

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster  
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrew's  
and Trinity Memorial United Churches**

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 2nd, 2021**

**Thank you for Connecting for Worship**  
**Today's Leadership includes**  
Preacher: The Rev. Michael Hare  
Presiding: The Rev. Tim Bowman  
The Rev. Bill Booth  
Musician: Jacob Greenan  
Song Leader: Deborah Handley and Jerry Johnson  
Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

*People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.*

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation**

**Land Acknowledgement Tim**

Today we recognize the Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada. Acknowledging the Land and the first nations peoples of our country is a hollow act if we don't also recognize that the suffering is not only historical. Today we light a candle to remember the many Indigenous women who are missing and have been murdered. Our nation and Culture has failed our indigenous sisters. All of God's children have a right to be safe and cherished.

**Lighting the Rainbow Candle Tim**

**Lighting the Christ Candle Bill**

Christ is risen

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

**Amen! Alleluia!**

**Call to Worship Tim**

One: In the Risen Christ we find our connection to God.

**All: Bound together we cling to the One who is our hope.**

One: Nurtured and sustained we find home in Jesus Christ.

**All: In the Name of the Risen One, we worship as God's people**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Prayer of Invocation Tim**

One: Source of Life; In this time of worship help us to lean into your gift of life. Help us to know that it is from the vine of the living Christ that our spiritual lives bloom and thrive. May our abundant life strengthen the vine of this Community of Christ's followers. Send your Life-Giving Spirit into this gathering. In the name of the Risen One. Amen.

## Hymn: “God We Praise You For The Morning” VU 415

*God, we praise you for the morning, hope springs forth with each new day,  
new beginning, prayer, and promise, joy in work and in play.*

*God, we praise you for creation, mountains, seas, and prairie land.  
Waking souls find joy and healing in your bountiful hand.*

*God, we praise you for compassion, all the loving that you show;  
human touching, tears, and laughter, help your children to grow.*

*God, we praise you for your Spirit, Comforter, and daily friend,  
restless searcher, gentle teacher, strength, and courage you send.*

*God, we praise you for the Saviour, come that we may know your ways.  
In his loving, dying, rising, Christ is Lord of our days.*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Christ is Lord of our days!*

## Time with Children **Tim**

### Hymn VU 477 “I Come with Joy” (VS 1, 4 & 5)

*I come with joy, child of God, forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here, alive among us here.*

*Together met, together bound by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.*

*We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms.*

## **We Listen for the Word**

### **Scripture: Acts 8:26-40**

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **John 15:1-8**

15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 15:2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 15:3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 15:4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 15:6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon Michael**

**Hymn: "Come in, come in, and Sit Down" VU 395**

***R. Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.***

*You know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family. R*

*God is with us in this place, like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace,  
for we are a part of the family. R*

*There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;  
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.  
This is God's temple; it's not yours or mine,  
but we are part of the family. R*

*There's rest for the weary and health for us all;  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.  
So come in and worship and answer the call,  
for we are a part of the family. R*

## **We Respond**

### **Invitation to Confess Tim**

Beloved Siblings. We are not alone in this world. God is our source of life and our hope. Let us open our hearts to release our fears and find forgiveness.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Source of life, we so often forget that all we are relies on You. Until our ego powered plans fail, we claim to be our own support. When drought comes, or the storm tears at our roots we find ourselves lost and alone. We live contrary to the spiritual wisdom Jesus taught us. Forgive us for our stubborn claim of self reliance and call us home. Amen**

### **Sung Response: "Change my Heart O God."**

*Change my heart oh God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart oh God, May I be like You.*

*You are the potter, I am the clay,  
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.*

*Change my heart oh God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart oh God, May I be like You.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

One: Forgiven and pruned by our failure the Holy Source of all life, draws us back into the embrace of Divine Love.

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people. Alleluia!**

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession Bill**

#### **Prayers Shared from the Chat Bill**

#### **Lord's Prayer (960 Sung)**

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Acknowledging our gifts for the work of God**

We give thanks for your financial offerings made through: cash, cheques mailed or dropped off, Pre-Authorized Remittance and online donations which together with your donations of time and work are used to further God's mission through the work of the congregations gathered here. We present these gifts as a sign of thanksgiving to God from whom all blessings flow.

## **Doxology** MV 185 “Ev’ry day is a Day of Thanksgiving

*Ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving.*

*God, you’ve been so good to me.*

*Ev’ry day you’re blessing me.*

*You know that ev’ry day is a day of thanksgiving.*

*I will glorify you, O My God, today!*

*You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.*

*You opened the door that I might see, you’re blessing me.*

*And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.*

*I will glorify you, O my God, today.*

## **Prayer of Dedication**

Holy God, Source of life, As the branches of your vine we return to you that which was created in our lives by the use of the gifts you have given us.

Bless our gifts of wealth, time, and love that your work among us may thrive. Amen

## **Hymn: “Three Things I Promise” MV 176**

*Three things I promise, Holy God, in age and youth, in life and death:  
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,  
and listen for the Spirit’s breath.*

*Your love unfolded time and space, and life,  
and all that life became, and so, with thankful heart  
and voice, through good and ill, I bless your Name.*

*I follow, serve, and cling to Christ amid our culture’s  
tides and trends, for here your Name is most revealed:  
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.*

*Enlivened as the Spirit moves to cleanse, awaken,  
and renew, I pray that justice, peace, and truth,  
may seed and grow in all I do.*

*If I should live when vigour fades, and family and  
friends are gone, three acts of loving faith remain  
when days are slow, and work is done.*

*Revive and guide me, Living God, as day by day,  
until my death, I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,  
and listen for the Spirit’s breath.*

## **Commissioning and Benediction** Michael

### **Sung Response:** “Sing Amen” VU 431

*Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.*

*Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.*

*Sing amen: Amen, amen, amen, amen*

*Amen we praise your name, O God.*

## **Postlude**

**Thank you for Connecting for Worship**

**Today’s Leadership includes**

Preacher: The Rev. Michael Hare

Presiding: The Rev. Tim Bowman

The Rev. Bill Booth

Musician: Jacob Greenan

Song Leader: Deborah Handley and Jerry Johnson

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright