



“I will sing to the LORD as long as I live.” Psalm 104

Pentecost Sunday

May 19, 2024

Manor Road United Church

A congregation of the United Church of Canada

240 Manor Road East, Toronto, ON, M4S 1R8

www.manorroadunitedchurch.com

Service of Worship

May 19, 2024

Celebration of Membership

International Potluck

“Every tree and bush, every flower and creature, every hill and mountain is on fire with the divine.” - John Philip Newell

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

As we gather this today, we acknowledge that the sacred land on which each of us lives, has been, and continues to be, home to Indigenous peoples. For many thousands of years, they have sought to walk gently on this land. They offered assistance to the first European travellers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in honour and deep respect.

GATHERING MUSIC MV 51 “Yahweh Be Praised”

Yahweh be praised in the heavens.

Yahweh be praised in the streets.

Yahweh be praised with our singing when in worship we meet.

Yahweh be praised. Yahweh be praised. Yahweh be praised.

Yahweh be praised. Yahweh be praised. Yahweh be praised.

Yahweh be praised. Yahweh be praised.

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God declares: “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

The young shall see visions.

The elders shall dream dreams.

Both men and women shall prophesy.

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

HYMN VU 382 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

**Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst
do.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine, to do and to endure.**

OPENING PRAYER

God be with you.

And also with you.

Gracious God, you come among your people
as One who fashioned all things, who, face-to-face, revealed your
knowledge of our lives, and whose presence brings assurance and
hope.

**Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love
so that in hearing and seeing the gifts of this life,
we may know the way to live in thanksgiving. Amen**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

INVOCATION

May the angels of light glisten for us this day. May the sparks of God's
beauty dance in the eyes of those we love. May the universe be on
fire with Presence for us this day.

**May the new sun's rising grace us with gratitude. Let earth's
greenness shine and its waters breathe with Spirit. Let heaven's
winds stir the soil of our soul and fresh awakenings rise within
us. Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Merciful God, we do not know how to pray as we ought,
and we know too well our constant failures, to do as you have
commanded and to hold fast to your word.

**Forgive us for the divisions we nurture, guide us to your way,
keep us in your care, and lead us into faith.**

We trust your word that the Spirit of truth will show us all things and
grant us courage and peace. **Amen**

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE

People of God, body of Christ, sisters and brothers, the Spirit of God's truth has come upon creation and upon you, to interpret the mysteries of eternal time.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, and by the authority of the church, I declare to you the complete forgiveness of your sin.

Be at peace with one another because of God's mercy. **Amen**

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also, with you!

(Please share the peace of Christ with a hand wave)

RESPONSE MV 45 "You Are Holy"

You are holy, you show us the way, 4X

you show us, you show us, you show us the way. 4X

ENCOUNTERING THE CHILD WITHIN - Allison Marcaccini

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, come again.

As long ago you inspired, astonished, and confused the people, come to us now to fill our ears with the sound of your breath,

Fill our eyes with the brilliance of your presence in each other, fill our hearts with your good Word. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1st Reading Ezekiel 37:1-5, 9 Mike Russell

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

2nd Reading Acts 2:1-6, 17 Betty Kelman

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

3rd Reading John 15:26-27; 16:4b-7

"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

RESPONSE

Hear the Wisdom told to us through the Ages.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN VU 578 "As a Fire Is Meant for Burning"

**As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warning flame,
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of
care, we join hands across the nations, finding neighbours
everywhere.**

**As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,**

may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

SERMON "Speak to these Bones"
The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

SILENT REFLECTION

SPEAK TO THESE BONES: The Fire Words - Youth at the Manor

MEMBERSHIP AT THE MANOR

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

The Chair of the Executive presents the candidates.

One: On behalf of the congregation, I present the following persons whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith:

New members by transfer: Meilana Dickenson

Profession of Faith: Julia Stevenson. Daniel Lee, Emmanuel Uguchukwu Anah, Jaisa Jacob, Naresh Jacob, Denis Ssebugwawo, Glenn Seville Merie Sadeqi, Matthew Coyne

COMMITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

One: Will you enter in the life and work of the church, supporting it with your gifts and sharing in its mission to all?

New Members: I will, with God's help.

One: Will you endeavour daily to respond to God's love, to do God's will and to fulfil your Christian calling and minister in the world?

New Members: I will, with God's help.

One: Will you join with us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil?

New Members: I will, with God's help.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

One: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge our support and care for these new members.

All: As your brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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, to reconcile and make new, 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.

(congregation is seated)

One: The Holy Spirit be upon you and within you, child of God,
disciple of Christ, member of the Church.

All: Amen

BLESSING

COMFORT SHAWL

CHORAL "Electricity" Glen Seville

WELCOME

DIVERSITY CREED

For The Great Diversity, You have created Creator, we come to you.

We are grateful for the gift of life and the joy that it can bring.

For the great diversity you have created in our world.

We pray for those who suffer from discrimination because of their gender identity, sexual orientation, skin colour, culture, mental health, age, and neuro diverse status.

For those who do not feel safe.

Help us to end homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia, economic phobia, mental health phobia and all forms of discrimination and hate.

Show us the way to make this world a better place for all.

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY INSTRUMENTAL

RESPONSE MV 191 “What Can I Do?”

What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing? I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love, I'll do my share. (2x)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of mercy, we give you thanks for all that your bounty creates.

The gifts we bring today acknowledge our debt to you
and our intent to relieve others of their burdens.

Bless what we offer and bless those who will be shown
deeds of power through them.

You make the winds

Your messengers

RESPONSE MV 90 “Don't Be Afraid”

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

For this community of faith;

for those who come to worship every week

and those who cannot come;

for the young and the old;

for newcomers and long-familiar faces;

for the newly baptized in every land;

for those who are seeking to know you;

hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For all else that this assembly is concerned with today,

named aloud or in our hearts [silence];

hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Thanksgiving for all the saints who served you in life

and whose proclamation of the gospel continues to renew the church;

hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As a mother nurtures her children. Let us pray:

Our mother in earth and Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in

heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

HYMN VU 196 “Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow”
Wind who makes all winds that blow, gusts that bend the saplings low, gales that heave the sea in waves, stirrings in the mind’s deep caves, aim your breath with steady power on your church this day, this hour. Raise, renew the life we’ve lost, Spirit God of Pentecost.

Holy Spirit, Wind and Flame, move within our mortal frame. Make our hearts an altar pyre, kindle them with your own fire. Breathe and blow upon that blaze till our lives, our deeds and ways, speak that tongue which every land by your grace shall understand.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE MV 221 “I Am Walking a Path of Peace”
I am walking a path of peace, I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace, lead me home, lead me home.

I am walking a path of love, I am walking a path of love,
I am walking a path of love, lead me home, lead me home.

POSTLUDE

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE STAFF OF MRUC
The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea, Minister of the Congregation
Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith, Volunteer Associate Minister
Tom Marcaccini, Director of Music
Allison Marcaccini, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator
Marianne Eschker, Property & Administration Manager
John Okwir, Custodian

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Preacher: The Rev. John Joseph Mastandrea
President:
Co- Presiders: James McKinnon, Ainsley McKinnon

Prayers of the People Susan Logie, Betty Kelman, Susan Johnson
PowerPoint: Peter McNaughton
YouTube Host: Justin Ancheta, Liz Smith, Joyce Barnes, Alydia Smith
Lectors: Mike Russell, Betty Kelman

Candle Lighter: Eni and Ini Kazeem
AV Sound: Russell Powell, Amoo Kazeem
Editors: Mike Russell, Marianne Eschker
Tech Check: Justin Ancheta
Coffee Host: Fina Adalba, Rasoul Rashidian
Worship Host: Amoo Kazeem, Amir Mazinani, Rasoul Rashidian

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