



We will continue to livestream Sunday service using Zoom.

Details regarding how to connect to this platform will be emailed each week to those on our contact list. If you are not on our contact list and would like these details, contact James (james@rhuc.org). Following the online service, a recording of the full service will be posted on our Facebook page. Follow this link: [facebook.com/RichmondHillUnitedChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/RichmondHillUnitedChurch/). In addition, the weekly message will be posted on the [RHUC Blog](#).

If you ever find you're encountering issues using Zoom on Sunday, you can always visit <https://status.zoom.us/> to check the site status. To access the home-based worship resource so you can use to follow along or take time for personal reflection, use the links found on our website and below.

We understand that this is a strange time, but we will get through it together. We are still one community, committed to care for one another with compassion and love.

Minister's Message: This week I would like to forego my usual reflection on faith, justice, local and global issues and the like, to pause and offer a word of gratitude to everyone. Your gestures of love and support after my dad's death last week have been so meaningful. We have received cards, phone calls, emails, food (we wouldn't be United Church if that wasn't the case). We have been gifted with flowers too, especially a lovely arrangement left in the sanctuary in time for the memorial service. Someone noted to me how flowers somehow make things feel better and they were right. This is especially true given that my dad, and me taking after him, was a devoted gardener.

But I can't stop there. Earlier in these past weeks as dad's health began to deteriorate, it was very touching to be asked not just how he was doing, but how Glen and I were doing as well. In those moments I felt much less alone. And before that, when dad first moved in with us, you welcomed him into the congregation.

You made him feel comfortable, kept an eye out for him, encouraged him to come into Centennial Hall for a tea and a chat. Whether it was coming to worship, attending a men's breakfast, participating in a meeting, I could count on someone to make sure my dad was not left out.

Admittedly, this is not the experience of everyone who attends our church and so I encourage everyone to treat other newcomers in the same way as you treated my dad. They too are someone's loved one and deserving of care and support. But overall, my experience is a heartfelt reminder of the power of being in a community where people look out for one another, a gift that everyone should be afforded. On behalf of Glen, my siblings, and my dad, thank you.

worship and music

[Order of Service](#) [Hymns](#) [Discovery Time at home](#)

James' video for children:

https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlBjmozEVDROgalh6Q48ddVY8Efj_Q

The Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 9): We take time, on Mother's Day, to reflect on John 15:18-21 and 26-27 in which Jesus reflects on how his followers will be treated by the "world". He also promises that the Holy Spirit will be sent to help us. In 1 John 5:1-6, the author reflect on the importance of love in this regard. On this day, we take time to bless the prayer shawls that were crafted throughout Lent.

The Seventh Sunday of Easter (May 16): We jump forward in John to 17:6-19 in which Jesus continues to reflect on the relationship between his followers and the world. we also reflect on 1 John 5:9-13. We celebrate baptism as well as confirmation.

Pentecost Sunday (May 23): We celebrate the third most important Sunday of the year, giving thank for the gift of the Holy Spirit with us. We will share in communion virtually.

Worship Notes: Just as there are many people involved to make in-person worship a meaningful and well-organized experience, the same is true for worship on Zoom. Throughout these months of pandemic we have had a team of people operating the camera, monitoring sound, hosting the Zoom call, creating videos, and more, each working tirelessly, often troubleshooting issues with no quick solutions, to bring the services into everyone's homes. The members of the Worship Committee would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Brandon Moore and Carolyn Balant (Zoom hosts), Glen Warren and Deb Fratin (video production), Howe Foo (camera crew, pre-worship promotion and graphics) and Paula Windsor (camera crew and chat monitor). Their dedication week after week has made it possible for us to continue worshipping together during these many months.



Sunday offering: RHUC, like other churches, depends on donations and rentals to pay our bills. We appreciate those who use Pre-Authorized

Remittance (PAR). For those not PAR, please consider making sure you get your weekly envelope money in (mailed in or mail slot on Centre. St. door) and we hope as well that you will consider some extra to compensate for the loss in income. You can use e-transfer to office@rhuc.org, Canada Helps, <http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html>, or post-dated cheques to the Church, 10201 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, L4C 3B2.

Graduates: Please let James know by May 26 if you have any graduating family members this year so that they can be acknowledged in the June 6 worship service. Thank you.

programs for all

Women's Spirituality will gather via Zoom for our next regular meeting on **Saturday May 8th at 10:00 till 12:00**. The discussion will centre around the "Personal Creed" of John Spanner, an important worker at our church in the late 1950's. What does it say to us today? Guests are always welcome; contact Donna Smith for the Zoom link: donnasmith44@rogers.com

Shalom Seekers Please join us on **Mon., May 10th** on Zoom at 10 a.m. for a continuation of our discussion on progressive Christianity in Canada. Looking ahead, we'll be delving into the Gospel of Thomas for a week or two and then, perhaps, starting a new book. All are welcome. For more details about the group, feel free to talk to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton, Facilitators. The Zoom invitation will be sent out via e-mail on Sun., May 9th.

HAIR: HAIR (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and Other Riffraff), is on **Monday evenings at 7:00 pm over Zoom**. This group intends to be a place of inquiry and questioning, where doubts are expressed, uncertainties about our faith and its relevance to our daily lives clarified, and the application of the teachings and principles of our Christian faith to major issues of our time are explored, and where we have interesting and stimulating discussions. This year we are using videos of TED talks to launch discussion and have dealt with such topics as environmentalism, racism, social justice, ethics, science, religion, and healthy ageing. These discussions are open to anyone interested, and new members are always welcome. To get the Zoom link please contact David Leyton-Brown at dlbrown@yorku.ca.

Centering Prayer: This Zoom-based group will meet **Mondays at 12:30** for a simple format with a 20-minute silent sit. **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm** is a reflective format with readings, Taizé style refrains as well as a discussion time after the 20-minute sit. Contact James (james@rhuc.org) for Zoom links to both prayer time.

RHUC Book Club: Please join us on **Wednesday, May 26th at 4 p.m. on Zoom** (via video or telephone) for a discussion of Anna Quindlen's 2016 novel *Miller's Valley*. New members are always welcome. Please speak to Sandra Loughton for more information about the book club. Here is a short description of the book to whet your appetite: "Filled with insights that are hallmarks of Anna Quindlen's bestsellers, this extraordinary novel is about a woman coming of age, as she unearths secrets about her family and her town, and surprising truths about herself. Miller's Valley is a masterly study of family, memory, loss, and, ultimately, discovery, of finding true identity, and a new vision of home. As Mimi says, 'No one ever leaves the town where they grew up, even if they go.' Miller's Valley reminds us that the place where you grew up can disappear, and the people in it too, but all will live on in your heart forever." (Goodreads)

Pub Theology: Friday, May 28 at 7:30 PM on Zoom: It is time to come together again to talk about faith, spirituality and life's big questions, all over the beverage of your choice. Let James know if you would like to participate, and he will send you the Zoom link. Feel free to invite a friend.

church news

Annual Report – Secret Friends

The following report contributed to the Mission Action Plan by following:

- #6 Reach out with care to people at all stages of life.
- #7 Communicate our story both within and beyond the congregation.

Since September 2003, university and college students of our church, who are in their first year of studying, usually living away from home for the first time, are matched with a volunteer from the congregation. Cards, notes and maybe a small "care" package are mailed throughout the school year to let the students know that their church family is interested in them and that they are in our thoughts and prayers. There is no expectation that the student will respond to these communications, just to receive them, and for secrecy to be kept until their Secret Friend is revealed at a worship service in the Spring.

During this school year, 2020-2021, we have four students with a Secret Friend, and sadly, all are studying virtually at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic: Jenny Huang at University of British Columbia / Isobel McCabe at Sheridan College / Matthew Miller at McMaster University / Sara Perez at York University. *Donna Smith, Coordinator*

Broadview subscription is due and new subscribers can sign up. These are the following articles you will find in the June issue:

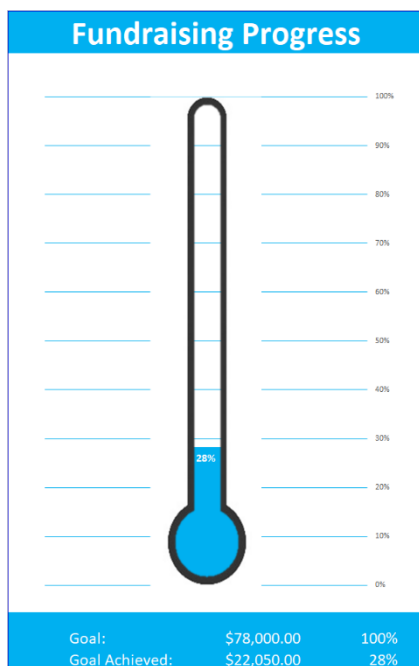
Proud Priest - When people ask Theo Robinson how he can be both an Anglican minister and trans, he always has the same answer: the church has been there for him.

Letter to a Fellow Prisoner - Former hostage James Loney writes to a Canadian inmate in Florida about the unfortunate thing they have in common.

Climate Hope - Once a logging and mining town, Gibsons, B.C., is now a green pioneer. Its secret? Giving nature a chance to do its thing.

The annual group subscription rate is \$25/year. Please etransfer or send a cheque **to renew or start your subscription by May 14th**. Thank you!

A Request for AV Support: Are you looking for a way to share your gifts in the congregation? Do you like doing things that are hands on? Are you technically minded? If so, then you may be interested in joining our AV - Online Worship Team. We are looking for sound and projection operators along with Zoom hosts. If this interests you, contact James (james@rhuc.org) and he will connect you with either Adam and Dave (for sound and projection) or Brandon (Zoom host).



Boosting Our Signal Campaign:

RHUC has embarked on a project to upgrade our AV capabilities. This project, to be implemented in Phases, not only improves the livestream services, but helps us to achieve some of our long-term ministry goals. You



can donate via etransfer to office@rhuc.org, cheque or CanadaHelps.org.

We are now at **28%** of our goal!! Thank you!

Outreach

Net Zero: Part 3

When the government of Canada, when the City of Toronto, when scientists and global governments everywhere say we have an emergency ahead - we need to treat it like an emergency. **Please do this one thing - TALK about the situation**, all the time, in every conversation. Ask each other, what are you doing about it? What is stopping you from acting? What can you do next? How can we help each other?

Here is a link to resources that will help you start and hold conversations:

Climate Fast: Kitchen Table Climate Conversations - <http://www.climatefast.ca/kitchen-table-conversations>

Look for the **KTCC Facilitator's Toolkit** on the right side. It has slides and facilitator resources. Once you have had a kitchen table conversation, share the resources and encourage others to have them as well.

Here is information on Richmond Hill's growth plan and how to participate in it: **Richmond Hill's Official Plan Update** - <https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/find-or-learn-about/official-plan-update.aspx>

Click on the link partway down to find the dates for **Area-specific Public Workshops** and **online surveys**.

Richmond Hill's Environment Strategy - <https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/find-or-learn-about/environment-strategy.aspx>

Esther Collier, Chair of Net Zero Committee (contact at a.collier@sympatico.ca for more information)

community news

Calling all youths between 15-30 years old in Richmond Hill!

Join us on **May 11th at 5 PM** at our **FREE** Virtual Job Fair to explore your potential employment opportunities with local businesses under the Canada Summer Jobs program!

During the job fair, you will be able to connect in real-time with organizations that want to hire students in the community.

REGISTRATION LINK: http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/richmond-hill-virtual-canada-summer-jobs-fair-tickets-153671699189?fbclid=IwAR2piQU2s0evD5X2mGJfPnBCqHbEzO_SGF-4ZUJCIFY-IzZlVFMYchOSJCI

lifting our spirits

This is a section for poems, reflections, recipes, uplifting news items, anything to help us get through this, and to do it together. Please submit items to help us all "lift our spirits".

Email Deb at office@rhuc.org.



Are you a mother who wants to make a difference? Do you have a mother or someone like a mother that you want to honour? Do you know people who have lost mothers or mothers who have lost a child? Does anyone you know find Mother's Day hard for other reasons? Are there people in your life whose nontraditional family unit deserves recognition and celebration? This Mother's Day, you can help families in need and reach out to honour and support your loved ones at the same time. [Find out how you can help.](#)

Chai Tea Latte: Ingredients

- 2 tea bags
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons refrigerated French vanilla nondairy creamer
- Optional: Whipped topping and ground nutmeg

Directions

- Place the tea bags, cinnamon, ginger and allspice in the coffee filter of a drip coffeemaker. Add water; brew according to manufacturer's directions.
- Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, combine the milk, brown sugar and creamer. Cook and stir over medium heat until heated through and sugar is dissolved. Pour milk mixture into mugs; stir in tea. If desired, dollop with whipped topping and sprinkle with nutmeg.



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