

# York Pines United Church

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter

\*Please stand as you are able

## We Gather as God's People

**Prelude: "Chaconne"**

**L. Couperin**

### **Acknowledgement of the Land**

By now we know fully that we gather in the territory of the Ojibway peoples of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We support and accept the principles of Truth and Reconciliation. We acknowledge Anishinaabe stewardship to Mother Earth as we worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together, with mutual respect.

### **Announcements**

### **Minute for Mission**

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

### **Call to Worship** (based on Revelation 21: 1-6)

God promises a new heaven and a new earth.

**We come open to God's promise of renewal.**

God promises to dwell among us.

**We come open to God's promise of God's presence.**

God promises to wipe away every tear from our eyes.

**We come open to God's promise of comfort.**

God promises to make all things new.

**We come open to God's promise of transformation.**

Come, let us open our mouths and our hearts to sing praises to our faithful God.

### **\*Opening Hymn: "I See a New Heaven"**

**VU 713**

**I see a new heaven.**

**I see a new earth**

**as the old one will pass away,**

**where the fountain of life flows**

**and without price goes  
to all people who abide in the land.**

- 1 There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,  
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,  
the Tree of Life will be. R**
- 2 There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,  
body and soul, struggling but whole  
like flowers after the rain. R**
- 3 There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.  
There where the night, bearing new light,  
reveals the promise of love. R**
- 4 There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.  
Labour we must, true to our trust  
to build a promised new land.**

**Opening Prayer** (response is based on Jeremiah 31: 33)

God our friend, you listen to us and care for us in everything we do.  
Over and over again, you encourage us to turn towards your light.  
Free us from the times when we may feel helpless.

**Forgive us, God, and write your law upon our hearts.**

Free us from feeling powerless and help us to hear cries for justice.

**Forgive us, God, and write your law upon our hearts.**

Free us from times when we imagine that things cannot change.

**Forgive us, God, and write your law upon our hearts.**

Free us from times when we are afraid to risk finding new ways with  
new meaning for our lives.

**Forgive us, God, and write your law upon our hearts.**

Help us always to feel your love and care, your hope and  
encouragement.

**Forgive us, God, and write your law upon our hearts.**

This we pray in Jesus' name, who makes all things new. Amen.

**Words of Assurance** (based on Revelation 21: 5)

**Response: "Spirit of the Living God"  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**VU 376 vs 1**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith: 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.**

**Ministry of Music:       *"Just a Closer Walk"*   Arr. J. F. Wilson**

**We Listen for the Word of God**

**For the Children in All of Us**

**\*Hymn:                   *"O Christian, Love"*                   VU 594**

**1    O Christian, love your sister and your brother!  
      Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;  
      to worship rightly is to love each other,  
      each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.**

**2    Follow with reverent steps the great example:  
      Jesus whose holy work was doing good;  
      so shall the wide earth seem a hallowed temple,  
      each loving life a psalm of gratitude.**

**3    Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangour**

**of wild war-music o'er the earth shall cease;  
love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,  
and in its ashes plant the tree of peace.**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Scripture Readings**

John 13: 31-35

Acts 11: 1-18

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Response:                    "***Spirit of Life***"**

**VU 381**

**Spirit of Life, come unto me.**

**Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.**

**Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;**

**move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.**

**Roots hold me close; wings set me free;**

**Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**

**Reflection:    "***The Challenge of Change***"** The Rev. Bruce J. Roffey

## **Music for Silent Reflection**

**\* Hymn: "Be Still, My Soul"                    VU 652**

**1    Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.**

**Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,  
who through all changes faithful will remain.**

**Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend  
through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.**

**2    Be still, my soul, your God will undertake  
to guide the future surely as the past.**

**Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.**

**Be still, my soul, life's tempests still obey  
the voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.**

**3 Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be forever in God's peace;  
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,  
love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.  
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

### **We Respond to God's Word**

#### **The Offering of our Gifts and Ourselves**

**\*Offertory: "We Give You But Your Own " VU 542**  
**We give you but your own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is yours alone,  
we give it gratefully.**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

#### **Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer (sung) VU 959**  
**Our 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.**

### **We Go Forth to Love as Christians in the World**

**\*Closing Hymn: "How Firm a Foundation" VU 660**  
**1 How firm a foundation, you servants of God,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you has been said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

- 2 **“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed!  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen and help you and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.**
- 3 **“When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.**
- 4 **“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply:  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.**
- 5 **“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not – I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I’ll never – no, never – no, never forsake!”**

### **Blessing and Sending Forth**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Through Christ, God establishes a new heaven and a new earth, and makes all things new.

**God promises us renewal, comfort, transformation and a deeper sense of God’s presence.**

The promises of God are trustworthy and true.

**With the promises of God, we go forth to be Christ’s body in the world today with renewed hope and a desire to love others as Christ loves us.**

May the God of hope fill you with joy, peace and love, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. May God bless each one of you. May God bless us all.

**Amen.**

**\*Choral Prayer: *“May the God of Hope Go with Us”*  
424 VU, vs 1**

**May the God of hope go with us every day,  
 filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
 May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
 bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
 Praying, let us work for peace,  
 singing, share our joy with all,  
 working for a world that's new,  
 faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**Postlude: "Fughetta" F. Peeters**  
 (Please remain silently seated for the postlude.)

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**York United Ministries Announcements**

**Worship services** – All three churches of York United Ministries now worship in-person again. New Hope will worship at 9:30 am, King City at 10:00 am and York Pines at 11:00 am. The worship schedule is subject to change.

**Worship Schedule for York Pines United Church**

<b>Date</b>	<b>May 15</b>	<b>May 22</b>	<b>May 29</b>	<b>June 5</b>
<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Rev. Andrew Lee</b>	<b>Rev. Bruce Roffey</b>	<b>Rev. Andrew Lee</b>	<b>Rev. Bruce Roffey</b>
<b>Music Director</b>	<b>Ted Anderson</b>	<b>Ted Anderson</b>	<b>Ted Anderson</b>	<b>Ted Anderson</b>
<b>Church Year</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension)</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>Liturgical Colour</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Red</b>

**Offering** - Thank you for sending your offerings to the church. Your offerings support the ministry of the church and have been much appreciated. Please mail a cheque to your church directly, or make an e-transfer to the church email address.

### **York Pines Book Club**

The next Book Club meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 7 p.m.** It will be a planning meeting to select books for the next series. If you are interested in joining the Book Club contact York Pines United Church by sending an email to [yorkpinesuc@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpinesuc@gmail.com) or calling 905-727-8118.

### **In-Person Pastoral Counselling**

Rev. Lee offers pastoral counseling. Please contact Rev. Lee ([leeky3@mcmaster.ca](mailto:leeky3@mcmaster.ca)) to make an appointment.