



Welcome to worship!

Sunday May 3, 2020, 11:00 am

The 4th Sunday of Easter

“Good Shepherd Sunday”

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

Leading today:

Pastor Steven Loweth & Rev. Lionel Ketola

Onelicense # A-723979

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: (VU # 165) Come You faithful raise the strain

VIDEO

Come you Faithful Raise the Strain

VU # 165 / ELW 363

1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God has brought his Israel
into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

2 'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death,
as a sun has risen;
all the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

3 Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.

4 Neither might the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal
hold you as a mortal:
but today amidst your own
you appear, bestowing
your deep peace, which evermore
passes human knowing.

5 "Alleuia!" now we cry
to our Lord immortal,
who, triumphant, burst the bars
of the tomb's dark portal;
"Alleuia!" with the Son,
God the Father praising;
"Alleuia!" yet again
to the Spirit raising.

Call to Worship

In the Easter newness and resurrection of this season

There is hope

In the Easter gifts of freedom and joy

There is liberation

In the journeying presence of Jesus our gentle Shepherd

There is healing

In the Easter Table where the Risen One feeds us

There is joy

Alleuia, Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleuia!

Prayer of the Day

by: Petrina Boyd

Loving Shepherd,

you know our names;

you care for us.

When we face darkness and death,

walk beside us.

When we hunger for your love,

fill us with your presence.

When we are fearful,

feed us at your table.

May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy

all the days of our lives. Amen.

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO THE SPIRIT’S VOICE

First Reading: Acts 2: 42 – 47

⁴²The disciples devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reflection: Rev. Lionel Ketola

Sung Gospel Acclamation

VIDEO

The Holy Gospel According to John: (10: 1-10)

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Reflection: Pastor Steven Loweth

Hymn: The Lord’s my Shepherd (VU # 747)

VIDEO

We Respond to the Joyful News

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts

**Gentle Shepherd, you risked everything
to walk with us in the way of peace and new life.**

And so with joyful hearts

**we offer our gifts with deep thanksgiving,
asking that you use them to heal and transform
our broken world with your Easter life.**

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Gentle Shepherd of our lives, meet us here in this place.

Meet us where we are at ...

whether worried and worn, peaceful and content,
remind us that we are all your beloved.

Good Shepherd of us all,

teach us to extend your care the world over -

from the survivors of violence in Sierra Leone,

to struggling students in Quebec,

to the poor in our community who we support through our food bank donations.

Re-fashion our world into your image -

Empowerment for the voiceless,

Full dignity for the oppressed and abused,

Peace for all who have experienced violence

Abundance for the poor.

May we discover the gift of our connectedness

with one another.

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

Gentle Shepherd, in your embrace we find comfort and healing. Today we offer our prayers for all who seek healing of body, mind or spirit, especially: (payers of intercession are added here)

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

Loving God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the presence and care of Jesus our brother and our faithful Shepherd, who taught us to pray, as we sing together:

Sung Lord's Prayer

VU # 959

VIDEO

**Our Father, in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth, as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil
For the kingdom and the power
And the glory are yours
Now and forever.**

Closing Hymn: “He Leadeth Me” VU # 657 VIDEO

1. He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav’nly comfort fraught!
Whate’er I do, where’er I be
Still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

**Refrain: He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll’wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.**

2. Sometimes ’mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden’s bowers bloom,
By waters still, o’er troubled sea,
Still ’tis His hand that leadeth me.
3. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since ’tis my God that leadeth me.
4. And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict’ry’s won,
E’en death’s cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Blessing and Commissioning *(based on Hebrews 13:20-21)*

Now may the God of peace, who raised from the dead our brother Jesus - the great Shepherd of the sheep, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God’s will, working among us that which is pleasing in God’s sight. And may the the blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you, now and always! **All: Amen.**

Sung Blessing: You Raise Me Up **VIDEO**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Goodwood United Church: Thank you to everyone who participated this past Thursday April 30th in our VIRUTAL SOUP LUNCH FUNDRAISER for the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. We will keep doing this on the last Thursday of the month, so our next Virutal Soup Lunch Fundraiser will be Thursday May 28. This support for our local Foodbank is much needed.

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 so that they reflect some of the online Zoom ministries / programs which we are offering. As well, both websites have new pages dedicated to resources related to grief and coping with COVID-19.



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



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Continued Support for our Congregations

During these weeks when our churches are not meeting for public worship, please prayerfully consider how you are able to continue supporting our congregation with its continued financial obligations. Offerings can be mailed to the church address itself, or contact your church’s treasurer for PAR forms. Thank you for your continued support of our congregation’s ministry.