

*Welcome to Worship!*

**Sunday July 11th, 2021, 10:30 am**

**7th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Country Gospel Service**

**Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches**

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

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

OneLicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

**Introit:** Give me that Old Time Religion [https://youtu.be/JOI\\_HFvhINM](https://youtu.be/JOI_HFvhINM)  
Words of Welcome

### **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.**

### **Call to Worship**

You are the singer; we are your song

**In each note, your unfolding story**

In the melody, your gentle leading

**In the rhythm, your vibrant life**

In the lyrics, your word of comfort and challenge

**In the phrases, the contours of your grace**

In the chorus, a shared ensemble of praise

**In the rests, your unfailing presence**

**Come let us worship in God’s presence.**

**Opening Hymn:** What a Friend We Have in Jesus Alan Jackson  
<https://youtu.be/QCV5t8wRBI8>

**Prayer of the Day**

Bountiful God,  
we praise you for all the blessings of this life  
and especially your gift of music.

We give you thanks for the wonders of creativity  
to enliven us in times and celebration  
and to lift our spirits when life is difficult;

As we lose ourselves in song,  
may we lose and find ourselves in you;

As we become centred in song,  
may we become centred in you;

As many voices become one in song,  
may we find our common life in you;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**Confession**

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

*A silence is kept*

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:  
The fear that stifles us,  
The prejudice that blinds us,  
The ignorance that limits us,  
The doubt that plagues us,  
The privilege that deadens us.**

**Help us, we pray, that we will  
find courage in unlikely places,  
see the world with new and gracious eyes,  
move to those places where love is needed,  
and bring healing to your whole creation.  
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free by God's grace to go out into the world to be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!  
Alleluia! Amen.

Hynn: Blessed Assurance Alan Jackson <https://youtu.be/44BjcOddOqI>

### **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.**

### **Epistle: Romans 12: 2**

<sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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

### **Acts 9:1-20**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” <sup>5</sup>He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

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

**Reflection:** Rev. Lionel

Hymn: I Saw the Light <https://youtu.be/h0oEq0bMnyA>

### **Luke 24:13-34**

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup>And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” <sup>19</sup>He asked them, “What things?”

They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”

<sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer

these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"

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

**Reflection:** Pastor Steven

Hymn:           In the Garden Alan Jackson <https://youtu.be/jShp4nbMu38>

### **Minute For Mission**

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**

Loving God, we give you thanks  
for the song of love  
which you have sung through the ages.

When you first began creating,  
your Spirit sang a tender lullaby  
over that which was yet to be;

When your people Israel struggled in bondage in Egypt,  
you sang a courageous song of liberation through your servant Moses.

At times when your song was all but forgotten,  
Your prophets sang songs of challenge and repentance,  
calling your people to return to you  
with their whole heart;

Through our brother Jesus,  
your song became flesh,  
resounding among us  
with melodies of grace and forgiveness,  
calling us to carry on  
his courageous song of love and justice  
through our own lives.

And so you have made us singers,  
Loving God,  
And we have become  
your song of Good News for a broken world.

God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God,  
Your Life-giving Song renews and sustains us.  
And now we remember all who have asked us for our prayers:

God in your love, **hear our prayer**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus, who showed us  
your Mothering love, and who taught us to pray, as we sing together:

**VU # 959 Sung Lord's prayer**

The Masked Bandits

**Closing Song:** I'll Fly Away <https://youtu.be/tQ29PPC059c>

**Blessing:**

We have sung, we have prayed,  
we have worshiped together.  
We came together to build relationships,  
with each other and with God.

Let us go forth as people who are strengthened by our connections.  
Ready to love and to serve.  
Ready to carry God's love to the world.

May the blessing of God,  
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit  
be with you now and always.  
Amen.

**Sung Dismissal:** May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You <https://youtu.be/fx-X89Apfgc>

## Church News and Announcements

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

Sunday July 18 – Summer Service – **Holy Communion** - 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: Friday mornings at 10:00 am on Zoom** – See Below for details

**Joint Church Re-Opening Committee: CHANGE OF TIME: We will meet half an hour earlier** Tuesday July 13, at **7:00 pm**.

## Claremont United Church - Weekly Programs and Meetings

**Joint Church Re-Opening Committee: CHANGE OF TIME: We will meet half an hour earlier** Tuesday July 13, at **7:00 pm**.

**Join us every Wednesday @ 10:00 am** – 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

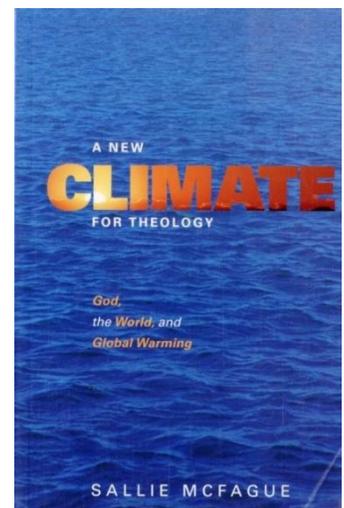
**Our Last Book Study Group before our summer break will be Friday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

We will finish chapters 8 & 9 of Sallie McFague’s book:

**A New Climate for Theology:**

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

It is an excellent book, so please join us!!



## 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: [treasurercuc@outlook.com](mailto:treasurercuc@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