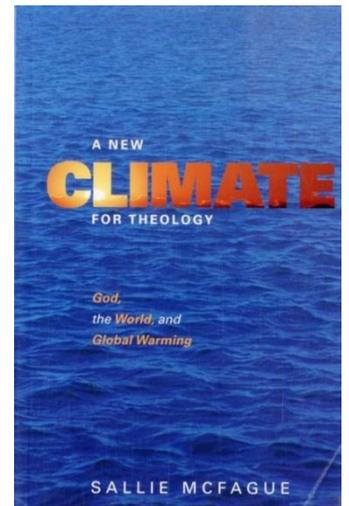
Each Friday at 10:00 am on Zoom

We are reading our new book:

**A New Climate for Theology:**

**God, the World, and Global Warming**, by Sallie McFague.

It is an excellent book, so please join us!! The book is available locally from Blue Heron in Uxbridge, if you don’t want to have to rely on the ‘big box’ online stores... so order yours now!



## 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 online banking. **Here is where to send them:**

For **Claremont United** send to: [treasureruc@outlook.com](mailto:treasureruc@outlook.com)

For **Goodwood United** send to: [goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com)

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

THANK  
YOU!

## Healing Fund Donations

Pastor Steve and I are asking that you please consider donating to the

**Healing Fund of the United Church of Canada**

to show our solidarity and support for

indigenous people as we grieve the 215 children

buried at the residential school in Kamloops, along with the discovery of hundreds of more graves.



The Healing Fund provides funds to aid indigenous people in healing from the ongoing impacts of the residential school system.

If you wish to be a part of our congregations donation please send your donation to the church. Your church's treasurer will send all money together as a donation from your own congregation.

Thank you for considering this need!

Blessings,

Rev. Lionel