



Richmond Hill United Church
An Affirming Ministry



October 18, 2020: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
(Latin American Heritage Month; Women's History Month)

The following resource is offered to help you worship at home, either on your own or online. Worship is livestreamed on Zoom. Log-in details are sent weekly by email to those on RHUC's contact list. For a recording of the service, click the following link: www.facebook.com/RichmondHillUnitedChurch/. This will take you to our Facebook page. We may be apart physically but we are still a community of faith spiritually, and digitally.

Centred in Christ

Welcome

Lighting the Community Candle: *As the candle in the sanctuary is lit, you are invited to light your own candle at home. We may be dispersed, but together we shine in love.*

Acknowledgement of the Land: *We take time to give thanks for the land and for the Indigenous communities who continue to steward it. We extend greetings in Seneca, Spanish and Cantonese.*

Time to Be Centred

Listening to the singing bowl, we release concerns and open ourselves to the presence of Divine Love.

Call to Worship

One: In the receptiveness of hopeful hearts,

All: we feel the renewing grace of the Spirit.

One: In the enquiry of questioning minds,

All: we hear the inspiring voice of the Spirit.

One: In the embrace of faithful community,

All: we share in the healing love of the Spirit.

Opening Prayer

Spirit of Life and Love, we come together with open hearts,
trusting that you know each of us by name.

Be with us as we pray together, consecrating us in grace
and empowering us to live out our baptism, to make visible in our lives
the good news of Jesus in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn: "Take My Life and Let It Be" (*Voices United* #506)

- 1. Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise.**
- 2. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3. Take my lips and let them be filled with message from thee;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose.**
- 4. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**

**5. Take my love and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be, ever, only, all for thee.**

Celebrating Long-time Member Madeline Johnston

Prayer of Blessing and Wisdom

There is always sadness when friends part, Holy One,
and so while we are grateful for Madeline's many years of dedication to this community of faith,
we know that we will miss our dear friend and sister,
praying she will find a way to visit with us often.

As we say farewell, we do so aware of the blessing she has been for us:
in her experience we have heard your voice of wisdom instructing us;
in her constant presence we have seen your faithfulness encouraging us;
and in her untiring service, we have witnessed your love affirming us.
Bless her as she has blessed us, embracing her in your grace and goodness.
We pray this in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Reflecting Together as a Community

Readings: Matthew 22:15-22 (Read by Sara Mollaei)

Then the Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words.
They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him.

“Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are genuine and that you teach God’s way as it really is.
We know that you are not swayed by people’s opinions, because you don’t show favoritism.
So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, “Why do you test me, you hypocrites?
Show me the coin used to pay the tax.” And they brought him a denarion.

“Whose image and inscription is this?” he asked. “Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.”

When they heard this, they were astonished, and they departed.

Anthem: "Exsultate" (M.L. Lightfoot)

An Excerpt from *Warrior of the Light: A Manual* by Paulo Coelho

A Warrior of the Light does not rely on strength alone, he makes use of his opponent’s energy too.

When he enters the fight, all he has is his enthusiasm, the moves and strikes that he learned during his training. As the fight progresses, he discovers that enthusiasm and training are not enough to win: what counts is experience.

Then he opens his heart to the Universe and asks God to give him the inspiration he needs to turn every blow from his enemy into a lesson in self-defence.

His companions say: “He’s so superstitious. He stopped fighting in order to pray. He even shows respect for his opponent’s tricks.”

A Warrior does not respond to these provocations. He knows that without inspiration and experience, no amount of training will help him.

Message: "Render to Caesar?"

Introduction to the Celebration of Baptism

One: By water and the Spirit: we are called, claimed, commissioned.

All: We are called God's own and welcomed as God's children.

We are claimed by Christ and united in community as the disciples of Jesus.

**We are commissioned to continue his mission,
strengthened through the Spirit to reveal God's love, compassion, justice and peace.**

Presentation of Candidates

On behalf of the congregation of Richmond Hill United Church, I present Grace Katahlinna Willey Bissell, child of Kate and Tim, to be welcomed into the Body of Christ through baptism.

Profession of Faith and Promises by Parents and Godparents

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, will you seek justice and resist the power of evil?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you turn to Jesus, following his Way as you join with your siblings in this community of faith
to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Baptism marks an important step in your child's journey of faith.

Will you care for her and help her to walk in the way of Jesus?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment

One: Let us pledge our ongoing support and care to Grace and her parents:

**All: Grace, Kate and Tim, we will support, love and grow with you. With God's help, we will
live out our baptism as a loving community: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one
another in prayer, and encouraging one another in love.**

Prayer over Water

Gracious and Holy God,

we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water.

Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation.

By water, comes the growth of the earth.

Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.

In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do,

that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,

in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

The Act of Baptism:

Grace Katahlinna, I baptize you, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Blessing, Marking with the Sign of the Cross, Laying on of Hands

...may the blessing of the one God, Mother and Father of us all, be with you today and always.

From this day forward, may you bear the sign of Jesus, God's child.

And may the power of the Holy Spirit work within you,
that you may be a faithful witness of God's grace and love. **Amen.**

Lighting of Candle and Presentation of Prayer Shawl

...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.
And receive this prayer shawl as a sign of the prayerful love and ongoing care of this faith community.

Welcome

Let us welcome Grace into this faith community and into the universal Church of Christ.

Blessing of Parents, Grandparents and Families

God, our Creator, you bring joy to all families

as they see the hope of new life shine on their children.

Bless Grace's parents, Kate and Tim. May they nurture and protect her in love.

Bless her grandparents. May they share their wisdom and guidance.

Bless her whole extended family. May they bring her joy and surround her with loving care.

And may the blessing of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter,
be with you now and evermore. **Amen.**

Anthem: "Exsultate justi" (L. Viadana)

Prayers of the People (composed by Ian Wilgus)

The Prayer of Jesus (By Bruce Sanguin in *Darwin, Divinity and the Dance of the Cosmos*)

Loving Presence, luminous in all creation, hallowed be your name. Thy kin-dom come.

May we reflect on Earth the yielding perfection of the heavens.

Help us to receive an illumined measure from Earth this day.

Forgive us when we trespass against others, human and other-than-human,

as we forgive others who trespass against us. Keep us on the path of wisdom

when we are tempted to take the selfish path. May it be your rule we follow,

your power we exercise, and your radiance that allures.

May this be the truth that guides our lives, the ground from which our future will grow,

until we meet again. Amen

Offering Prayer

Maker of All, we pause with gratitude for the gift of life, for the hope we see in Grace and in the
companionship we have shared with Madeline, both signs of your abiding love. We give thanks as
well for all the gifts of this community, for talents freely shared, for helping hands and caring hearts,
for gifts offered through PAR, online and sent by mail, for all these blessings we give thanks. **Amen.**

Hymn: "I the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)" (*Voices United* #509)

- I, the Lord of sea and sky I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save
I, who made the stars of night I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me I will hold your people in my heart**

2. **I, the Lord of snow and rain I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone give them hearts for love alone
Who will speak my word to them Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me I will hold your people in my heart**
3. **I, the Lord of wind and flame I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide 'til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart**

Blessing and Sending Forth

One: As we go forth from here:

All: may we be strong in spirit, courageous in will, and gentle of heart.

One: Each day may our actions be:

All: rooted in wisdom, nurtured by hope and open to love.

One: May we meet others as we would wish to be met:

All: with a heart of compassion, in a spirit of healing & grounded in joy.

Postlude: "Rigaudon" (Gordon Young)