

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster  
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrew's  
and Trinity Memorial United Churches**

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

<p><b>Thank you for Connecting for Worship</b> <b>Today's Leadership includes</b> Preacher: The Rev. Bill Booth Presiding: The Rev. Michael Hare The Rev. Tim Bowman Musician: Jacob Greenan Song Leader: Deborah Handley and Jerry Johnson Technical Support: Jeremy Wright</p>
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*People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.*

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation**

**Land Acknowledgement** **Bill**

**Lighting the Rainbow Candle** **Bill**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:** **Tim**

Christ is risen

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

**Amen! Alleluia!**

**Call to Worship:** **Michael**

Friends, siblings in Christ,

It is indeed good news that Christ is risen. But only that: he has appeared to Peter and to Mary and to all the apostles.

**The Good News is broader than that: in the name of the risen Christ, God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon everyone, regardless of who we are and where we come from, and made us one family.**

Then as one family, chosen and included not by ourselves but by God, let us gather; let us pray!

**Prayer of Invocation:** **Michael**

Loving God, we gather as your family to worship you. Today many of us will also celebrate Mother's Day, a day to celebrate families and to honour mothers. Help us make Mother's Day more meaningful.

Help us make it a time of generosity through our Mission & Service that helps change the lives of families at home and around the world.

Help us make it even more of a celebration of those extraordinary people in our lives we call mom, who are like mothers to us, and to people of all genders, as well as trans and non-binary persons who offer mothering care.

Help us make it more supportive of mothers who have lost children, children who have lost mothers, women who long to be mothers, and those who choose not to be mothers.

Help us make it more open to those who don't fit the traditional model of family and feel left out during this holiday.

Help us make it more caring of single moms, new moms, and those looking after their moms during the pandemic without the social supports that are usually in place.

Help us make it more aware of those whose mothering responsibilities stretch across decades to span a lifetime.

Help us make it more loving for those who want to draw closer to their mother and more healing for those who need to keep a distance.

Help us make Mother's Day more, O God.

More generous...more open...more caring.

We pray this in your holy name. Amen.

- *A Prayer for Mother's Day. The United Church of Canada, 2021.*

**Hymn: MV 178 - "Who is My Mother"**

*Who is my mother, who is my brother?*

*All those who gather round Jesus Christ:*

*Spirit blown people born from the Gospel*

*sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.*

*Differently abled, differently labelled,*

*widen the circle round Jesus Christ:*

*crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,*

*all come together round Jesus Christ.*

*Love will relate us colour or status can't segregate us*

*round Jesus Christ: family failings,*

*human derailings, all are accepted*

*round Jesus Christ.*

*Bound by one vision, met for one mission*

*we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:*

*here is my mother, here is my brother,*

*kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen!*

**Time with Children: Michael**

**Hymn: VU 477 "I Come with Joy" (VS 1, 4 & 5)**

*I come with joy, child of God, forgiven, loved and free,*

*the life of Jesus to recall*

*in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen but ever near,*

*is in such friendship better known,*

*alive among us here, alive among us here.*

*Together met, together bound by all that God has done,*

*we'll go with joy, to give the world*

*the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.*

*We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms.*

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD**

**Scripture:**

**Acts 10:44-48**

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

### **John 15:9-17**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon: "Astounding Grace" Bill**

#### **Hymn: MV 12 - "Come Touch our Hearts"**

*Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
to seek a world more gracious,  
come touch and bless our hearts.*

*Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
let life and beauty fill us,  
come touch and bless our souls.*

*Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
help us to open doors of understanding,  
to welcome truth and wisdom,  
come touch and bless our minds.*

*Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve,  
steady now our nerve,  
come touch and bless our wills.*

*Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,  
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;  
that we may love you with our heart,  
our soul, our mind, our strength, our all,  
come touch us with your grace.*

## WE RESPOND

### **Invitation to Confession: Michael**

This is a safe place. It is our mother's home. Let us speak the truth about our lives.

### **Prayer of Confession Michael**

Our Father,

Your son told us,

**"Love one another."**

And because we love him, we build churches. We raise money to raise the roof. We watch the bottom line and we count how many come through the doors.

Your son told us,

**"Love one another."**

And because we love him, we share the Bible with strangers - or feel guilty for not doing so. We make sure we have the words right. We join causes and write letters.

Your son told us,

**"Love one another."**

Buildings and money and preaching and justice are all means to an end.

Sometimes, though, we forget that it all starts with this:

Stop, and see each other, and love one another as God loves us.

*Silent prayer.*

### **Sung Response: "Change my Heart O God."**

*Change my heart oh God, make it ever true.*

*Change my heart oh God, May I be like You.*

*You are the potter, I am the clay,*

*Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.*

*Change my heart oh God, make it ever true.*

*Change my heart oh God, May I be like You.*

### **Assurance of Pardon: Michael**

We are no longer servants, but friends, and Jesus is never far from the heart of his friends. He will help us when we go astray.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession Tim**

### **Prayers Shared from the Chat Tim**

### **Lord's Prayer (960 Sung):**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Minute for Mission Video: Gifts for Families this Mothers Day**

### **Acknowledging our gifts for the work of God: Tim**

We give thanks for your financial offerings, made through cash; cheques mailed or dropped off; Pre-Authorized Remittance and online donations. Together with your donations of time and work they are used to further God's mission through

the work of the congregations gathered here. We present these gifts as a sign of thanksgiving to God from whom all blessings flow.

**Doxology: MV 185 - "Ev'ry day is a Day of Thanksgiving"**

*Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.*

*God, you've been so good to me.*

*Ev'ry day you're blessing me.*

*You know that ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.*

*I will glorify you, O My God, today!*

*You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.*

*You opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.*

*And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.*

*I will glorify you, O my God, today.*

**Prayer of Dedication: Tim**

Holy God, Source of life, As the branches of your vine we return to you that which was created in our lives by the use of the gifts you have given us. Bless our gifts of wealth, time, and love that your work among us may thrive. Amen

**Hymn: MV 145 - "Draw the Circle Wide"**

***Chorus: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.***

***Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, Draw the circle wide.***

*God the still point of the circle round whom all creation turns;*

*Nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms. **Chorus***

*Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;*

*Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. **Chorus***

*Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;*

*Let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. **Chorus***

**Commissioning and Benediction Bill**

**Sung Response: "Sing Amen" VU 431**

*Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.*

*Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.*

*Sing amen: Amen, amen, amen, amen*

*Amen we praise your name, O God.*

**Postlude**

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