

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

16 William Street West, Waterloo, Ontario

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Building Relationships. Living God's Transforming Love.

Sunday, April 3, 2020

Prelude	<i>Elegy</i>	G. Thalben-Ball
	<i>Jesu Meine Freude</i>	J. S. Bach

WE ARE GATHERED FOR WORSHIP

Acknowledgement of the Land & Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Lighting a candle is a prayer, its smoke rises to carry our intentions to a God who is attentive to our needs . . . Lighting a candle is a parable, burning itself out to give light for others, illuminating the path toward wholeness and holiness . . . Lighting a candle is a symbol of love, an act that creates comfort, warmth, and energy . . . Lighting the Christ Candle is an expression of our faith, proclaiming our trust that we are not alone.

Christ is with us. We need not fear but rejoice for God is near.

May the lighting of this candle bring Christ's presence closer to us. Amen

Confession

Loving God, we turn to you for strength and inspiration:

For you look with compassion on all who suffer.

You shed tears of sorrow with those in grief.

You reach down into the dark pit of hopelessness.

You kneel in the dust to lift up the humble

and shoulder the burdens of those who are bowed down and crushed.

If our words and actions have injured others.

May we repent . . .

If our silence and inaction have injured others.

May we repent . . .

If there have been times when we have kept our distance from those who suffer.

May we repent . . .

If we have spoken hollow words to those in pain, in order to comfort ourselves.

May we repent . . .

If we have failed to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

May we repent . . .

Hymn of Confession *If I Have Been the Source of Pain* MV 76

1. If I have been the source of pain, O God;
if to the weak I have refused my strength;
if, in rebellion, I have strayed away, forgive me, God.
2. If I have spoken words of cruelty;
if I have left some suffering unrelieved;
condemn not my insensitivity; forgive me, God.
3. If I've insisted on a peaceful life,
far from the struggles that the gospel brings,
when you prefer to guide me to the strife, forgive me, God.
4. Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer,
and free me from temptation's subtle snare,
with tender patience, lead me to your care. Amen, Amen.

Affirmation

All **What can separate me from your love, O God?**
There is nothing I can do to make you love me more;
nothing I can do to make you love me less.
I stand in gratitude and awe, for you are Holy.

Opening Hymn *Said Judas to Mary* VU 129

- 1 Said Judas to Mary, 'Now what will you do
with your ointment so rich and so rare?'
'I'll pour it all over the feet of the Lord
and I'll wipe it away with my hair,' she said,
'wipe it away with my hair.'
- 2 'Oh Mary, oh Mary, oh think of the poor -
this ointment, it could have been sold,
and think of the blankets and think of the bread
you could buy with the silver and gold,' he said,
'buy with the silver and gold.'
- 3 'Tomorrow, tomorrow I'll think of the poor,
tomorrow,' she said, 'not today;
for dearer than all of the poor in the world
is my love who is going away,' she said,
'my love who is going away.'

- 4 Said Jesus to Mary, 'Your love is so deep,
today you may do as you will.
Tomorrow you say I am going away,
but my body I leave with you still,' he said,
'my body I leave with you still.'
- 5 'The poor of the world are my body,' he said,
'to the end of the world they shall be;
the bread and the blankets you give to the poor
you'll know, you have given to me,' he said,
'you'll know you have given to me.'
- 6 'My body will hang on the cross of the world,
tomorrow,' he said, 'not today,
and Martha and Mary will find me again
and wash all my sorrow away,' he said,
'wash all my sorrow away.'

Introduction to the Children's Story ~ Kids Learn CPR

WE ARE INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE, SERMON, AND SONG

Scripture: John 12:1-11

Six days before Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the village of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they gave a banquet in Jesus' honor, at which Martha served. Lazarus was one of those at the table. Mary brought a pound of costly ointment, pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair. The house was full of the scent of the ointment. Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples—the one who was to betray Jesus—protested, "Why wasn't this ointment sold? It could have brought nearly a year's wages, and the money been given to poor people!" Judas didn't say this because he was concerned for poor people, but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the common fund and would help himself to it. So, Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You have poor people with you always. But you won't always have me." Meanwhile a large crowd heard that Jesus was there and came to see not only Jesus, but also Lazarus, whom he raised from the dead. So, the chief priests planned to kill Lazarus as well, since it was because of him that many of the people were leaving them and believing in Jesus.

Sermon

Resuscitation or Resurrection?

The Rev. Rose Ann Vita

Sermon Hymn *Joy Comes with the Dawn* VU 166

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. R

2 Sorrow will turn,
 sorrow will turn into song,
 and God's laughter make us strong. R

3 We will rejoice,
 we will rejoice, and give praise,
 to the One who brings us grace. R

WE GIVE FROM WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED

Call for the Offering & Dedication

Prayers of Intercession from World Day of Prayer

Music Ministry *Ave Verum Corpus* - W. A. Mozart

Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for humankind,
Whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste in the test of death.

Prayers: His Were the Hands

His were the hands
That shaped the wood
That smoothed the knot
That summoned the friends
And launched the boat

His were the hands
That touched the blind
And opened ears
That held the child
And cast out fears

His were the hands
That fingered the coin
That plucked the corn
That wrote in sand
And stilled a storm

His were the hands
That stretched out wide
That folded in prayer
That yielded to nails
That measured his care

His were the hands
That calmed the crowd
That broke the bread
And shared the fish
Till all were fed

His were the hands
That gave them joy
When shown to friends
With scars that marked
His love without end.

His were the hands
That filled the bowl
That took the towel
And washed their feet
On bended knee

ALL: May his hands touch those in need of God's love today. Amen

WE GO BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Sending Hymn *What Wonderous Love is This* VU 147

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this
 that caused the Lord of bliss
 to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
 to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

- 2 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this,
 that caused the Lord of life
 to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
 to lay aside his crown for my soul.

- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
 to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
 to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,
 while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;
 while millions join the theme I will sing.

- 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Blessing

May you never become cynical
May you never be jaded
May you never lose heart
May you never let the nay-sayers get you down
May you never lose faith

May you see light and goodness in everyone
May you remain open to wonder and mystery
May you stand firm in the assault of negative powers
May you stay rooted in hope.

Commission

Go now in the peace and power of the Risen Christ
and be an agent of God's love wherever you go.

RESPONSE (VU 967) Amen, amen, amen

Postlude *Galliard* - B. Schmidt

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding and Preaching: The Rev. Rose Ann Vita, Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care

Music: Kathleen King Martin, Director of Music Ministries, and Gallery Choir and Cydney Morris

Worship Assistants: Nancy Lennox and Sandra van der Meulen

AV Team: Harold Arnett and Matthew Savage

CREDITS:

Land Acknowledgement: Adapted from Ontario Federation of Labour. Found on <https://opseu.org/news/new-opseu-sefpo-event-guide-includes-land-acknowledgment-and-statement-of-respect/111435/>

Prayers: (All except Blessing & Prayers of Intercession) adapted from <https://worshipwords.co.uk/>

- **Blessing:** Adapted from *Holy Ground: Liturgies and worship resources for an engaged spirituality* by Neil Paynter and Helen Boothroyd. Wild Goose Publications. (c) 2005.
- **Prayers of Intercession:** From World Day of Prayer 2022 - Found on Women Inter-Church Council of Canada (www.wicc.org)

Children's Time: *Kids Learn CPR* - HiHo Kids

Scripture: Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (p. 2414). Sheed & Ward