



Richmond Hill United Church
An Affirming Ministry



September 12, 2021

The following resource is offered to help you worship at home, either on your own or online. The worship will be 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.

Prelude: we begin with welcoming slides

Announcements

Words of welcome

Lighting the Community Candle

Acknowledgement of the Land: Let us now take a moment to acknowledge the land that we are on today, Richmond Hill United is on the land of Mississaugas of the Credit River, if you know the territory where you are I invite you to silently reflect on whose territory you are on, as we strive to walk the way of reconciliation.

Call to Worship: adapted from Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado

Holy Wisdom of God calls to us from the depths of our hearts,
where we long for connection with one another.

**Wisdom calls to us from busy streets and neighbourhoods,
Where human pain and possibility are most urgent.**

Wisdom calls to us from our sacred stories,
where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort.

**We come together in worship guided by the God of Wisdom embarking on an
adventure of hope.**

Come let us worship

Opening Prayer:

God of wisdom, you cry to us from the street and yet there are times when we do not hear you. Open our ears to hear and our eyes to see what you are calling us to do and be.

Guide us, we pray, and help us see with your eyes

the ways which lead to beloved community

where Christ Jesus is at the centre. Amen

Hymn: Come O Fount of Every Blessing Voices United 559

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

2 Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Reflecting Together as a Community

Prayer: Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways, Speak to us now. Help is to hear your voice and follow in the way. Amen

Reading: Proverbs 1:20-33 The Message

Barbara Cooper

Lady Wisdom

²⁰⁻²¹ Lady Wisdom goes out in the street and shouts.
At the town center she makes her speech.
In the middle of the traffic she takes her stand.
At the busiest corner she calls out:

²²⁻²⁴ "Simpletons! How long will you wallow in ignorance?
Cynics! How long will you feed your cynicism?
Idiots! How long will you refuse to learn?
About face! I can revise your life.
Look, I'm ready to pour out my spirit on you;
I'm ready to tell you all I know.
As it is, I've called, but you've turned a deaf ear;
I've reached out to you, but you've ignored me.

25-28 “Since you laugh at my counsel
and make a joke of my advice,
How can I take you seriously?
I’ll turn the tables and joke about *your* troubles!
What if the roof falls in,
and your whole life goes to pieces?
What if catastrophe strikes and there’s nothing
to show for your life but rubble and ashes?
You’ll need me then. You’ll call for me, but don’t expect an answer.
No matter how hard you look, you won’t find me.

29-33 “Because you hated Knowledge
and had nothing to do with the Fear-of-God,
Because you wouldn’t take my advice
and brushed aside all my offers to train you,
Well, you’ve made your bed—now lie in it;
you wanted your own way—now, how do you like it?
Don’t you see what happens, you simpletons, you idiots?
Carelessness kills; complacency is murder.
First pay attention to me, and then relax.
Now you can take it easy—you’re in good hands.”

Anthem: “Christ We See You” (Ken Medema)

Reading: What’s Needed by Richard Wagamese

Barbara Cooper

What’s needed are eyes that focus with the soul. What’s needed are spirits open to everything. What’s needed are the belief that wonder is the glue of the universe and the desire to seek more of it. Be filled with wonder

Message “Best Wishes, Warmest Regards”

Ruth Noble

Hymn: Dream a Dream More Voice #158

Dream a dream, a hopeful dream,
as children do on Christmas Eve,
imaginings,
surprising things
to hold and to believe. (to believe)

Dream a time,
this Christmas time,
when no one’s hungry or afraid;
that weapons go
and harvests grow,
that friends are met and made. (met and made)

Dream a peace,
our planet’s peace,

the greening of the earth at play,
the holy ground
where life is found,
where God has touched the clay. (touched the clay)

Dream a gift,
the Christmas gift
that changes everything we see:
the shimmering
of angel wing,
the Child, the Mystery. (Mystery)

Sharing in a Spirit of Gratitude

Prayers of the People

Julia Ye

The Prayer of Jesus (page 916 of Voices United A Translation version)

A Minute for the Environment

Esther Collier

Hymn: God's Dream is like a Haunting Song

Called beyond Ourselves to Minister to the World

Blessing and Sending Forth

Postlude: "Mr. Purcell's March" (John Cook)
