



“Happy are those who make the LORD their trust” Psalm 40

January 15, 2023
Worship Bulletin
Manor Road United Church
A Congregation of the United Church of Canada
240 Manor Road East, Toronto, ON, M4S 1R8
416-483-0695 www.manorroadunitedchurch.com
The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea,
Minister of the Congregation
Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith,
Volunteer Associate Minister
Tom Marcaccini, Director of Music
Guest Musician Gerald Martindale
Allison Marcaccini, Children’s Ministries
Marianne Eschker, Office Administrator
Manuel Ferreira, Custodian
GUEST PREACHER The Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith

Service of Worship

January 15, 2023

“We are being invited into a new humility, to serve the holy wisdom that is already stirring in the hearts of people everywhere”

- John Philip Newell

Responses and Prayers in bold type are for congregational participation.

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

As we gather for worship, we honour and thank the Huron-Wendat Nation, Metis Nation of Ontario, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River as our community partners and traditional inhabitants of the lands of the City of Toronto, Region of Hamilton, Durham Region and surrounding areas. May we extend the gift of the spirit spoken from the heart for today.

GATHERING MUSIC MV 62

“There Is Room for All”

**There is room for all in the shadow of God’s wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God’s love.
And I rejoice and sing, “My refuge and my rock,
in whom I trust.” There is room for all, there is room for all!**

“There Is Room for All”

Text:/Tune: Bruce Harding, David Fines © 2004

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WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR OUR MISSION - Thorncliffe Food Bank

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song, a song of thanks and praise,
God has done wondrous deeds, and is great beyond compare!

***HYMN VU 389**

“God Is Here”

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here as in the world around us, all our varied skills arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

God of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day’s dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

“God Is Here”

Text: Fred Pratt Green, Tune: William Rowlands © 1905

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OPENING PRAYER

God be with you.

And also with you.

Holy God, you sent your son to be the light of the world, so that all may know the brightness of your love.

Fill us with your grace this day that we too may bear witness to his light and serve your coming reign. 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

Mothering God, we have chased after foolish things, and spent our strength on vanity; our labor has been in vain.

Deliver us from arrogance and forgive our self-concern, that we may find our reward with you, as servants of your dream. Amen

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE

We, the Beloved, are forgiven in Christ, the Lamb who bears our sin.

Happy are those who put their trust in God, and delight to do God's will, for God makes our footing sure upon the rock of Christ. 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)

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE MV 13**

"O Let the Power Fall on Me"

**O Let the power fall on me, my Lord, let the power fall on me;
O let the power from heaven fall on me, let the power fall on me.**

"O Let the Power Fall on Me"

Text/Tune: Birchfield Aymer and Patrick Prescod © The Caribbean Conference of Churches
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ENCOUNTERING THE CHILD WITHIN Allison Marcaccini

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove: Open our ears to the truth of your word, that the testimony of Christ may be strengthened among us and the glad news of deliverance revealed. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1st Reading Isaiah 49 1-7 Susan Johnson

49:1 Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

49:2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

49:3 And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

49:4 But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God."

49:5 And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength-

49:6 he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

49:7 Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

2nd Reading I Corinthians 1:1-9 Joanne Nicolson

1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

1:2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

1:5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind

1:6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you

1:7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

3rd Reading John 1:29-42 The Rev Dr. Alydia Smith

1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

1:30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'

1:31 I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."

1:32 And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

1:33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

1:34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

1:35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,

1:36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

1:37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

1:38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?"

They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

1:39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

1:40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

1:41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).

1:42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

RESPONSE

Hear the Wisdom told to us through the Ages.

Thanks be to God

***HYMN MV 138**

“My Love Colours Outside the Lines”

My love colours outside the lines, exploring paths that few could ever find; and takes me into places where I've never been before, and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown, body and soul need a soaking from time to time. And we'll never move the grave stones if we're not prepared to die, and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine; I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before, throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown, body and soul need a soaking from time to time. And we'll never move the grave stones if we're not prepared to die, and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

“My Love Colours Outside the Lines”

Text/Tune: Gordon Light and Andrew Donaldson © 1995

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SERMON

“The Gift of Story”

The Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith

SILENT REFLECTION

DIVERSITY CREED

For The Great Diversity You Have Created

Creator, we come to you with both the joys and the sorrows of our hearts.

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

For families and friends who love us.

For allies who stick up for us,

even when we cannot risk sticking up for ourselves.

For the great diversity you have created in our world.

We pray for those who suffer from discrimination because of their gender identity or sexual orientation, or their skin colour.

Who worry about their employment or who cannot find a job.

For those who must hide who they are to find housing.

For those who are not safe on our streets.

For those who do not feel safe in their place of worship.

Help us to end homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia, and all forms of discrimination and hate.

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

—a prayer by Ruth Wood, from the worship service “Speaking Our Truth”

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY INSTRUMENTAL

***CONGREGATIONAL 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.

“What Can I Do”

Text: and Tune: Paul Rumboldt and Michele McCarthy © 2005
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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.

We give you thanks, O loving God, that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people the gift of generosity and the desire to do your will. Use these gifts to proclaim good news to every nation and restore all people to Christ.

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.

Our righteousness will go before us, and the glory of God will be our rear guard.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE VU 148

“Jesus, Remember Me”

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

“Jesus Remember Me”

Text/Tune: Jacques Berthier © 1978

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Blessing God of steadfast love, you raise us up when we fall and place our feet on steady ground. Strengthened by your faithfulness, we offer our prayers in thanksgiving for the grace that is ours in Christ. We pray for the mission of your church, that we may proclaim the good news of the age as we put our trust in you.

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.

Our righteousness will go before us, and the glory of God will be our rear guard.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE VU 148

“Jesus Remember Me ”

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

“Jesus Remember Me”

Text/Tune: Jacques Berthier © 1978

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We pray for the world, that your saving love may reach to the ends of the earth as we serve the common good.

We pray for all who suffer, that we may heed their cry as we share in your steadfast mercy. We pray for your creation, that we may safeguard its well-being as we labor together for redemption. We

remember before you those who have died and pray for those who will die today, that they may know your peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As a mother nurtures her children
Let us pray...

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 forever and ever. Amen

***HYMN VU 606**

"In Christ There Is No East or West "

In Christ there is now east or west, in him no south or north, but one great family of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north; all Christ like souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

"In Christ There is No East Or West"
Text/Tune: John Oxenham © 1939
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***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

***SUNG RESPONSE MV 211**

"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light"

Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ, so you may be nourished by the Word of life.

"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light"
Text/Tune: Pedro Rubalacava
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POSTLUDE

We are glad you have come! If you are a visitor, please make yourself known to the minister, Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea by email or text message. ministermruc@gmail.com or text 416 809 6044

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Presider: Joanne Nicolson and Susan Johnson

PowerPoint: Sharon Smith, Betty Kelman, Carol Foley, Joanne Nicolson

Co-host: Joanne Nicolson (Film Editor),

Zoom Host: Justin Ancheta, Betty Kelman

Lectors: Susan Johnson (bold), Joanne Nicolson (non bold)

Virtual Greeter: Liz Smith, Sharon Smith

Candle Lighters: James and Ainsley McKinnon

Sound: Russell Powell, Matthew Coynes,

Editor: Mike Russell