



Richmond Hill United Church
An Affirming Ministry



Theme: *It only takes a spark* June 19, 2022

The following resource is offered to help you worship in the sanctuary 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.

Words of welcome & announcements: new group, God in Daily Life, starting September.

Gathering & Centering

Centre with Music: *Little Litanies of Jesus* Gabriel Grovley

Lighting the Community Candles:

The candle of reconciliation, lighting a path to healing & mending broken covenants.
The candle of our faith in Jesus, the radical who calls us to live love in the world.
The candle of affirmation, whose light draws the circle wide.

Acknowledgement of injustice & Commitment to change

There was a time when aboriginal women & gender diverse people played key leadership roles across Turtle Island, as healers, protectors of resources, defenders of the land and keepers of the water.

Colonisation created the ideas that continue to dehumanise indigenous women, girls and non-binary gender expressions: making them targets of violence. We acknowledge the enduring presence of first nations on this land and that they continue to cry out for justice. We commit to being a spark for justice, so that the fire of transformation will burn brightly and the spirit of reconciliation and healing will blow among all people.

Call to Worship

Spirit of the Living God, dance with us.

Come, Whirlwind of Wonder!

Sing to the groaning of creation.

Come, still small voice of Hope!

Enflame us with your passion for justice.

Come, Liberator of the Least!

Prayer

God in Community, Holy in One
you are constant, cradling us in love,
Patiently teaching and reaching out to us
And so we worship you.

Jesus, in you we are convinced God loves us;
through you we are formed into your people;
with you, we serve those the world has forgotten.
And so we follow you.

Holy Spirit, you are the power that gives us peace;
you are the wisdom that reveals the broken in our midst;
you are the voice we sometimes ignore.
And so we listen to your wisdom. Amen

Hymn: "Though I May Speak" VU372

- 1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
 and have the gift to all inspire,
 and have not love, my words are vain,
 as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

- 2 Though I may give all I possess,
 and striving so my love profess,
 but not be given by love within,
 the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

- 3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
 our spirits long to be made whole.
 Let inward love guide every deed;
 by this we worship, and are freed.**

Reflecting & Responding as a Community

Setting the context: sacred story of scripture and worship theme.

Scripture: Acts 2: 43 – 47 NRSV Steve Ruminsky

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day God added to their number.

Anthem: *I'm Gonna Sing* Mark Miller

Message: Karen Dale

Hymn: "Over My Head" MV88

Refrain:

**Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.**

ONE: When the storms of life are raging

ALL: I hear music in the air.

ONE: When the storms of life are ragin'

ALL: I hear music in the air.

ONE: When the storms of life are ragin;

ALL: I hear music in the air.

There must be a God somewhere.

Refrain:

**Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.**

ONE: When the winds of strife are blowing

ALL: I hear music in the air.

ONE: When the winds of strife are blowing

ALL: I hear music in the air.

ONE: When the winds of strife are blowing

ALL: I hear music in the air.

There must be a God somewhere. R

Refrain:

**Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.**

ONE: When the tide of hate is risin'

ALL: I hear music in the air.

ONE: When the tide of hate is risin'

ALL: I hear music in the air.

ONE: When the tide of hate is risin'

ALL: I hear music in the air.

There must be a God somewhere. R

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Offertory invitation

We are gifted by God's spirit but sometimes we ignore these gifts, leave them unopened, pack them away. It is time to open these gifts and spend them lavishly on the stewardship of your world.

Let us take a moment to reflect on the ways we can share that abundance with gratitude with Richmond Hill United Church through gifts of cheques dropped off during the week at the church office, or through e-transfer or through the RHUC.org website and the Canada Helps portal.

Sung response: "Spirit God, Be Our Breath" MV150

1. Spirit God: be our breath, be our song. Blow through us, bringing strength to move on. Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...Spirit God, be our song.

2. Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear. Comfort us. When we know you are near we grow more certain, our vision is clear. Patient God, calm our fear.

3. Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer. Reaching out, joining hands as we share, we seek your guidance through friendship and care. Loving God, be our prayer.

4. Spirit God: be our breath, be our song. Blow through us, bringing strength to move on. Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...Spirit God, be our song.

Prayers of the People: Jane Wedlock

Prayer of Jesus

**Indwelling God, free-flowing spirit,
infused throughout all existence,
we honour you with many names.
Your spirit is within the human heart.
We accept life for all that it can be,
on earth as throughout all creation.
May we continue to draw sustenance from this earth,
and may we receive forgiveness equal to our own.
May we move from separation toward union,
to live in grace, with love in our hearts,
forever and ever. Amen**

Minute for Mission: 21st-National Indigenous Peoples Day Tracy Wixon

Called into the world

Hymn: "Bathe Me in Your Light" MV82

- 1. Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator: let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace. Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding, showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.**
- 2. Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder; help me walk, the sacred path of harmony and peace. May I be attentive to the musings of your presence, drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.**
- 3. Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing; teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength. Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and whole-ness, Fill me with promise of a love that knows no length.**

Blessing for the journey

In all of life's moments - God is with us.
As we step out into the world – God is with us.
We go as a Pentecost people,
touched by fire,
stirred by wind,
to mend the world,
and in the mending be transformed.

Postlude: *Toccata on Leoni* Gordon Young