



Richmond Hill United Church

An Affirming Ministry



July 25, 2021: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Acknowledgement of the Land: *We take time to give thanks for the land and for the Indigenous communities who continue to steward it.*

Lighting the Christ Candle: *As the candle in the sanctuary is lit, please light your own at home. Light of New Life, shine around us and through us to encompass the world.*

Call to Worship (*based on Psalm 9, traditionally ascribed to David, as rendered by Nan Merrill*)

One: Give thanks to the Beloved with your whole heart;
tell the story of Love's way;
be glad and dance with joy.

**All: For you, O Beloved, are ever present,
ready to be known in open hearts.**

One: Love is a stronghold for the oppressed,
a foundation in difficult times.

**All: For You, O Beloved, are ever-present
to those who know You.**

One: Let us worship God.

Hymn: "Let Us Build a House" (*More Voices #1, verses 1,2,4,5*)

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

- 1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace, here the love of Christ shall end divisions: R**
- 2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: R**
- 3. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: R**

5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Build of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: R

Opening Prayer

Reflecting Together as a Community.

Hebrew Scripture Reading: II Samuel 11:1-15 (read by Anne Leyton-Brown)

Last Sunday, we met King David, comfortably installed in his palace, ready and willing to build a house for God. We listened in as Nathan, God's spokesperson, questioned whether he was the one to undertake the task. This hard "no" was accompanied by the great, good news that God was entering into covenant with David and his descendants. They were God's chosen ones to lead God's people.

Story: "Wheat and Weeds" (*based on Matthew 13:24-30*)

Anthem: "Love is the Boat for the Journey" *Ian Callahan*

Message: Focus on David, Part Two: *Hero / Villain?*

Linda M. Butler

Hymn: "*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*" (*Voices United #375*)

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.**

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the
valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. R**
- 2 You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes. R**
- 3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world
was still; and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. R**
- 4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise. R**

Sharing in a Spirit of Gratitude

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Jesus *(from Latin America, adapted)*

**Loving 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 generous land
which flows with milk and honey.
Let us do your will,
standing up when all are sitting down,
and 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,
and for burying our dreams,
for not sharing bread and wine, love and the land,
among us, now.
Don't let us fall into the temptation
of shutting the door through fear;
of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice;
of taking up the same arms as the enemy.
But deliver us from evil.
Give us the perseverance and the solidarity
to look for love,
even if the path has not yet been trodden,
even if we fall;
so we shall have known your kingdom
which is being built for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn: "As a Fire Is Meant for Burning" (*Voices United* #578)

**1 As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.**

2 We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.

3 As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

Called beyond Ourselves to Minister to the World

Blessing and Sending Forth: (*from Gathering*)

Ian: May we go out from here to live in the joy
of the wondrous love of the threefold God,
in the shaping of the Creator,
in the energy of our friendship with Christ,
and in the kindness of the Spirit of Life

Linda: who calls us to live,
who calls us to love,
who calls us to serve,
this day, this night and forevermore.

Both: Amen.

Postlude: "Dance" *Michael Praetorius*

Liturgist: Ian Wilgus

Preacher: Linda M. Butler