



Richmond Hill United Church

An Affirming Ministry



**May 15, 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/](https://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.

**Chimes:** Carolyn Balant

**Words of welcome & announcements**

**Gathering & Centering**

**Centre with Music:** *The King'sfold Trumpet*, Alfred Fedak

**Lighting the Community Candles:**

The candle of reconciliation, lighting a path to healing & mending broken covenants.

The candle of our faith in Jesus, the healer who calls us to live love in the world.

The candle of affirmation, whose light draws the circle wide.

**Land Acknowledgement & Commitment to Justice**

We acknowledge that RHUC is located within the traditional territory of many First Nations, including the Chippewas of Georgina Island and the Mississaugas of the Credit and that these lands are now home to many diverse Indigenous peoples.

We recognise that truth-telling, remembering and reconciliation is an ongoing process and that we as colonisers have much work to do. So we commit to building mutual relationships with Indigenous peoples and the environment. It is through our actions that we honour First Nations: both their ancestors and future generations on this land that we share with reverence and humility.

**Call to Worship** based on Isaiah 58:8

Holy One, your light of love, breaks forth like the dawn

**Your healing rises up in all peoples.**

Sustaining One, be with us now as we

**Rise together,**

**seeking renewal for all creation.**

**Prayer**

O God, we enter into your holiness, wondering if we are worthy.

Awaken us to the task of becoming beautiful – beautiful in spirit, mind and heart:

a loving people engaged in the daily movement towards justice.

Arouse our imaginations, that your peaceable realm come in and through us.

Empower us to dare live compassion

and be open to receiving compassion from others. Amen

**Hymn: "Now Thank We All Our God" VU236**

- 1 Now thank we all our God, with heart,  
and hands, and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
  
- 2 O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.**
  
- 3 All praise and thanks to God  
for all that has been given,  
the Son, and Spirit blest  
who dwell in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

### **Reflecting & Responding as a Community**

**Setting the context:** sacred story of scripture and worship theme "Arise!"

**Scripture: Matthew 9:9-11** The Message **June Blanchette**

Passing along, Jesus saw a man at his work collecting taxes. His name was Matthew.

Jesus said, "Come along with me." Matthew stood up and followed him.

Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew's house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and misfits?"

**Anthem:** *Barter* Frank DeWald

**Message:** Karen Dale

**Hymn: "God of the Bible" MV28 v1,3,5**

**Refrain: Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change. Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.**

**1. God of the Bible, God in the Gospel, hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come, you are out centre, daylight or darkness, freedom or prison, you are our home.**

**3. Those without status, those who are nothing, you have made royal, gifted with rights, chosen as partners, midwives of justice, birthing new systems, lighting new lights. R**

**5. Hope we must carry, shining and certain through all our turmoil, terror and loss, bonding us gladly one to the other, till our world changes facing the Cross.  
R**

### **Offertory invitation**

We are invited to widen the breadth of those we choose to get to know, to deepen relationships with those already in our circle and to celebrate the richness of our lives. 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, Open My Heart" MV79 refrain, v3, refrain  
Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

**3. May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.**

**Prayers of the People: Ian Wilgus**

**Sing: The Lord's Prayer VUp959  
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your king-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,  
for the king-dom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Minute for Mission - Secret Friends Reveal Donna Smith**

### **Called into the world**

**Hymn: "We Cannot Measure How You Heal" VU613 v1,2,5,6**

- 1 We cannot measure how you heal  
or answer every sufferer's prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.**
  
- 2 The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds  
are present as if meant to last.**
  
- 5 So some have come who need your help,  
and some have come to make amends;  
your hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.**

**6 Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain  
and make your broken people whole.**

**Blessing for the journey**

May we dare rebirth,  
Shaping a world that welcomes & dances with joy,  
A world where God is at rest:  
A world shaped not simply for ourselves  
But for all the living yet to come.

**Sung blessing: "Rise Up, Rise Up" MV130**

**Rise up, rise up, rise up O my soul,  
Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name [repeat]**

**Postlude:** *Scherzo*, Robert Jones