



Richmond Hill United Church
An Affirming Ministry



November 21, 2021

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: "Prelude" (César Franck)

Words of welcome: Welcome, my name is Rev. Ruth Noble and it is my pleasure to be in worship with you. Today is the last Sunday of the church year as we begin a new church year next week with Advent.

Announcements:

Just a couple of housekeeping reminders:

If you are in the Sanctuary you can stand and sing as long as you are distanced and masked, offering is to be placed in the locked box at the back of the Sanctuary near the Nursery, please remain seated for the postlude and then exit on the Nursery side of the Sanctuary.

For those at home, please mute and sing loudly during the hymns, go to the website in order to donate through the Canada Helps portal.

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.

Acknowledgement of the Land: Let us now take a moment to acknowledge the land that we are on today, Richmond Hill United is on the land of the Anishaabeg and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit River, this land is part of Treaty 13 also known as the Toronto Purchase, if you know the territory and treaty where you are I invite you to silently reflect on whose territory you are on, as we strive to walk the way of reconciliation.

Call to Worship: Please join me in the call to worship that is projected on your screen,

We are at a doorway that leads into a new way of being church.

At this doorway
we are not alone:

God has invited us to gather courage from the great cloud of witnesses before us,
as we remember what was in our history as a church, and as a part of this community.

Christ has challenged us to accept his radical call to discipleship,
as we acknowledge what is our calling in the world, to work towards net zero, reconciliation and a place where all are welcome.

The Spirit has led us to be Christ's Church,
as we imagine what will be in the future: a place of arts and activism.

At this doorway:

**We take courage in the assurance that God is with us;
we affirm our call to go where Christ leads; and
we trust the Spirit to guide us through the challenging space between what was,
what is, and what will be.
Surely, we are not alone.
Thanks be to God**

Hymn: Rejoice the Lord is King Voices United #213

**1 Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your risen Lord adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing
and triumph evermore:
[Refrain:]
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!**

**2 Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our sins,
he took his seat above. [Refrain]
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!**

**3 God's kingdom cannot fail;
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given. [Refrain]
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!**

**4 Rejoice in glorious hope,
for Christ, the Judge, shall come
to glorify the saints
for their eternal home:
We then shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!**

Reflecting Together as a Community

Prayer: Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways, Speak to us now. Help us to hear your voice and follow in the way. Amen

Scriptures:

John 18:33-37:

English Standard Version

Steve Ruminsky

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

Anthem: "Kairos" (David Lantz)

Revelation 1:4b-8:

Contemporary English Version

Steve Ruminsky

I pray that you
will be blessed
with kindness and peace
from God, who is and was
and is coming.
May you receive
kindness and peace
from the seven spirits
before the throne of God.
May kindness and peace
be yours
from Jesus Christ,
the faithful witness.
Jesus was the first
to conquer death,
and he is the ruler
of all earthly kings.
Christ loves us,
and by his blood
he set us free
from our sins.
He lets us rule as kings
and serve God his Father
as priests.
To him be glory and power
forever and ever! Amen.
Look! He is coming
with the clouds.
Everyone will see him,
even the ones who stuck
a sword through him.
All people on earth
will weep because of him.
Yes, it will happen! Amen.

The Lord God says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the one who is and was and is coming. I am God All-Powerful!"

Message: "Turn Yourself Around"

Rev. Ruth Noble

Hymn: Seek ye First the Kingdom of God Voices United #356

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah

2 Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah

3 We do not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah

Sharing in a Spirit of Gratitude

Prayers of the People

Esther Collier

The Prayer of Jesus translated from Aramaic by Neil Douglas-Klotz

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos
Focus your light within us—make it useful.
Create your reign of unity now—
through our fiery hearts and willing hands.
Help us love beyond our ideals
and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures.
Animate the earth within us:
we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all.
Untangle the knots within
so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other.
Don't let surface things delude us,
but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.
Out of you, the astonishing fire,
returning light and sound to the cosmos.
Amen.

Our Mission: Stewardship

Jane Ridout

Offering

Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns Voices United #211

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,

and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end;
and round his piercèd feet
fair flowers of Paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

4 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me:
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Called beyond Ourselves to Minister to the World

Blessing and Sending Forth

Amen

Postlude: "CWM Rhonda" Arr. Paul Manz