

Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Carlisle United Church
Sunday, July 12, 10 am

Worship Leader: Rev. Gayle MacDonald
Cell: 289-442-8420; Email: mgmacd@gmail.com
Music Leader: Dr. Heather Olaveson
Office Administrator: Andrea Osterroth McRae
Office: 905-689-8630

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Greeting:

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

We begin this time of worship by acknowledging that we are meeting on the land of the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

The Life and Work of the Church
(Announcements and Celebrations)

Lighting the Christ Candle

Centring Quiet

(Let us quiet our minds and centre our hearts in God's presence)

Centring Music: VU 374 (v. 1) – Come and Find the Quiet Centre

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, alt. 1989; Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White 1844, harm. Ronald A. Nelson 1978

*The Harmony Singers of Windsor Park United in Winnipeg perform this gentle, reflective hymn by New Zealander Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020) with music attributed to American singing-school teacher and newspaper editor Benjamin Franklin White (1800-1879), co-editor of the shape-note hymnal *The Sacred Harp*. ["Come and Find the Quiet Centre"](#)*

- 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.

Call to Worship:

(written by Eric Hebert-Daly in Gathering, Pent1 2026, p. 38, used with permission)

Time calls us to this place

To find comfort, to find caring, to love one another.

Time is a gift we are given each morning we rise.

It is our responsibility to use it wisely.

It is also our responsibility to use it gently.

To be, rather than always "to do."

We are human creatures

And we come to this place to honour our Creator.

Come, sit, listen, and most importantly, BE in this place.

We have come answering God's call.

Prayer for the Day

Hymn: VU 232 – Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

Words: Henry van Dyke 1907, alt.; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824, adapt. Edward Hodges 1864

"Boys have been singing at Vienna's Imperial Chapel since 1296. In 1498, Maximilian I (HRR) moved his court to Vienna, lock, stock, and choir, thus founding the "Hofmusikkapelle" (Chapel Imperial), and the Vienna Boys Choir. Over the centuries, the Viennese Court attracted great musicians like Isaac, de Monte, Fux, Caldara, Gluck, Salieri, Mozart, and Bruckner; Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn, and Franz Schubert were themselves choir boys. Until 1918, the boys sang exclusively for the court. In the 1920s, the choir was reestablished as a private organization" (VBC website). Today, the VBC consists of 100 boys ages 9-14, divided into four touring choirs; together, they give around 300 concerts a year around the world! In this video, they sing an arrangement by Mervyn Warren (the arrangement found in *Sister Act 2*) and Roger Emerson.

[Vienna Boys Choir - Joyful, Joyful \(Beethoven, arr. Warren\)](#)

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

- 2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.
- 3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.
- 4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

[Optional] Theme Conversation

Prayer for Illumination

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The parable of the sower and the seed

13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

13:2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

13:3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.

13:4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up.

13:5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.

13:6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away.

13:7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.
13:8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
13:9 If you have ears, hear!"
13:18 "Hear, then, the parable of the sower.
13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.
13:20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,
13:21 yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.
13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.
13:23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Response:

The Word of God spoken among us.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Hymn: VU 503 – When Seed Falls on Good Soil

Words: Norman P. Olsen 1976; Music: Frederick F. Jackisch 1976

The virtual choir from St James the Great Episcopal Church in Newport Beach, California, performs this 1976 hymn text by Lutheran pastor Norman P. Olsen. According to hymnary.com, "While serving at Grace Lutheran Church, Luverne, Minnesota, Norman collaborated with his congregation's choir director to write some hymns. The best known, "When Seed Falls on Good Soil", was written as a theme hymn to accompany a Lenten series on the parable of the Sower. Though not the original tune, the words were set to the tune Walhof when it first appeared in a hymnal and has remained with that tune in other hymnals."

[When seed falls on good soil \(Hymn 503, Voices United; sung by the St. James Virtual Choir\)](#)

- 1 When seed falls on good soil,
 it's born through quiet toil;
 where soil receives, the earth conceives
 the blade, the stem, the fruit, the leaves.
 Good soil, O mother earth,
 the womb, where seed takes birth.

- 2 God's Word in Christ is seed;

good soil its urgent need;
for it must find in humankind
the fertile soil in heart and mind.
Good soil! A human field!
A hundredfold to yield.

3 Plough up the trodden way,
and clear the stone away;
tear out the weed, and sow the seed.
Prepare our hearts your Word to heed,
that we good soil may be.
Begin, O God, with me!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offertory: VU 540 – Grant Us, God, the Grace

Words: anonymous; Music: attrib. Christian F. Witt, Psalmodia Sacra 1715, adapt. Henry John Gauntlett 1961

Organist Lauma Akmene performs the hymn tune STUTTGART, first published in 1715 and used as a setting for hymn lyrics including the offertory "Grant Us, God, the Grace" and the Advent hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus."

["God, my King, thy might confessing" \(Hymn 415, Tune: Stuttgart\) from The Hymnal 1982.](#)

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People:

Sing into prayer: VU 400 – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Words & Music: Ken Medema 1970

"The Singing Pastor" Steve Simpson shares his version of Ken Medema's hymn.

[Lord, Listen to your Children Praying - YouTube](#)

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!

Lord's Prayer: (Matthew 6:9-13)

⁹Our Father in heaven!

May your Name be kept holy.

- ¹⁰ May your Kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
- ¹¹ Give us the food we need today.
- ¹² Forgive us what we have done wrong,
as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us.
- ¹³ And do not lead us into hard testing,
but keep us safe from the Evil One.
- For kingship, power and glory are yours forever.

Hymn: VU 643 (vv. 1, 2, 4 & 5) – Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom

Words: Anders Frostenson 1960, trans. Fred Kaan 1972; Music: V. Earle Copes 1960

The virtual choir of Faith United Methodist Church in Rockville, Maryland, is accompanied by organist Bob Holder as they sing this 1960 hymn. The original text of "Tron sig sträcker efter Frukten" was penned by Swedish priest and hymnist Anders Frostenson, and twelve years later it was translated into English by Dutch-British minister and hymnist Fred Kaan.

[Hymn 508: Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom \[May 9 2021\]](#)

- 1 Faith, while trees are still in blossom,
plans the picking of the fruit;
faith can feel the thrill of harvest
when the buds begin to sprout.
- 2 Long before the dawn is breaking,
faith anticipates the sun.
Faith is eager for the daylight,
for the work that must be done.
- 3 Faith, uplifted, tamed the water
of the undivided sea,
and the people of the Hebrews
found the path that made them free.
- 4 Faith believes that God is faithful:
God will be who God will be!
Faith accepts the call, responding,
"I am willing, Lord, send me."

Commissioning and Benediction

Online Postlude: Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Recalling the parable of the sower, this lovely hymn was composed in 1985 by Handt Hanson (b. 1950). It is performed by Alethea Wilhelm (voice) and Tammy Lum (piano), with Skylar Brown providing a video featuring time-lapse photography.

[Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil](#)