

## **Home Church Package, Sunday May 3rd, 2020**

(Materials used with permission from the Worship Design Studio, 2020)

**NEW!** Instead of gathering on Zoom for worship, we will be gathering in YouTube to worship. Please join us for **“Coffee Time”** after church on Sundays at approximately **1050 AM** by telephone on Zoom:

Dial **778-907-2071** And then when prompted, key in the Meeting ID: **498 026 7350** and when prompted the password **301273**

**Or join via computer:**

<https://zoom.us/j/4980267350?pwd=RDdBZFNTeEdWcG0vZGIYckVlbHQvdz09>

\*\*\*Please note, the above phone number and link is **ONLY for Sunday Coffee Time**. All other Inlet UC gatherings will use the link and numbers previously distributed.

**For this worship series you are invited to have a worry stone with you (any smooth stone...you can decorate it with a heart or not), a candle, and something to eat and/or drink...and a full glass of water to drop your stones into at one point..**

### **“Hearts Overflowing”** **The Third Sunday of Easter**

#### **Overview:**

We continue with our Easter Season because Easter isn't just one day. It is the message of God's desire for us to live fully *every day*. The early church practiced their hope in this way:

*“Day 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, **praising God** and **having the goodwill** of all the people.” (Acts 2: 46-47a)*

We create a “temple” of worship in our hearts that connects us across boundaries, distance and time. But as we share this worship, we will stay connected. At the “heart of the matter,” we are connected through the Spirit that makes us one in love.

**Opening Prayer: We are going to centre our hearts as one to begin.**

Let's take a deep breath together  
Holy Living God,  
Heartbeat of Creation,  
help us to take this time to centre on you,  
for you made us,  
you gave us life,  
and you continue to be with us  
every moment...  
every breath...  
every step.  
Hear this assurance from God:

*[sing to the tune of Amazing Grace...  
if you aren't comfortable singing it, you can say it]*

**Be still, O heart, you're not alone,  
your beat is shared with me.  
Come now, and calm, and centre here,  
you're mine, secure and free.**

Let us pick up our heart stone, sometimes called a "worry stone,"  
and let our touch on its surface remind us that God's touch is  
within us, between us, and around us.  
As close and real as this object is in our hands right now,  
is how close Love is to us always.

**(sing)**  
**Into your care we offer now,  
our worries, fears and strife.  
We turn to you and know you're near—  
You life, our love and life.  
Amen.**

Light your candle if you have one here and put the stone beside it. You might wish to enjoy some food or drink as we gather together to "break bread" while we "break open the Word" in our scriptures.

## **Scripture Storytelling:** - John 10: 1-10 and Acts 2: 42-47

Jesus used the metaphor of a shepherd several times in his ministry. You might recall the most famous instance from Psalm 23. In this passage from the Gospel of John, the sheep know that the Shepherd really cares about them and offers what they need—good, abundant, green pastures to eat in. They recognize this Shepherd who takes care of them as they hear his voice.

I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying.

So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved.

They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest. - John 10: 1-10

There are so many ways to live life to the fullest right now—or, as another version of the scripture calls it—"living life abundantly." Being together, either physically or virtually or "in Spirit", is one important way for us in this moment. Perhaps we can keep up some of our "connection habits" we have exercised well beyond our time of isolation. This next scripture is an extended version of our theme scripture for our Easter Season series and shows us the value the early Christians, some of whom had to gather in secret and isolation, were supporting one another "abundantly."

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved. - Acts 2: 42-47

In these two scriptures we see the desire of God for us to be taken care of, for us to live to the fullest, and for us to support one another in having abundant life and community, food and gladness. The “thief” in the first passage could be anything that robs us of those things. Sometimes the sacrifices we have endured because of our attempts to slow this virus can feel as if we’ve been “robbed” of our well-being. But we can also turn that around and see that these sacrifices are how we share goodwill and well-being with one another. Our hearts overflow with the grace and guidance we know from the Shepherd and we want that goodness for everyone. Glad and generous hearts overflow with love in so many ways.

Our response today is to place our worry stones in **a full glass of water**. This glass of water filled to the brim symbolizes the state of grace and love that is always and already what God gives to us. When we drop our worry and grief into it, we will see the love spill over. Placing our feelings and trust into God’s love helps us to pour out love all around us, making that love available to everyone. There is always enough to go around.

### **Breaking Open our Lives with Discussion**

Our theme scripture says, “they ate their food with glad and generous hearts.” One way we can be glad and generous is to share about how we are finding strength, hope, love and peace in these days. This is part of “breaking bread” with each other as we break open our hearts to one another as well. In this week’s scripture, Jesus talks about listening to the Shepherd, not to the things that “rob” us of our well-being.

1. Who or what have you found to be a “voice of the Shepherd,” giving you a sense of well-being and abundance in this time?
2. What things are “thieves,” threatening to rob you of a sense of calm and trust? Or if you can’t think of something from this week,
3. What do you have in your memory as something that offers abundance?

Take some time to think or journal about these questions.

**Please see the below “Snakes and Ladders” Letter/Board game that was from last year attached to this mailing. It is all about what our guest worship leader, Linnea Good and her family, have been doing in a village in the Punjab.**

**Benediction:**

As we close this time together, remember:

God is always with you. No matter what you face,  
no matter what trials or hardships come your way,  
God is right beside you, always filling your cup to overflowing,  
guiding and directing your path.

So, acknowledge your fear and your worry  
and know it is as true and holy as any feeling,  
including joy and hope and love.

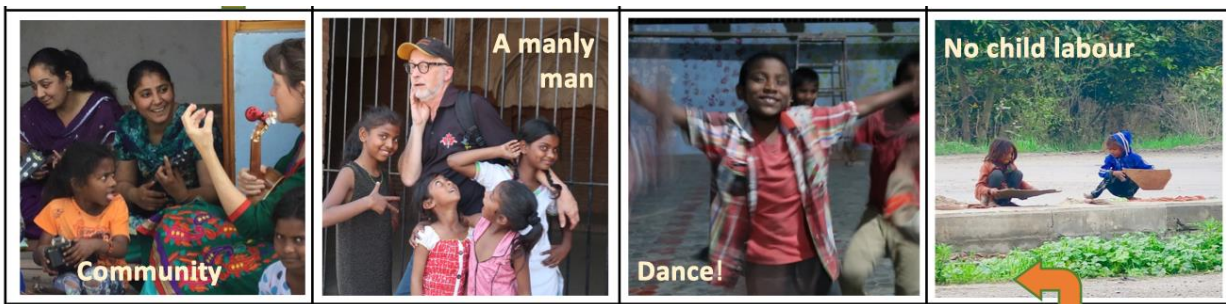
Take heart! This is the heart of the matter.

**Amen.**

**Subject Header:** On our Way to India Again!



Welcome to our **INDIA MISSION BOARD GAME**. Our time with the children at Emmanuel School in North India is spent finding child-centered ways of learning basic concepts - and game boards are a big part of that! You will need one die and enough playing pieces for each player. Start at the bottom left, roll the die and see how far you get and what you land on. Every square on this game is a winning square at Emmanuel School! When you contribute to our journey, you take part in the lives of these children, enabling us to share in inspiring ways of learning, to be a presence of love, and to witness to the Good News that God belongs to everybody.



On this 6-week mission, we are also returning to the Christian Medical College Hospital of Vellore and to a whole bunch of schools and institutions in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, South India, with a team from the Network of Biblical Storytellers International. There we will spend a fortnight teaching students, parents, Christian Educators, leaders and children the art and discipline of telling scripture by heart. We are very excited to return and see the progress that has been made in these places since we were there last in 2018.





Earlier this term, I asked my friend and piano teacher a question: "But really, Tracy, what does teaching ukulele have to do with saving the world ..?" She said, "I can answer that in one word: PRESENCE. It is about you being entirely focused on your student for 30 whole minutes, offering them your undivided attention, your compassion and your love. Presence is a precious commodity - and it is the only thing that is actually going to save this world."



I hope you take a little time to play our board game. Or move a bottle cap on it on mornings in Advent to see which word you might carry with you into your work and play. Put it on your fridge and pray for us in Jan-Feb 2020. Or ask your coworkers to help you put a toonie over a square a day in December and send it to the Vellore-Ludhiana Committee of Canada, who support our work (and send out charitable receipts for donations). You will be playing along with children across the world when you do. Hey, who knows? Maybe I'll make a board game for *them* that has all *your* faces on it. What word would you want on yours?)



- 1) CHEQUE with charitable tax receipt: Make it out to CMCHOSPITALS.CA (We will forward to the VLCC)  
CHEQUE without charitable tax receipt: Make it out to Borealis Music (This is also helpful!)
- 2) CREDIT CARD with or without tax receipt: Our administrator, Brenda Murti, will call you for your card number.
- 3) ONLINE DONATION with charitable tax receipt: Vellore-Ludhiana Committee of Canada at [www.cmchospitals.ca](http://www.cmchospitals.ca). Please specify "Good Works for India".
- 4) ONLINE DONATION without tax receipt: On our web site [www.LinneaGood.com](http://www.LinneaGood.com). See our India School page.

<b>FIRST NAME</b>	<b>LAST NAME</b>
<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
<b>CITY</b>	<b>PROVINCE/STATE</b>
<b>COUNTRY &amp; PHONE CODE</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>

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