

Second Sunday of Easter - April 11, 2021

Singing our Song of Faith in Extraordinary times!



*Memories of fun and fellowship at Cliff Ave...
(Family Camp – Camp Luther 2008)*

CLIFF AVENUE UNITED CHURCH

www.cliffavechurch.com

Minister: Rev. Jennifer Goddard-Sheppard; Administrator: Pam Athey

Gathering Music: “The Power of the Cross”

*Written by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty
Performed by Fiona Chow*, voice and piano;
Han Shi, violin
Recorded in Helsinki, March 2021*

**Fiona was a former Music Director at Cliff Ave UC in the years between Barry and Perry. She teaches at the Sibelius Music Academy, one of the largest fine arts academies in Europe and she resides in Helsinki, Finland.*

<https://youtu.be/mj7NObbMTCQ>

Lyrics:

*Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.*

CHORUS: *This, the pow'r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath—
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

*Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought,
Ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.*

*Now the daylight flees;
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
Dead are raised to life;
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.*

*Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death;
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.*

FINAL CHORUS: *This, the pow'r of the cross:
Son of God—slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Light the Christ Candle:

We light this candle that represents both the mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection and the affirmation of God's love for all. We are comforted by the light that shines within each of us...this light given to us through the Holy Spirit to pass on to others. Today, let

us open our hearts and minds to both the receiving and the giving.

Call to Worship

For whom are you looking?

The Creator of a new heaven and new earth.

For whom are you looking?

The risen Lord who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Then come. You will find him here.

For Christ is risen today.

Let us celebrate with heart, and soul, and mind. Amen.

Opening Prayer

O Holy One—we come, puzzling at your mystery, yet in adoration and wonder.

Creator God, we wonder at your mighty works.

O Holy One—we come in quiet breathing.

Spirit, we breathe in your gifts with gratitude.

O Holy One—we come in silent movements.

Beloved Christ, we follow you into the quiet space.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Draw the Circle Wide MV 145

Eastminster United Church, Toronto (Canada) Rev. Sarah Miller

Hilary Seraph Donaldson, Pastoral Musician

(www.breakintosong.ca) Scott Pietrangelo, Music Leader

(www.soundcrowd.ca)

words: Gordon Light; music: Mark Miller

<https://youtu.be/PcIQrWOYug8>

Prayer of Unburdening

Gracious God, we gather before you in this time of prayer. We confess that all too often we look up to heaven for glimpses of grace, while not seeing your grace that is revealed all around us.

Loving God, as we struggle with our brokenness, open our hearts to the presence of your grace in the people around us. As they reach out to us, let us reach out to them so together we may be healed.

(a time of silent prayer)

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Grace is a gift from God revealed in moments of our connection with one another. Grace is a gift from God revealed in Jesus. For this we give thanks and praise.

Amen.

A Minute for Mission

<https://united-church.ca/stories/rainbow-camp-receives-governor-generals-award>

Scripture Readings:

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

Psalm 133

A Song of Ascents.

How very good and pleasant it is

when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head,

running down upon the beard,

on the beard of Aaron,

running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon,

which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing,

life for evermore.

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed

on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Response: For the Living Word **We sing Praise!**

Hymn: "Because He Lives"

Written by Gloria and Bill Gaither

<https://youtu.be/4M-zwE33zHA>

Love Letter from Rev. Jen

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

Hymn: "I Have this Hope"

by Tenth Ave North

<https://youtu.be/eBg9jHQte44>

Offering and Prayers of the People

Loving God, you are always faithful.

We turn to you with our hopes and our fears.

We turn to you with a song of thanksgiving and a prayer for help.

Precious Lord, we give thanks that you have chosen us to serve you as a church, by doing our best to imitate your generosity and to copy your loving devotion by sharing our gifts. Trusting your love to multiply our gifts as we reach out, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

["https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings"](https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings)

The Lord's Prayer

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen.

Sending Forth

Strength and hope and love flow freely.

You stand in this flow in this Easter season.

It washes new life into you and all the world.

And so we give thanks and praise. Go share God's blessings of love, strength, and hope. Amen.

The Peace:

Know that God is with you and feel the peace.

In our head, heart and holy way forward, God is with us.

Sung Blessing "The Celtic Blessing"

sung in English and Scottish Gaelic. As with our brothers and sisters around the world, this song has helped us unite in Christ

during a time of separation. We've felt it right to offer our version in the music and language traditions rooted here in Scotland, joined by friends from across the nation.

May it bless you.

https://youtu.be/_y3-tRu8MIk