

Strathearn United Church

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*on this
6th
Sunday
of
Easter*

Our Living Statement... Strathearn United Church is a loving Christian community living by faith and action, communicating through worship, education, fellowship and outreach, greeting the future with hope.

Minister	Rev. Sandy Ferguson
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Dr. Don Mayne
Music Director	Kathryn Wood
Musician	Shannon Hiebert
Office Administrator	Rena Spiess

LECTIONARY READINGS

May 16 (Ascension of the Lord): Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26;
Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Strathearn United Church welcomes you to our
Morning Worship where all are welcome!
9th of May 2021, Sixth Sunday of Easter
(Youtube Video Service)

WELCOME & GATHERING

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

One: Give me a candle of the Spirit, O God, as I go down into the depths of my being. Show me the hidden things. The creatures of my dreams. The storehouse of forgotten memories and hurts. Take me down to the spring of my life and tell me my nature and my name. Give me freedom to grow, so that I may become that self, the seed of which you planted in me at my making. Out of the depths I cry to you, O God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

(From the World Council of Churches)

One: O Creator and Mighty God, You have promised, Strength for the weak, Rest for the labourers, Light for the way, Grace for the trials, Help from above, Unfailing sympathy, Undying love. O Creator and Mighty God, Help us to continue in Your promise. Amen.

HYMN: “Come and Find the Quiet Centre” VU374

1 Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,

find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

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A NEW CREED: VU918
We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe
in God who has created and is creating, who has

come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and
make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to
celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in
Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice
and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and
risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE:

"For grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them."

- Saint Augustine of Hippo

One: God, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done, we have sinned in ignorance, we have sinned in weakness, and we have sinned deliberately. God, we are truly sorry and turn to you. (Silence)

One: Lord have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

One: Lord have mercy.

Share in Good News! God listens to our prayers, gives thank for our faith and touches us with grace, and invites us to lives as witnesses to the wonder of God's grace. Let us give thanks through prayer...

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" VU658

- 1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.
- 2 O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.
- 3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.
- 4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;

I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

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WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 15:9-17

One: The Word of God, for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

One: God, we gather before You in prayer. God, we are weary. We struggle in these times. We yearn for the comfort of the familiar. And today we wonder what is the meaning of resurrection? God, we pray that You will open our hearts to Your vision of resurrection, the promise of new life in difficult times. New life revealed in unexpected places. In the glimpses of hope for better days. God be with us in such days. We give thanks to all who serve in such days. Those who ensure that we have food, water, heat and the tools to connect with one another. May we not forget what they endured on our behalf. We give thanks for all in the field of healthcare. Nurses and doctors on the frontline, caring for those in need. Researchers looking for tools to fight this virus. Service workers and

administrators who keep our healthcare systems working. And God we give thanks to those who we connect with, who remind us that we are not alone in such times. God we pray for our world For those who struggle. For those who suffer. Those who yearn for hope. We pray that the leaders of nations will work together to serve a world in need, and that they learn from the example of those who have served. And God we come to You with the prayers of our hearts. For those who we know who struggle with illness of the mind, body and spirit. For those who are alone. For those who yearn for connection. These names we bring to you...(Silence) Amen.

HYMN: "Christ Be with Me" VU318

- 1 Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
- 2 Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

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SENDING FORTH:

One: A new week awaits us. With new opportunities to witness to the presence of God in our lives. To be someone who strives to be kind in a difficult world. Amen.

PRAYER CYCLE OF THE WEEK

Church Family: Edith Marhsall, Emmy Mattingsley, Joy May, Don & Helen Mayne, Kris McCord

Within Strathearn United: Worship Committee

Northern Spirit Region: Trinity United Church

World Council of Churches: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Renters and Groups: We have no custodian at this time. Washrooms are closed. If you need to access rooms and supplies, please call the office first.

Update from the Official Board:

- Our Annual Congregational Meeting is postponed-- date will be determined at the May Board Meeting.
- Each month the Board assesses the situation, and currently there are no plans to reopen before the end of May. You will be notified of changes.

Emails, Links & News: Check us out on Youtube, Facebook or www.strathearnuc.com.

Calendar:

May 16: Ascension of the Lord (Youtube)

May 18: Admin Zoom Meeting (office hrs 2-4 pm)

May 19: Official Board Meeting, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

May 23: Pentecost (Youtube) / Zoom Communion

May 24: Victoria Day – Office Closed

May 30: Trinity Sunday (Youtube)

June 6: Zoom Communion

June 16: Official Board Meeting, 7:00 pm (Zoom)

June 18: Admin Zoom Meeting (office hrs Noon - 2 pm)

June 20: Father's Day