



Richmond Hill United Church

An Affirming Ministry



November 4, 2018: Peace Sunday

We're very happy you could be here this morning. If you are here for the first time, there is some helpful additional information at end of printed service. Today's scripture reading is available in various languages. Please ask an usher. A * means you are invited to stand as you're able.

Called by God and Centred in the Teachings of Christ

Chime Prelude Stella Creasor

Lighting of Community Candle

Acknowledgement of the Land and Affirmation of Inclusion

Church at Work and Worship: *We share ways we worship beyond these walls.*

Choral Introit: "Wage Peace" (Lori True) Chancel Choir

Litany of Peace (*Adapted from a prayer by the Iona Community. Please respond to the portions printed in **bold** print*):

People of Ireland, torn and tired of being torn: **may there be peace.**

People of Africa, exploited and tired of being exploited: **may there be peace.**

People of the Middle East, turbulent and tired of being turbulent: **may there be peace.**

People of South America, silenced and tired of being silenced: **may there be peace.**

People of India, divided and tired of being divided: **may there be peace.**

People of Eastern Europe, anxious and tired of being anxious: **may there be peace**

People of the West, privileged and tired of being privileged: **may there be peace.**

Every people and nation – **may there be grace and peace this and every day.**

Prayer of Approach (*in unison*):

Spirit of Peace we come in earnest desire for lasting peace in our world – peace between nations and tribes, peace within our families and communities, peace in our hearts and in our relationship with you. May peace rest upon us and may we remember and honour all who have lived and died for peace. We pray in the name of the One known as Prince of Peace. Amen.

* Hymn: "This Is My Song" (*see insert*)

Reflecting Together as a Community

Learning Together: *Children come to the front to explore the day's message.*

Children go to Discovery Time. Youth remain for the rest of the service.

Centering Prayer: *As we listen to the tone of the singing bowl, we centre ourselves in preparation to hear readings from around the world.*

Series of readings by Vince Conville, Jenny Huang and Matthew Warrick

Reading: "The Present Pilgrimage" by Susan Paolo Cherwien

Anthem: "I Choose Love" (Mark Miller) Youth Choir & Chancel Choir

Reading: 1 John 4:16, 18-21

Anthem: "Blessed, How Blessed" (Susan Paolo Cherwien) Chancel Choir

Reading: Isaiah 2:2-4

Anthem: "Peace" (Patricia Mock) Chancel Choir

Reading: Excerpt from Albert Einstein, "Condolence letter to Norman Salit"

* Hymn: "Creator of the Intertwined" (*see insert*)

Message: "Lament and Liberation" Rev. James Ravenscroft

Sharing in a Spirit of Gratitude

Prayers for Peace

The Prayer of Jesus (*a Latin American version*):

God, who is in us here on earth, holy is your name in the hungry who share their bread and their song. Your Kingdom come, which is a land flowing with milk and honey. Let us do your will, raising our voice when all are silent. You are giving us our daily bread in the song of the bird and the miracle of the corn. Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice. Don't let us fall into the temptation of taking up the same arms as the enemy. But deliver us from evil. Give us the perseverance to look for love, even if we fail; so we shall have known your Kingdom which is being built forever and ever. Amen.

Offering: *In support of the church we share from our resources, giving in thanks for what we've received. Tax receipts are given.*

Offertory: "Offertory on Two Folk Hymns" (Lee Hastings Bristol) 2.

* Doxology: "Today We Are Called to Be Disciples" (VU #507, v.3)

**Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.**

* Offering Prayer: *We dedicate gifts received in the collection and by PAR.*

Called beyond Ourselves to Minister to the World

* Hymn: "Let Streams of Living Justice" (*see insert*)

* Blessing (adapted from John O'Donohue, *Benedictus*)

One: As the fever of day calms towards twilight.

All: May all that is strained in us come to ease.

One: For all who suffered violence today,

All: May an unexpected serenity surprise them.

One: For those who risk their lives each day for peace,

All: May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.

One: May those who make riches from violence and war

All: Hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.

One: May we see through our fear of each other

All: To a new vision that heals our attraction to aggression.

One: May those who enjoy the privilege of peace

All: Not forget their tormented sisters and brothers.

One: That the wolf may lie down with the lamb,

That our swords may be beaten into ploughshares,

All: And no hurt or harm be done anywhere along the holy mountain.

Postlude: "Fugue in D Minor" (Clara Schumann)

Members of our Ministry Team

Reverend James Ravenscroft, Minister

Jennifer Townsend, Coordinator of Nursery and Discovery Time

Barry Peters, Director of Music Anne Leyton-Brown, Youth Choir Director

Dan Plourde & Paulette Paul, Custodians Deb Fratin, Office Administrator

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For your comfort and convenience please note the following:

- ❖ Large print bulletins and a Hearing Assist system are available.
- ❖ A red square on the hymn board means the hymn is in Voices United.
- ❖ An accessible, gender neutral washroom with changing table is available just through the door to the left of the choir loft.
- ❖ We have a rocking chair in the back of sanctuary for those needing to feed or otherwise care for infants. (Or if you just need a bit of a rock.)
- ❖ We have a nursery for children under 4. Please ask an usher for help.
- ❖ We generally have programs for children and youth during the service. Please refer to the order of service for more information.
- ❖ Our church is scent-sensitive for the care of people with allergies.
- ❖ All are welcome for refreshments after worship. To be identified as a newcomer who would like conversation, please choose a blue mug.
- ❖ For information about our congregation and ways to get involved, please drop by our "Welcome Table" located in Centennial Hall.
- ❖ Please turn all cellphones and other electronic devices to silent.
- ❖ The order of service is also available online. Go to www.rhuc.org and look under the heading "Spirit", and then "worship services".