
Chilliwack United Church
2nd Sunday of Easter
10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome & Greeting

Gathering Song

Hymn No. 8 MV

“And On this Path”

And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!

Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!

So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide!

Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!

Call to Worship

We are invited to worship in the name of the Risen Christ!

Hallelujah!

We are invited to continue celebrating the miracle of the
Resurrection!

Hallelujah!

We are invited into new life in Christ!

Hallelujah!

Prayer of Approach (In Unison)

Holy God, our heads are still spinning with the wonder of that first Easter. We wonder how we would have reacted if we had been in the locked room when Jesus appeared. Would we have recognized him immediately, or would we, like Thomas, need to place our fingers in the wounds? Our prayer is that we might recognize the Risen Christ when we meet him in our modern world. We long for the quality of life that believing in him offers. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 173 VU “Thine is the Glory”

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Our words say ‘Resurrection and new life’, but too often, our actions reflect fear and being stuck in the past. We allow the transformed cross, bright with the bloom of daffodils, to revert to the dark pre-Easter cross of doubt, sadness and despair. We forget that we are Easter people...

*Silent Prayer (time to sit in God's
Loving and Forgiving presence)*

Assurance of Pardon

God’s Easter promise is that by believing in the Risen Christ, we may ‘have life in his name’.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem “Majesty”

Theme Conversation

Hymn No. 115 MV “Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New”

New Testament Scripture

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm No. 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger

here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Reflection

Hymn No. 185 VU "You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen"

Life & Work of the Church

Presentation of Our Offering

Offertory Hymn No. 581 VU (Verse 2) "When We Are Living"

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.

Good works of service are for offering.

When we are giving, or when receiving,

We belong to God, we belong to God.

Prayer of Dedication

(In Unison)

God of New Life, all around us are reminders of your covenant with creation. Our gifts represent our commitment to your way of wholeness. Use these offerings to quench thirsty souls, shower your earth with blessings, and transform hungry hearts. This we give in thankfulness and praise. Amen.

Hymn No. 400 VU (Seated)

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

No. 959 VU

Hymn No. 179 VU

“Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Give Thanks”

Commissioning & Blessing

Sung Blessing

No. 649 VU

- Sing Twice -

(You are invited to join hands with those around you to form a “blessings circle”)

Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.

Postlude

*The church has a supply of **hearing units** for improved sound in the sanctuary. If you wish to use a set for the Sunday service, please pick one up from the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary.*

Announcements

Leading the Service Today:

Worship Leader; Carolyn Gaunt

Musician; Lynda Mundstock

Music Director; Marilyn Taves

Scripture Reader; Jim Jones

Budget Summary

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Average Weekly Revenue Required to Service our 2018 Operating Budget | \$ 3,301.00 |
| Average Weekly Revenue to March 31, 2018 | 2,584.00 |
| <i>Deficit as of March 31, 2018</i> | <i>(6,311.00)</i> |
| <i>Deficit as of March 31, 2017</i> | <i>(16,737.00)</i> |
| | |
| Average Mission & Service Weekly Revenue Required to Service our 2018 Objective (2018 Goal: \$10,000.00) | \$ 192.00 |
| Average Mission & Service Weekly Revenue Received to March 31, 2018 | 170.00 |
| <i>Mission & Service Funds Received to Date – March 31, 2018</i> | <i>2,358.00</i> |
| <i>Mission & Service Funds Received to Date – March 31, 2017</i> | <i>2,350.00</i> |

For your information, complete regular Monthly Financial Statements are posted in the Narthex on the bulletin board next to the ramp.

It's time to renew your United Church Observer subscription! The annual subscription fee remains the same as last year, \$25.00; an incredible value for an internationally awarded publication! **Deadline for renewal is Friday, May 11. If you pay by cheque, please make your cheque payable to CHILLIWACK UNITED CHURCH. Unfortunately, we are unable to issue income tax receipts for your payment.** The United Church Observer publishes stories relevant to our lives and world today from a uniquely United Church perspective. ***In the current issue of The Observer; 5 Reasons We Seriously Need to Protect Our Oceans from Plastic;*** At least eight million tonnes of plastic end up in our oceans every year. And the World Economic Forum predicts that by 2050, the plastic in the ocean will outweigh the fish. Here are more reasons we should be worried.

We will be sharing our worship space with our local United Church neighbours. Mt. Shannon and Rosedale United Churches will be joining us on Sunday, April 29 with Rev. Nick Judson and Rev. Trevor Malkinson leading the service.

For Sale – A couple of church items are for sale and on display in the hall. Maybe you or someone you know would be interested in them; oak desk and chair \$90.00; new bulletin board 3' x 4' \$20.00. Phone the church office at 604-792-4634 or Julie at 604-858-7583.

**United Church Women
Presbyterial Spring Rally & Annual General Meeting**

“Caring for Our
Vulnerable People”

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at
Chilliwack United Church*



Lunch: \$8.00

Mothers' Day Tea & Fashion Show: Clear your calendar now on Saturday, May 12 for our Mothers' Day Tea & Fashion Show! It's going to be bigger and better than ever. You will be excited to hear all about it, but we are not letting the cat out of the bag just yet... Keep checking your bulletins for more information. See you on May 12!

BC Conference is now accepting applications for children, ages 8 to 12, to attend and participate in the Children at Conference Program May 31 to June 3 in Penticton, BC. This program offers an opportunity for children from across BC to gather and participate in the worship and work of the Annual Meeting of the BC Conference of the United Church of Canada. Applications must be received no later than Monday, May 15. If you have questions, call Mary Nicol at the BC Conference office, 1-800-934-0434, extension 327.

Watch your bulletin for information about Rev. Bethan Theunissen's upcoming dissertation presentations. The dissertation will be presented in two parts; "*What on Earth is Happening to the Church in the West: Decline and the Generations*" and "*The Stories of Two Progressive Congregations Bucking the Decline Trend and Young-Adult-Filled*".

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank. The need in our community continues long after Christmas. Your donation can be placed in the Salvation Army Barrel located in the Narthex.

Donations of cancelled postage stamps is greatly appreciated. The stamps are passed on to Eastern Star. Stamps are used to help purchase dressings for cancer patients.

**Chilliwack United Church
Monday, April 9 to Sunday, April 15**

Monday, April 9

1:00 United Church Women's Meeting

Tuesday, April 10

United Church Women Presbyterial Spring Rally & Annual General Meeting

1:00 Thrift Shop Open

7:30 Choir Practice

Wednesday, April 11

10:00 Thrift Shop Open

10:30 Drop In Bible Study

1:30 Council Meeting

Thursday, April 12

10:00 Thrift Shop Open

Friday, April 13

10:00 Thrift Shop Open

10:30 Mission Ministry Unit Meeting

Saturday, April 14

12:00 Kiwanis Soup Kitchen

Sunday, April 15

10:30 All Ages Worship Service

Chilliwack United Church

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Minute for Mission
Organ Donation Across Enemy Lines

Our gifts for Mission & Service support health and peace and the breaking down of barriers to peace. In the Holy Land, bringing ordinary Israelis and Palestinians peacefully together is extremely difficult in such a tense and violent environment. But the International Christian Committee in Israel (ICCI) does just that.

Along with Palestinian girls' empowerment programs in Arab towns in Acre, the ICCI brings Palestinians and Israelis together through a variety of programs, from academic conferences to supporting inter-ethnic organ donation. As Hussam Elias, ICCI's Executive Secretary, says, "Arabs and Jews are not 'doomed' to live together but *should* live together."

The medical expenses related to organ donation in Israel are covered by the state; the ICCI raises awareness and organizes conferences to break down the social barriers and conflicting ideas about organ transplants that have been in place across cultures. Often, people only want to donate within their own ethnicity.

As a result of the support of the ICCI and other organizations, Israeli and Palestinian families come together in very unique, life-giving situations. One Arab youth was killed in a car accident, and his family donated his heart to a Jewish person; when the boy's mother met the recipient, they hugged, and she said it felt like she was hugging her son. In another case, a Jewish family donated the liver of a relative to a young Arab man. When he got married, he invited his donor's family, and the wedding photos show them all together as one big family.

As a piece of anonymous street art in the city of Haifa says, "This is for the organ donors, reminding us all that we won't be strangers for long."

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

(Minutes for Mission, Page 16)