

Order of Worship

Moderator's Online Worship for May 3, 2020.

Welcome and Announcements:

A warm welcome to each and every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

My name is Richard Bott – whether you are able to participate in the live version of this worship service, or are taking part at a later time – I am very glad that we've been able to join, in this space, to worship together.

I'd like to thank both Bruce Harding and Debbie Fingas and family for offering their gifts of music leadership, today.

We are greatly blessed by your presence, and by your willingness to share your music with us.

This is being offered as a support to our communities of faith during the time it is difficult for people to meet together because of Covid-19. This worship time is being recorded, and will be shared through The United Church of Canada website, in high-resolution, low-resolution, audio, and text formats – because we realize that not everyone has access to high speed internet.

Having explored this with a number of people, I've made the decision to bring this offering to an end, at this time. When we first began this, while there were some congregations sharing their worship services in ways that could be easily accessed by people during this time of Covid-19, there was a need expressed for "backup" that the team at the General Council Office could offer. We've come to a place where many United Church communities of faith are offering worship gatherings in ways that most people across the United Church can access – so it's time to step back from this one.

Thank you to those of you who have participated in worship, those who have participated in worship leadership, and those who have taken care of all of the background work needed!

And, again, welcome, beloved children of God!

Acknowledgement of Territory:

As we gather today, I would like to ask us to take a moment to connect where we are to this virtual space that we're in. I ask you to take a moment to recognize the space you are in, and even more than that, to recognize the land upon which that space sits.

For 10,000 years and more, there have been people living on this land, not just being responsible for this land, but being an integral part of it. This is the traditional territory – and, in many places in which we live, unceded territory – of the various Indigenous peoples of this land. Those of us who are settlers, descendants of settlers, and newcomers, need to acknowledge that reality; give thanks for the Indigenous peoples care for this land, past and present; for the fact that we are able to worship the Divine on it. We celebrate all of the Indigenous peoples of this land, and remember today the Elders and others who continue to be deeply devoted to their faith and relationship with the Creator, and those who are part of The United Church of Canada.

In this time, it is important for all of us to recognize that we continue to live in broken relationship. This is a moment to recommit ourselves to working for right-relations each and every day. That is what a territorial acknowledgement is about – more than just pretty words– commitment to working for right relations.

So, today, I join this virtual space, from Port Coquitlam, British Columbia – on the traditional, and unceded, territory of the Katzie, the Kwikwetlem, and the Sto:lo peoples. If you know the peoples of the land upon which you connect to this space, take a moment to reflect and give thanks, where you are. If you don't know, when worship is done, consider going to native-land.ca, typing in the name of your community, and learning a bit more.

Thank you. May God bless this reminder, and help us to be people of truth and right-relations.

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Let's take a moment to breath,
and to bring ourselves to this place.

In the name of God the Creator,
take a deep breath, and let it out, saying, "Alleluia."

In the name of God the Christ,
take a deep breath, and let it out, saying, "Alleluia!"

In the name of God the Christ,
take a deep breath, and let it out, saying, "Alleluia!"

One more deep breath, and let it go, saying, "Amen!"

[Light your candle.]

With the Spirit of God alive in our lives,
with the breath of life filling our bodies,
with the light of Christ warming our hearts –
let's celebrate this Easter day!

CHRIST IS RISEN!
CHRIST IS RISEN, INDEED!
ALLELUIA!
ALLELUIA, AMEN!

Singing: "Uyai Mose/Come all you people" (Can be found at *More Voices #2*)

Opening Prayer:

When the Spirit showed up,
all of the disciples,
long-time and new,
gathered in community,
sharing what they had,
celebrating as they ate,
and praising you, loving God.
Right now, we can only gather like this.

But we can share,
we can pray,
we can celebrate your love,
present with all creation.
Open our hearts to your wonders,
open our minds to your signs,
open our lives to your presence,
God of Easter joy!
Alleluia,
alleluia, amen!

Singing: "Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks" (Can be found at *Voices United #179*, refrain and verses 2-4)

Reading of Scripture:

Acts 2.42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Life among the Believers

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 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. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reflection on Scripture <see "Downloads">

Singing: "Let Us Break Bread Together" (Can be found at *Voices United* #480)

Sharing in our Gifts:

Take a moment to think about the gifts that God has placed in you.

What is one way that you could use those gifts to love God, to love your neighbour, to love yourself in the coming week?

If you would like to help your congregation during this rather tumultuous time, but you aren't sure how, be in contact with your minister or the treasurer of your community of faith. As well, every congregation of The United Church of Canada is registered at canadahelps.org. You can make an electronic donation, though them, if you would like.

I'd invite you to take a moment to offer to God the gifts in your heart – the actions of care, the resources that can help your neighbours and the world, as we sing together.

Singing: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" (Can be found at *Voices United* #549)

For all the gifts that we have,
for all the gifts we are,
for hope and wonder,
life and love,
we give you thanks, God of all creation.
Bless the gifts that you have given,
that we might use them well,
in ways that bring healing
to all your world.
In Christ's name we ask it,
Amen.

Singing: "To Show by Touch and Word" (Can be found at *Voices United #427*)

Prayers of the People:

This is where you get to pray! What are the things that you would like to bring to God, today?

Commissioning and Benediction:

Let us go in peace and in all that we do,
let us do it for love, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.
And let us always remember – we never alone!
The peace of Christ holds us all creation.
The love of the Creator enfolds all that has been, all that is, and all that will be.
And the wings of the Holy Spirit carry it –
in the moments of grief, and in the celebration of life made new –
now, and always. Amen?
Amen!

Let us go in peace, to love and to serve. Thanks be to God!