

May 17, 2020



**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO**

**We acknowledge that we meet and live
on the traditional territories of the
Mississauga Anishnaabeg People.**

**We give thanks for their care for the land
over thousands of years and
for their deep spirituality and
honouring of the Creator and the creation.**

**May we live with respect in God's creation
and in harmony with our neighbours.**

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

May 17, 2020

Easter 6

*We Welcome All who Worship with us this morning
- and especially those from Emmanuel United Church.
This was to be a shared worship in Trinity's building.
Instead we worship together electronically.*

PRELUDE: "God's Time is Best" J.S. Bach
(Sinfonia from Cantata #106)
"God's Own Time" Richard Gieseke
(Trinity Covid Choir)
"Down Ampney" William Bates

**WELCOME
LIFE and ACTION of the COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

CENTRING TIME

PRAYER OF APPROACH

HYMN: VU574¹ "Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;

home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM 66² (Paraphrased by James Taylor)
Trauma and tragedy seem to destroy some people but to strengthen others.

Refrain: God of all, to you we raise
This our song of joyful praise.

One: We have been rejected and despised,
Persecuted and punished.

All: But we have come out of our ordeal stronger.

One: Once, we were simply a flood of frightened individuals.
We had nothing in common but fear.

**All: Now we have become a people with a purpose;
Our trials have unified us.**

One: We were the eternal victims;

All: We were captives and oppressed.

One: Yet God brought us through to this new world.

All: We will repay God for keeping watch over us. R

One: From now on, the best of everything we have belongs to
God.

All: We made that promise when we were desperate;

One: we will keep our promise when we are well off.
Without God, we would have nothing.

All: So we will tell our children,

One: And they will tell their children, what God has done for us. **R**

All: We were lost and lonely,

One: a wandering people, unsure of our future.

All: And God responded to our plight.

One: God was not like diplomats and immigration officials;

**All: God did not judge us by our appearance
or our bank accounts.**

One: Even during the toughest of our trials,
We never felt that God had abandoned us.

All: Thanks be to God. R

READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES:

Acts 17: 22-34

REFLECTION: "The Teaching Places"

HYMN: VU82³ "A Light is Gleaming"

Refrain: A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
our memories and tears. R

When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
'God's light will ever stay.' R

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.
He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
and this will be a sign: R

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,
and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,
- warming all our days. R

GOSPEL READING: John 14: 15-19, 25-27

CHOIR ANTHEM: " If Ye Love Me"

Thomas Tallis

REFLECTION: "Warming All Our Days"

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS:⁴

"Pushing the Boat Out"

Yvonne Morland

HYMN: VU187⁵ "The Spring Has Come"

The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day,
the spring has come, let all the church be part of it!

The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
The world expands, let's spread the Gospel way in it!
New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust,
the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!

The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.
New bud, new shoot,
the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!

PASTORAL PRAYER

SOLO: "Shelter Me" (soloist Karla Buckborough)

Michael Joncas

THE NEW CREED

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen**

HYMN: VU649⁶ "Walk With Me"

Refrain: Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.

When Moses heard the call of God
he said, 'Lord, don't send me.'
But God told Moses, 'You're the one
to set my people free.' R

Now Peter was a most unlikely
man to lead the flock;
but Jesus knew his holiness
and he became the Rock. R

Young Mary Magdalene was sure
her life could be much more,
and by her faith she dared to let
God's love unlock the door. R

And when you share your faith with me
and work for life made new,
the witness of your faithfulness
calls me to walk with you. R

BENEDICTION

SUNG BLESSING: VU649⁶

Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.

POSTLUDE: Prelude and Fugue on Bb+, BWV 560

J.S. Bach

Leading in worship today are Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie (Trinity); Rev. Bryan Ransom (Emmanuel); Robert Grandy, Minister of Music; Patty Shaw, Worship Leader; Chris Freeman, Choir, Worship Leader; Laurel Robinson Lachance, Choir; Karla Buckborough, Choir and Dave Freeman, Choir, Technical Production.

Credits:

¹ Words: Robert Walmsley, Music: Adam Walmsley: Voices United

² James Taylor, Everyday Psalms, 1994, Wood Lake, 80

³ Text and Music: Linnea Good, © 1992, Borealis. Reprinted under One License A-726544

⁴ Yvonne Morland in Galloway (ed) Pushing the Boat Out, 1995, Wild Goose, 44-46.

⁵ Text: Shirley Murray; Tune: Colin Gibson © 1992, Hope Publishing Company Reprinted under One License A-726544.

⁶ Tune: Text and music: John S. Rice, © 1988, Estate of John S. Rice. Published by Worship Works, Inc. All rights reserved.. Reprinted under One License A-726544.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Preludes: Bach's Cantata #106, "God's Time Is the Best Time", was written in the early 1700's and its opening "Sinfonia" is one of the most admired of his compositions, and according to the world-renowned conductor John Eliot Gardiner, "twenty of the most heart-rending bars in all his works" - music that is meant to combat death. This organ arrangement was made by Arthur Wildman, a noted arranger of classical music for pipe and electronic organs.

In today's reading from the book of Acts 17:22-34, Paul proclaims the good news to some Athenians that God alone has numbered our days and will let us know the end. American composer Richard Gieseke fashioned an easy unison anthem titled "God's Own Time", based on verse 28. *God's own time is the best of all. For in him we live, for in him we move. For in him we have our being. In him we die at the moment that he will choose. So teach us, Lord, to number our days, and incline our hearts to wisdom.*

The text to the well-known hymn "Come Down, O Love Divine" is a 15th century Italian example of a pre-Reformation hymn of praise and devotion. English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams' tune is perfectly suited to the introspective character of the text. American composer William H. Bates used Vaughan Williams' tune in one of his "Four Preludes on English Hymn Tunes". The light descending opening passages, perfectly depicting the title of the hymn, are heard in varied form throughout the work.

Anthem: "If Ye Love Me" is a four-part motet or anthem by the English composer Thomas Tallis, a setting of a passage from the Gospel of John. First published in 1565 during the reign of Elizabeth I, it is an example of Tudor music and is part of the repertoire of Anglican church music.

If ye love me, keep my commandments and I will pray the Father and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever, e'en the spirit of truth.

Solo: "Shelter Me" is church composer Michael Joncas' attempt to find God's presence even in these difficult and disruptive times. Based on Psalm 23, his paraphrase adapts the psalmist's sentiments to respond to our present anxieties.

Shepherd and sheep, my God and I: to fresh green fields you led my steps in days gone by. You gave me rest by quiet springs and filled my soul with peace your loving presence brings.

REFRAIN:

O shelter me, O shelter me: The way ahead is dark and difficult to see.

O shelter me, O shelter me: All will be well if only you will shelter me.

Yet now I tread a diff'rent way; Death dogs my path with stealthy steps from day to day. I cannot find your peaceful place but dwell in dreary darkness, longing for your face. O shelter me...

I will look back in days to come and realize your faithfulness has led me home. Within your house I'll find my peace, trusting that in your mercy you have sheltered me. O shelter me...

Postlude: Returning to the music of Bach, you will hear his "Little" Prelude and Fugue in B Flat Major. Like today's prelude, it is assumed this work, the last of his Eight Little Preludes and Fugues was also written in the early 1700's. There are however scholars who ascribe these works to one of Bach's pupils. Regardless of their authorship, they have stood the test of time and because of their relatively short playing time, are often heard in church services. This one in B Flat opens with rapid sixteenth-note passages on the manuals, followed by a solo pedal line. The opening figures return, bringing the Prelude to a conclusion. The Fugue opens on a quieter registration, with a jaunty little theme, full of wide leaps. A gradual crescendo and a return of the wide melodic leaps signals the end of the Fugue.

OFFERING

Your donations are appreciated and used carefully to further Christ's work in the world. In these weeks, when gatherings are not possible, please make donations to Trinity UC and to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada by using Canada Helps, a Canadian not-for-profit organization. Just go to Trinity's web page <http://trinitypeterborough.com> and click on the "Donate Now" button located at the upper right hand side of the page. Canada Helps will issue you a tax receipt in Trinity's name. Cheques may also be placed in the secure mailbox located beside our main door under the covered portico.

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During Covid-19 the church office is closed. However the Minister and office staff are working from home and may still be reached at the above list.

