

Welcome to worship!

Sun. January 31st, 2021

Fourth Sun. after Epiphany

*A joint online Zoom worship service with
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United
Churches & friends.*

Worship Leaders:

Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM

& Rev. Lionel Ketola, BA, M Div.

Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Musicians this Sunday: Gabrielle Untermann
and Jane Plewman.

We Joyfully Gather in God's Presence

Words of Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who brought hope and healing to all he met.
And he said **"I am the light of the World"**.

Acknowledgement of the Land

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us is gathered today. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with Canada's First Nations people in tangible, loving ways. Amen.



Call to Worship

God comes into a world filled with fears and uncertainties

God seeks out the broken places of our world.

God embraces the wounded and oppressed.

God knocks down the walls of division and strife.

God is the shining candle guiding us through our days.

God is the light of hope in our lives.

God is the one who makes all things new.
Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

Opening Hymn: Children of the Heavenly Father (*United Methodist Hymnal # 141*) **VIDEO**

Prayer of the Day

God our deliverer,
you walk with the meek and the poor,
the compassionate and those who mourn,
and you call us to walk humbly with you.
When we are foolish, be our wisdom;
when we are weak, be our strength;
that, as we learn to do justice and to love mercy,
your rule may come as blessing. Amen.

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

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.

Deuteronomy 18:15-18

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

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

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

Reflection: Pastor Steve

Scripture Song: Draw the Circle Wide

Mark 1:21-28

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

Hymn of the Day: When Pain of the World Surrounds Us VU # 598

Invitation to the Offering

Minute for Mission

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts:

Use these gifts, Loving God
to feed the hungry,
to break the yoke of oppression,
to shelter the homeless,
to clothe the naked.

And use us, O God, to do the same.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Spirit of Gentleness,
To all that is chaotic in our lives,
To all that is uncertain,
let there come your grounding presence.
let there be a calming of the clamoring,
a stilling of the voices that have
laid their claim on us -
the voices of fear or worry or self-doubt
...the voices that follow us
Even to the holy places
where we seek sanctuary
but will not let us rest.

Spirit of wholeness and healing,
Let there be a quieting of our hearts in your presence.
Let us hear your word of hope for us
Remind us of your steady journeying presence beside us through it all.

Let us drink deeply of your waters of life -
freely offered from your generous heart
Let us drink deeply, and return refreshed and renewed
so we can once again face the joys and the storms

that your gift of life is offering us this day.
God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Christ the healer,
we come to you lifting up in prayer
all who have asked us for our love and prayers this day:

Prayers of intercessions are offered

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

Tender God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your great love for all of your creation. We ask this in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray: **"God, our Mother and Father in Heaven ... Amen."**

Closing Hymn: The Lord's my Shepherd

VU page 747

1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
2. My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff my comfort still.
4. My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore,
My dwelling place shall be.

Blessing & Commissioning

As we leave our time of worship, find us, O God:
Find us in our struggle to be faithful,
Find us in the questions we dare to ask
Find us in our work to bring healing and justice to our world,
find us in our shared ministry, as partners with you.

And may the blessing of God
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
be with us now and always. Amen.

Sung Dismissal: Go Now in Peace

VIDEO

Church Announcements - next pages



Important Notice: about Sunday February 7th.

**Rev. Lionel and Pastor Steve are off on Study leave
from Monday Feb 1st to Sunday Feb 7th inclusive.**

**Next Sunday Feb 7th, we will join Stouffville United Church
for their Sunday Worship (online) at 10:30 am.**

It is easy to access. Go to the website of Stouffville United Church
and click on the live link to their worship service on their main page.

Enter this into your computer browser:

stouffvilleuc.ca

Goodwood United Church – Upcoming Programs & Meetings

Online Community Check-in: Tuesdays at 10:00 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! **Thank you to Margaret who will host this coming week’s gathering, while Rev. Lionel is away on study leave.**

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.

Book Study: Fridays at 10:00 am on Zoom – hosted by Debbie Andersen this coming week, with thanks!

Affirming Committee Meeting: Thursday February 4, at 2:00 pm, the Goodwood and Claremont United Churches Affirming Ministry Committee will meet on Zoom. Debbie Andersen will send out the Zoom link information.

Board Meeting: Tuesday Feb 9th at 7:00 pm.

Annual General Meeting: Thursday March 11, at 7:00 pm on ZOOM.

** Please get your AGM report to Dar Christie **by Feb 15**. Thanks!

CLAREMONT UNITED CHURCH – Upcoming Programs and Meetings

Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon – Join us for a Zoom “drop-in” meeting. Resumes Wed January 6th. Everyone is invited to join us for these “Virtual Brock Café” Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community. ! Thank you to Debbie Andersen who will host this coming week’s gathering, while Rev. Lionel is away on study leave.

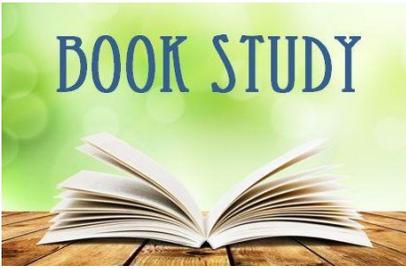
Book Study: Fridays at 10:00 am on Zoom - Hosted by Debbie Andersen this coming week, with thanks!

Affirming Committee Meeting: Thursday February 4, at 2:00 pm, the Goodwood and Claremont United Churches Affirming Ministry Committee will meet on Zoom. Debbie Andersen will send out the Zoom link information.

Official Board (Financial) Meeting: Wed Feb 10, at 7:30 pm on ZOOM

Annual General Meeting: Wed March 3, 7:30 pm.

** Please get your AGM Report to Rev. Lionel by **Feb 15**. Thanks!



Joint BOOK STUDY GROUP for all 3 Churches & friends: Friday Mornings at 10 AM on Zoom.

Beginning Friday January 8th to Friday Feb 12 we will read:

Unsettling the WORD: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization, Steve Heinrichs Editor.

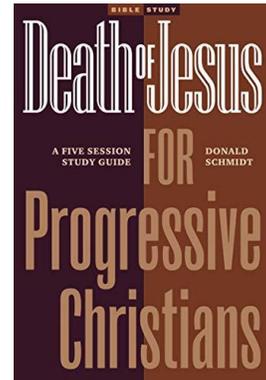
(Available online through a variety of bookstores).

Join our Lent Book Study (5 weeks)

Beginning the first week in Lent (Friday Feb 19th) we will read:

The Death of Christ for Progressive Christians, by Donald Schmidt.

You can order your copy through: www.woodlakebooks.com



YOUTUBE – Watch worship LIVE, Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am on YOUTUBE, or watch recordings of our Sunday service anytime during the week. See this Link (Fairbank United's Youtube channel):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HPD2ai10bo-qbNaXvNVtw>

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

For **Goodwood United** send to: goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com

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