



**Richmond Hill United Church**  
An Affirming Ministry



**May 22, 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.

**Words of welcome & announcements**

**Gathering & Centering**

**Centre with Music:** *Folk Tune*, Andrew Fletcher

**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**

Holy One, be with us in our eagerness and our uncertainty  
As we balance on the edge of new life, mystery and healing,  
seeking courage to take the plunge.

Lift us, encourage us to keep moving despite the stumbles and setbacks.

Empower us to break free from deadening habits,

goad us to set out after fresh dreams,

to live with passion this amazing life so freely offered. Amen

**Hymn: “Healer of Our Every Ill” VU619**

**Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

- 1 You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness.  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. R**
- 2 In the pain and joy beholding,  
how your grace is still unfolding.  
Give us all your vision, God of love. R**
- 3 Give us strength to love each other,  
every sister, every brother.  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. R**
- 4 You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing.  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. R**

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

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

**Scripture: John 5:1-9** The Message **Steve Ruminsky**

Jesus was back in Jerusalem. Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there was a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, with five alcoves. Hundreds of sick people—blind, crippled, paralyzed—were in these alcoves. One man had been an invalid there for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he said, “Do you want to get well?” The sick man said, “Sir, when the water is stirred, I don’t have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in.” Jesus said, “Get up, take your bedroll, start walking.” The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off.

**Anthem:** *Comfort the People*, Roger Summers

**Message:** Karen Dale

**Hymn: “There Is a Time” MV165**

- 1. There is a time that we must rise.  
There is a time that we must stand.  
There is a time that we must come together (together)  
for blessed are our lives (our lives).  
Blessed our love (our love) and blessed the promise gathered now.**

2. **There is a time that we must leave.  
Go from the place where hatreds breed and turning,  
feel the Spirit breathe (breathe) us together (together)  
for blessed are our lives our lives).  
Blessed our love (our love) and blessed the promise gathered now.**
  
3. **There is a time we know the way.  
There is a time we watch and pray.  
In living faith we make our way (way) together (together)  
for blessed are our lives (our lives).  
Blessed our love (our love) and blessed the promise gathered now.**
  
4. **Upon the dry a cloud will rise.  
And truth will shine among the lies  
And wisdom sing as we arise (rise) together (together)  
for blessed are our lives (our lives).  
Blessed our love (our love) and blessed the promise gathered now.**
  
5. **There is a bow within the rain  
And it will come and bend again.  
And colours shine where we have been (been) together (together)  
for blessed are our lives (our lives).  
Blessed our love (our love) and blessed the promise gathered now.**

### **Offertory invitation**

Jesus invites us to let go of the patterns of behaviour which limit and look forward with persistence and hope, to see a life rich with possibility, paved with healing. From this place of abundance, let us share our 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.**

**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.**

**Prayers of the People: Julia Ye**

**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:** Esther Collier

**Called into the world**

**Hymn: "We Are Pilgrims" VU595 v1,3,4,5**

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.**
  
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.**
  
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.**
  
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Blessing for the journey**

May we bring our truth to voice,  
May hope be in every step.  
May healing flow in every word.  
May we stand with others  
And in the standing - may God grant us peace.

**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:** *March*, Andrew Fletcher