

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
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

²Do 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 ²and 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.

³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But 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

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

¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?" ¹⁹He 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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."

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

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

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?"

³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They 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 5th - 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

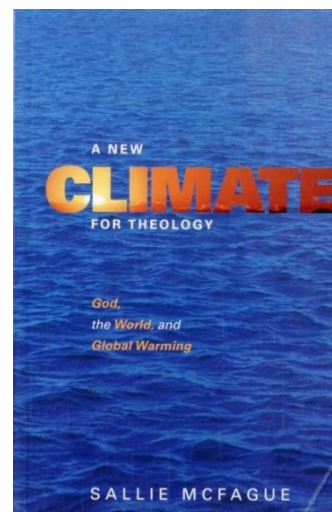
Our Last Book Study Group before our summer break will be Friday July 16th at 10:00 am.

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

For **Goodwood United** send to: 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