



Welcome to worship!
Sunday May 24, 2020
7th Sunday of Easter
Ascension of Jesus

*A joint online Zoom worship Service with:
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches
Worship Leaders: Pastor Steven Loweth & Marilyn Elphick
(Rev. Lionel on Study leave this week)*

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Announcements & Today's Worship Theme

Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who embodied God's love and justice in such surprising ways.
And he said: **I am the light of the world**

Acknowledgement of the Land

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we have gathered on today. I pay my respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of all Aboriginal on Turtle Island.

**Help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways.
Amen.**

We Gather to in Joyful Celebration

Opening Hymn: We Are One VU 402 VIDEO

Call to Worship

We gather in this place, some empty, some filled, some whole, some broken:
yearning for the Holy Spirit to fill us.

We come, with these ordinary people, who have shown us the way:
**trusting that God will continue
to illumine our hearts.**

We surround the Table of grace so we might be fed by the Bread of life:
**that graced, we may serve others;
that healed, we may bring hope to the world.**

Prayer of the Day

Creator God,
you are the constant lover who never forsakes us;
you are the mother who cradles her children,
you are the teacher patiently repeating your words for us.
We worship you.

Jesus Christ, in you we are convinced
God loves us;
through you, we are formed into your people;
with you, we serve those the world has forgotten.

Holy Spirit,
We follow you.
You are the power that gives us peace;
You are the wisdom that reveals the broken in our midst;
You are the spokesperson to whom we welcome. **Amen**

Word

Holy Spirit Come to Us

Video

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.**

Scripture Readings:

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Holy Wisdom Holy Word

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation:

VIDEO

[The Holy Gospel of Luke 24:44-53](#)

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Pastor Steven Loweth

[We Respond to the Joyful News](#)

Hymn of the Day: I Love to Tell the Story

VIDEO

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Prayer

**Generous God,
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have shown us what it means to love.
And you call us to follow Your example—
to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.**

**Continue to write your law of love on our hearts.
Give us an unwavering passion for justice,
and a tenacious faith that will not rest
until the hungry are fed,
the oppressed find relief,
and the outsider finds a welcome. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Holy One,
We gaze towards misty heavens
knowing you were just with us,
and now you are gone.

We watch the skies for just a glimpse of your dazzling grace,
and you send us angels,
to bring our hearts and minds and soul
back into our lives, our bodies, this very present moment,
where your presence is more difficult to see
in the midst of war, in the midst of hunger,
in the midst of this pandemic that has gripped the whole world.

Your angels come to us through the ordinary moments,
reminding us to pray in spite of and because of ...

Your angels remind us that You indeed will empower us
to be your light and life and hope in this world,
to the ends of the earth,
wherever courage and grace is needed.

We are your people, God,
and as much as we love sky-gazing,
we know that you call us to give witness
in the middle of anxiety, illness, death, and apathy.

Help us to listen deeply, see far and wide,
and live faithfully.

We pray for all your people, both strong and weak.
We pray for this congregation of people who are
Able to come together through a means that is still so foreign to us.
We pray for all those that are unable to worship with us.
Please keep them safe embracing them and us in your loving arms.

We also pray for all those on our hearts and minds during this day.....

We lift a up these and all our prayers to you we pray as you taught us: **Our Mother and Father...**

Closing Hymn: Sent Forth By God's Blessing VU 481 Video

Blessing and Commissioning

Go out into the world.
and in your words and in your lives
bear witness to the Christ who has ascended
to be everywhere present.

And as you come to know him,
may God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation,
may Christ Jesus lift up his hands and bless you,
and may the Spirit open to you all the riches of Christ's inheritance.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sung Blessing: Go Now in Peace VIDEO

Next Sunday is Pentecost. Wear something with vibrant, flaming reds and oranges, if you can, so that we can all be reminders of the fire and power of God's Spirit among us!

The Readings are
Acts 2: 1-21
John 20:19-23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 with new material, so check them out!



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



Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/goodwoodunited>

<https://www.facebook.com/claremontunited>



Continued 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.

For e-transfers to Claremont United, sent it to: treasureruc@outlook.com

For e-transfers to Goodwood United, send it to: goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com

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