



Thornbury, Ontario
Grace United Church
Bold. Nurturing. Liberal. Christian.

April 25th, 2021 ~ 10:30 AM ~ 4th Sunday of Easter

Find this service at www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live

Leading us today in Worship

Guest Minister: Ingrid Remkins
Music Director: Dr. Christopher Burton
Lay & Scripture Reader: Margaret Tirpkoff
In Memory: Margaret Tirpkoff

~ Leader: regular font ~ **All:** bold font ~ *Sung words: bold italics*

We Join One Another to Worship God

PRELUDE: Album Leaf C. Debussy

GREETING (2 Cor 13:13) (Lay Leader)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

WELCOME (Lay Leader)

Welcome Ingrid Remkins, who will be leading us in worship today.

CREATION'S CRY

MORNING CALLS...

One: The morning mist drifts along the stillness of the river
Hiding, revealing life – and loss – within.

By the river's edge, a fawn.
Its fragility guiding its steps.
Its mother, its defense.

HYMN: VU# 409 *Morning Has Broken*

ALL: Verse 1

***Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.***

***Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!***

One:

Water bugs skim along the water's surface.

Delight for the children.

Alas, food for the fish.

Scuttling along the river's edge,

Also seeking food, a mink.

Beneath the surface, something shimmers. A fish?

Certain, the mink lunges.

Something cuts. Something hurts.

No, not a fish. Something else.

Shards of carelessness.

The mink limps away.

Beads of blood in its wake.

All: Verse 2

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,

like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

One:

Something foreign. Something suspect.

Pooling now in corners and cervices.

Seeping into the whole.

A small fish appears. Strangely surfacing.

Then turns onto its back.

Its lifeless body moving only with the current.

Others too appear. Just as lifeless.

Far above in a tree - the bald eagle.

Watches and waits for movement below.

For breakfast.

It waits. And it hungers...

All: Verse 3

***Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!***

OUR SACRED STORIES:

(Lay Reader) (NRSV)

Jeremiah 12: 4

How long will the land mourn,
and the grass of every field wither?
For the wickedness of those who live in it
the animals and the birds are swept away,
and because people said, 'He is blind to our ways.'

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS:

All: God of Grace,

We have erred.

**Tho' given the goodness of creation,
We have thought only of our human selves.
Craving and careless. Greedy and grasping.
As if we were both separate and sovereign.
We have lost our place in your dance.**

We continue to stray.

Hoping nature will right itself.

**That the water will right itself. The air and the soil will right
itself.**

That we have only to wait and see.

That we do not have to change.

And that sacrifice is for another.

**All the while, the fragility and frailty of your dance
continues under siege.**

Creation groans.

God of Hope,

Help us to really see...

Ourselves. Our world. Your love in creation.

**Help us to find the conviction and determination that
we know is needed.**

To grow in understanding of ourselves, each other,
All creatures of your blessed Gift.
Our sacred Trust.
Help us to change our ways.
To surrender our cravings. Give up our grasping.
That all creation may know the abundance and beauty
of your dance.
We pray in the name of the vulnerable Christ. Amen

HYMN: MV #78 God Weeps

*1. God weeps at love withheld, at strength misused,
at children's innocence abused,
and till we change the way we love,
God weeps.*

*2. God bleeds at anger's fist, at trust betrayed,
at women battered and afraid,
and till we change the way we win,
God bleeds.*

*3. God cries at hungry mouths, at running sores,
at creatures dying without cause,
and till we change the way we care,
God cries.*

*4. God waits for stones to melt, for peace to seed,
for hearts to hold each other's need,
and till we understand the Christ,
God waits.*

EVENING SONG...

One:
River like glass.
A mirror for our looking.
At ourselves. At our arrogance and ignorance.
At our forgetting.
And our loss.

River like glass. Murky and milky.
Our reflection now stained.
And we thirst for hope.

God's echo grows faint.
Becomes a question,
Can it be good?

THE HOPE TO WHICH WE HAVE BEEN CALLED
MORNING CALLS...AGAIN...

One:
Wake up! Wake up!
The light that has been keeping its vigil,
Will not wait.
Dawn pierces the darkness.
Birds are singing their morning refrain.

Wake up!
There is no time.
We've heard the cry.
We have been called.

The garden needs now our tending.
It demands our attention.
Our touch. Our tenderness.
Our strength. Our resolve.

We are urged,
Wake up.
Rise up to the day. Dare to be daring.
Let the eyes of your heart be enlightened.

OUR SACRED STORIES :

(Lay Reader) (NRSV)

Ephesians 1: 18

so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,

Luke 10: 29-37 The Parable of the Good Samaritan

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii,^[a] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

RESPONSE:

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

IN MEMORY OF ALMA MCKINLAY:

A Tribute by Margaret Tirpkoff

HYMN IN MEMORY: He Leadeth Me

SERMON: *“Our Home: No less than a Miracle”*

HYMN: *VU #307 Touch the Earth Lightly*

*1. Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.*

*2. We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!*

*3. Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.*

*4. God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.*

A MEDITATION IN PRAYER FOR ALL AGES:

We do not sit on the sidelines of creation's dance.
Pretending distance.

Neutrality.

Even independence.

We cannot choose to be apart from it.
Because we already are...
A part of the whole.
And we recognize our foot fall for what it is.
Anything but neutral.

One comes towards us. Who has listened more closely to the
heartbeats.
And knows their rhythms. Knows they are of God.
As he is. Emmanuel.

PROFESSION OF FAITH *A 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,
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.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

We share the peace of Christ by typing in the chat box.

*You can also think of one person with whom you would like to
share the peace of Christ.*

MUSIC for PASSING the PEACE :

Two-Part Invention in E Major J.S. Bach

OFFERING

With an offering stone to honour all the ways we give,
we dedicate our offering, and pray together:

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF CGP p50

We bring our gifts to you, God.

**Here is the work of our hands,
and here is the love of our hearts.**

**Accept them and use them,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A single stone placed in the offering plate honours all our gifts.

Ways to give: **Phone:** 519-599-2438 or

Email: accounting@graceunitedthornbury.ca

to arrange a cheque pick-up, or an e-transfer

Mail: Grace UC, 140 Bruce St. S. PO Box 219, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Credit Card: www.graceunitedthornbury.ca, select "Give"

More ways to give: **Care, Prayer, Share**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us by Zoom following this service for:

Coffee Hour

The link was sent out by e-blast.

We Go Out to Share God's Love!

HYMN: MV #135 Called by the Earth and Sky

Refrain

**Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.**

**1. Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain,
the wash of love again.**

Refrain

**Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.**

**2. Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace.**

Refrain

**Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high,
This is our sacred trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.**

**3. Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song.**

Refrain

**Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high,
This is our sacred trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky,**

**4. Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.**

Refrain

**Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high,
This is our sacred trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.**

SENDING:

With the eyes of your hearts enlightened,
Go forth into the day.
With the hope to which we've been called.

Hear God's echo.
Affirm and celebrate...
It is good.

**SUNG BLESSING:VU #298 *When You Walk From Here*
*When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice,
walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care.***

POSTLUDE: Sonata in A Minor M. Clementi

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- Morning Calls, Prayer of Wholeness, Evening Song, Meditation in Prayer and Sending written by Ingrid Remkins.
- Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self from Celebrate God's Presence, p.50.
- Affirmation of Faith, "A New Creed," The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968. Alt. 1998.

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