



Richmond Hill United Church
An Affirming Ministry



January 16, 2022

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: "Little Litany of Jesus" (Gabriel Grovlez)

Words of welcome: Welcome, today we continue through the season of Epiphany and our focus on what it means to be stewards of our community of faith as we reflect on sharing our gifts of time and money.

One: God is good

All: all the time.

One: All the time

All: God is good.

Announcements:

It is with sadness that we are now back to online worship only for the next number of weeks in order to keep everyone safe.

Lighting the Community Candles: As people of faith, we are people of the Trinity, the three aspects of the Creator. Today we light these three candles: the candle of reconciliation, may we continue to walk a path of mending broken covenants, the candle of our faith in Jesus, the radical who calls us to live a life of acceptance and challenging the status quo and the candle of affirmation, that all are welcome in this place.

Settler Acknowledgement of Our Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation

Long before my people journeyed to this land, the Anishaabeg, Huron-Wendat and the Mississaugas of the Credit were here and they received from their Elders an understanding of creation and of the Mystery that surrounds us all that was deep, and rich, and to be treasured. When they shared their vision, my people did not hear. My people tried to force Indigenous peoples to be like us, and, in so doing, we helped to destroy the vision that made them what they were.

We are in the midst of a long and painful journey as we reflect on the cries that our church did not or would not hear, and how we have behaved as a church. As we travel this difficult road of repentance, reconciliation, and healing, we commit ourselves to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority.

We pray that all Indigenous people will hear the sincerity of our words today and that they will witness the living out of our apology in our actions in the future.

Call to Worship

One: Jesus embraced his friends with love.

All: Let us witness to God with our arms.

One: Jesus wept when his friends experienced grief.

All: Let us witness to God with our hearts.

One: Jesus healed people with his touch.

All: Let us witness to God with our hands.

One: Jesus taught in the synagogues.

All: Let us witness to God with our ears.

One: Jesus walked alongside the oppressed.

All: Let us witness to God with our feet.

One: Jesus taught us that to experience life to its fullest requires our entire selves.

All: Let us worship God with all of our selves: mind, body, soul, and spirit.

Opening Prayer

Creator of all, you call us into community, to work together as one body. Be with us today as we join our hearts and voices to bring praise to you who have perfectly created each of us. Help us to see past our perceived imperfections to see the beauty you created in us and in the world. Accept the praise of your family as we reach out to you, and each other, in worship and adoration. Amen

Hymn: Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (Voices United #559)

- 1 **Come, O Fount of every blessing,
 tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
 call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
 mount of God's unfailing love.**

- 2 **Here I pause in my sojourning,
 giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
 God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
 precious presence, precious blood.**

- 3 **O, to grace how great a debt
 or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
 bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
 wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
 seal it for your very own.**

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

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a English Standard Version

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves^[a] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts,^[b] yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

Anthem: We Are One (Brian Tate)**Luke 4:14–21 English Standard Version**

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because he has anointed me
 to proclaim good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
 and recovering of sight to the blind,
 to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Message: "We, the Anointed Ones"

Hymn: Creator God, You Gave Us Life (More Voices #27)

Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.

- 1. Creator God you gave us life, your image formed within our souls, yet through the mist of time and space, we search for that which makes us whole. R**
- 2. In every flow'r and ev'ry tree, we see your great diversity, yet greater still we see your love, expressed in our humanity. R**
- 3. When with our hearts, our hands our minds, we share our gifts with all the world, our spirits soar beyond the veil, to touch the very face of God. R.**

Offertory invitation

Just as God has asked us to be the whole body of Christ, we are also asked to use all of our gifts and talents to further the work of God in our world. We have all been blessed with an abundance of gifts: the communities we build, the families we nurture, the friends we love, the church we call home, our abilities and our possessions. We are also asked to share with those around us and, together, to share with those across the world through Mission & Service. We are asked to share our prayers, our love, our finances, and our connections. The body of Christ has many parts and so does the church of Christ. And when we are willing to share the pieces we have, we are able to get closer to the vision of God's kingdom here on earth.

Now is the opportunity to share your gifts to further the church's work and the Spirit's mission.

God, we offer these gifts to you knowing that you have called us to work together.

Bless them, multiply them, and use them to enable us, your body, to create a better world with all of creation. Amen.

Sharing in a Spirit of Gratitude

Prayers of the People

Lynne Saul

The Prayer of Jesus:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;**

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Minute for Mission

Hymn: The Church of Christ in Every Age (Voices United #601)

- 1 **The church of Christ in every age,
 beset by change but Spirit led,
 must claim and test its heritage
 and keep on rising from the dead.**

- 2 **Across the world, across the street
 the victims of injustice cry
 for shelter and for bread to eat,
 and never live until they die.**

- 3 **Then let the servant church arise,
 a caring church that longs to be
 a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
 and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

- 4 **For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
 can cure the fever in our blood,
 and teach us how to share our bread
 and feed the starving multitude.**

- 5 **We have no mission but to serve
 in full obedience to our Lord:
 to care for all without reserve
 and spread Christ's liberating word.**

Called beyond Ourselves to Minister to the World

Sending Forth

Benediction

Postlude: "Prelude & Fugue in C" (J.S. Bach)