



Welcome to worship!

April 26th, 2020, 11:00 am

The 3rd Sunday of Easter

*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 healing presence 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

Opening Hymn: Joy Comes with the Dawn

Video

Refrain: *Joy comes with the dawn;
Joy comes with the morning sun,
Joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song,
Joy comes with the dawn.*

- 1. Weeping may come;
Weeping may come in the night, when dark shadows cloud our sight.***
- 2. Sorrow will turn,
Sorrow will turn into song, and God's laughter makes us strong.***
- 3. We will rejoice,
we will rejoice, and give praise, to the One who brings us grace.***

GATHERING

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 24:13–16

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.

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

Call to Worship

- words by Craig Mitchell & the Iona Community.

Easter is not an event that has occurred
it's an adventure that has begun
not a place that we have visited
but a path on which we stand

a story not complete, but unfolding
characters still breathing
stations still teeming
with the promise of new life
not just for you and me
but for all people, in all places

a cosmic crux
a turning point of time

Easter is the season
of wild hope
of dangerous intent
of potent promise

where the future flaps unfurled
in the spirit's breeze

where hopes bubble
with uncorked effervescence

where toes tap
to free-form rhythms

where rainbow hues
splash empty canvas

Today we continue the journey
we re-enter the story
to explore our questions
to uncover our doubts
to face our nagging need

We walk the path
of two who traveled a dusty road
wrapped in confusion and despair
two who shared the company of a stranger
voicing their pain
airing their fears
and in the listening

heard words of hope and promise
and in the eating
received true bread of life

Today we re-enter the story
with expectation that Christ
will also reveal himself to us
in sights and sounds
in words and symbols
in bread and wine

Song: Where Two or Three are Gathered (MV # 14) (sung 3 X) VIDEO

Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there. (3X)

Prayer of the Day

**Meet us on this dusty road, O God -
in the place where our lives and your story connect.
Renew our hope.
Set our hearts ablaze with your Word.
Feed us with your risen presence,
and inspire us to tread the road again
so we can share the good news of your resurrection;
through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. Amen.**

WORD

A reading from Luke 24: 17 – 27 (the assigned reader for this Sunday)

¹⁷And Jesus 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?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

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

Brief Reflection: Pastor Steve

Song: VU # 501 **Break Now the Bread of Life**

Video

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts

Let us pray:

Like the disciples at Emmaus, we offer what we have.

They offered their company, their table, their bread.

We invite you to be with us, Jesus,

as we offer you the gift of our time, our talent, and our financial resources

to further the work of love in our world.

May these gifts bring hope and healing to our world;

we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

~ Adapted from a prayer by Carol Penner

Prayers of the People

Healing and Loving God

In this time of isolation, we reach out to each other in a new way. It is through technology that many are used to but to others it is something that we need to learn and understand. However, we give thanks for all those that help others stay connected in this new way as we travel the road to Emmaus together.

This past week has been difficult and sad for everyone. In disbelief and sorrow, we come to you, O God, sickened by the brutal, senseless deaths of so many of our brothers and sisters in **Nova Scotia**. We grieve with them this tragic loss, and ask you to welcome those who have died to a place of peace and light, far from tragedy and pain.

We pray for all front-line workers who have been part of this tragedy and for all those that are part of our Pandemic tragedy. You gifted them with the ability to help and for that we are evermore grateful. We pray for our communities of Claremont, Goodwood and Fairbank United Churches. Each community has been living with grief and sadness in different ways. We pray for.....

Pour out your strength and comfort on families, friends and communities who are grieving loss, missing loved ones, or feeling lonely through isolation. Help us to know that we live in a world that is in need of valuing every human being, so the Easter message of Resurrection can give us hope and the ability to keep building that world. We ask this through Christ our Risen Saviour. Amen.

TABLE

A reading from the Gospel of Luke: (24: 28 – 32)

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead [of the two disciples] 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?”

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

Brief Reflection: Rev. Lionel

HOLY COMMUNION

May God be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up in joyful song!

Let us give thanks to our God

With joy we offer our thanks and praise!

Blessed are you, Creator of infinite variety.

In love for your wounded creation

you sent your son Jesus

so that all creation might know the fullness of life through him.

We give thanks for the Risen Christ

who meets us on the road

and fills us with healing and hope.

Send now your Holy Spirit

into our hearts

and upon these gifts of bread and cup

so we may receive Jesus with a living faith

as he meets us in the breaking of the bread.

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed

he took bread, gave thanks; broke it,

and gave it to his disciples,

saying: take and eat;

this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,
saying: this cup is the cup of the
new covenant relationship with God,
poured out for you and for all people,
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With Christ our Saviour, we pray together:

God, our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name ...

At the breaking of the bread:

The gifts of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God!

SENDING

A reading from Gospel of Luke (24:33-35)

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!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Thanks be to God

Blessing and Commissioning:

You break in, O God,
on the road of our lives,
exactly when we need your presence the most.

You break in, O God,
and change everything
with your journeying presence.

May God bless us with
surprising moments of encounter
with the Risen One -
encounters which fill us with hope and courage
so we can use the gifts that we are
to help make God's Reign of love and justice into a reality.

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

Closing Song: Christ is Alive VU # 158

VIDEO

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Goodwood United Church: This coming Thursday April 30th, is our next **VIRTUAL SOUP LUNCH FUNDRAISER** for the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. Stay home and enjoy making soup, and make a donation to the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. See the flyer that Ann sent out, or our Facebook page, for details. And send Rev. Lionel photos of your delicious creations, or you can upload them yourself to Goodwood United Church's Facebook page.



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. The link will be sent out early next week.

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. The link will be sent out at the beginning of each week for Wednesday's drop in.



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!

Check out our facebook pages for both congregations:

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

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

Continued Support for our Congregations

During these weeks when our churches are not meeting for public worship, we ask you to 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 you can mail your offering to your church's treasurer. PAR forms are also available if you would like to use one for direct debit givings. Thank you for your continued support of our congregation's ministry.

