

**Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge**  
**Easter 6 – May 10, 2026**  
**Christian Family Sunday**  
Kilbride – 9:30 am; Carlisle – 11:00 am



*Priscilla Du Preez on unsplash.com*

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

*Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.*

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Land:**

As we gather in the name of Christ, we acknowledge that our sacred space is on territory of  
(Kilbride: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and Mississaugas of the Credit)

(Carlisle: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit). This is land they have cared for and considered sacred for centuries. With thankfulness and respect for their stewardship, may we honour one another and honour life itself.

## **The Life and Work of the Church (Announcements & Celebrations)**

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

**Gathering Song:** VU 395 (verse 4 with refrain) – Come In, Come In and Sit Down  
*Words & Music: James K. Manley 1984 alt.; arr. Darryl Nixon 1987*

The first verse of James Manley's energetic hymn is performed by the virtual choir at Trinity United in Ingersoll. Manley (b. 1940) is an American singer-songwriter as well as a minister in the United Church of Christ whose best known hymn is his 1975 "Spirit of Gentleness" (VU 375). His 1984 "Come In, Come In and Sit Down" became known to the United Church through Darryl Nixon's arrangement for the hymnal *Songs for a Gospel People* (1987).

### **VU395 Come In, Come In and Sit Down**

Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.

4 There's rest for the weary and health for us all,  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.  
So come in and worship and answer the call,  
for we are a part of the family. R

### **Call to Worship & Opening Prayer:**

God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you.

**We come as individuals,**

**we come in family units,**

we come as neighbours and friends.

**We come here where we are known by name,**

**welcomed with all our fragilities and strengths.**

We gather with kindred spirits who long to live  
faithful to your calling.

**Guide us, inspire us, challenge us,**

**comfort us, and nurture us**

**in this time of worship**

**so that we might be enabled**

**to return to our daily lives**

**ready to engage fully**

**with all of your creation, we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn:** TLUS 138 – Let's Go Together (Welcome)

*Words: Laurie Zelman 2007; Music: Mark A. Miller 2007*

Mark Miller is a graduate of Yale and Juilliard; Professor of Church Music, Director of Chapel, and Composer-in-Residence at Drew University; Lecturer in Sacred Music at Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School; and Minister of Music of Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey. He has collaborated on hymns with Laurie Zelman, whom he met while Zelman was a seminary student at Drew Theological School. "Welcome" is performed by the youth choir Open Door Singers at Belmont United Methodist in Nashville, Tennessee.

[Welcome - Mark A. Miller / Belmont United Methodist Church, Nashville Tennessee](#)

1 Let's go together for a while,  
and ask where we begin  
to build a world where love can grow,  
and hope can enter in,  
to be the hands of healing,  
and to plant the seed of peace,  
singing welcome, welcome to this place.  
You're invited to come and know God's grace.  
All are welcome, the love of God to share,  
'cause all of us are welcome here;  
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let's talk together of a time  
when we will share a feast,  
where pride and power kneel to serve  
the lonely and the least,  
and joy will set the table  
as we join our hands to pray, R

3 Let's dream together of the day  
when earth and heav'n are one,  
a city built of love and light,  
the new Jerusalem,  
where mourning turns to dancing,  
ev'ry creature lifts its voice, R

**Prayer for Grace & Assurance of Grace:**

*(written by Gord Dunbar, Gathering, Lent/Easter 2019, page 53, used with permission)*

God, who loves us more intimately than any other,

**love us into wholeness.**

When the choices we make in life

harm ourselves or others,

**hold up a mirror of truth that we may reflect.**

When circumstances in life  
drag us down and turn us bitter,  
**surround us with your supportive arms,  
with your beating heart of loving presence,  
with your whispers of encouragement and of hope.**  
Trusting in your tender, sustaining love,  
we pray in the silence:

*(silent prayer)*

**Words of Assurance:**

God's forgiveness is a beloved parent's welcome-home hug. It is our favourite meal lovingly prepared that we might be fed with love. It is being tucked into bed at night, securely enveloped with self-giving. It is our place of belonging and of becoming.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Response:** MV 33 – Jesus Came Bringing Us [Love]

*Words and Music: Traditional song, Cameroon*

**Musicians of Peninsula United in Surrey, BC, perform this traditional Cameroonian hymn.**

**[Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope–MV 33](#)**

Jesus came bringing us love,  
Jesus came bringing us love,  
Jesus came bringing us love,  
Hallelujah forevermore.

**Prayer for Illumination:**

*(Celebrate God's Presence)*

Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways:  
in the song of a bird, in the babbling of a brook,  
in the voices of our friends, in the hug from family or friends, in the songs we sing, and  
in the stories of the Bible. Speak to us now through the reading of scripture. Help us to  
hear your voice and follow the way of Jesus. Amen.

**Readings from Our Christian Tradition**

**Epistle:** Acts 17:22-31 – *Paul's message to the Athenians*

17:22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way.

17:23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,

17:25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

17:26 From one ancestor he made all people to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,  
17:27 so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

17:28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

17:29 "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

17:30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

17:31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

**Gospel:** John 14:15-21 – *Christ our advocate*

14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

14:17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

14:18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

14:19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

14:20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

14:21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

**Response:**

For the Word of God, within us and among us,  
**thanks be to God!**

**Reflection**

**Hymn:** MV 178 – Who Is My Mother

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1992; Music: Ron Klusmeier 2002*

**Musicians of Golden Ears United in Maple Ridge, BC, perform Ron Klusmeier's jazzy setting of a text by New Zealand hymnist Shirley Erena Murray.**

**[MV 178 Who is My Mother](#)**

- 1 Who is my mother, who is my brother?  
All those who gather round Jesus Christ.  
Spirit-blown people born from the Gospel  
sit at the table round Jesus Christ.

- 2 Differently abled, differently labelled,  
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:  
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,  
all come together round Jesus Christ.
- 3 Love will relate us; colour or status  
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:  
family failings, human derailings,  
all are accepted round Jesus Christ.
- 4 Bound by one vision, met for one mission,  
we claim each other round Jesus Christ:  
here is my mother, here is my brother,  
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

### **Prayers of the People:**

Sing into prayer: VU 661 (v. 3) – Come to My Heart

**Haewook Kim performs Joe Pinson's 1979 hymn as a piano solo in this lyric video.**

[#661 Come to My Heart, Voices United \(Instrumental\)](#)

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;  
teach me to walk in your way.  
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;  
answer my prayer today.

### **Prayer of Jesus:** (alternate, New Zealand)

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain Bearer, Life-Giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

### **[Carlisle] Mission and Service Story**

### **Prayer of Dedication/Offering:**

*(adapted from Celebrate God's Presence)*

Music and laughter,  
hands and minds,  
curiosity and compassion:  
what an abundance of gifts we have!  
All these gifts are symbolized in our offering.  
We commit these gifts and ourselves in service  
to your church in the world.  
Bless those who give and those who receive.  
Amen.

**Offertory:** VU 544 – In Gratitude and Humble Trust

Frank von Christierson's 1960 offertory hymn is sung to the tune FOREST GREEN, an English folk tune sometimes used for the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Ralph Vaughan Williams' 1906 setting). It is performed on organ by David Christensen.  
[Forest Green - English Folk Tune played on organ](#)

In gratitude and humble trust  
we bring our best today  
to serve your cause and share your love  
with all along life's way.  
O God, who gave yourself to us  
in Jesus Christ, your Son,  
teach us to give ourselves each day  
until life's work is done.

**Hymn:** VU 556 – Would You Bless Our Homes and Families

*Words: Walter Farquharson 1974; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1974*

The virtual choir at Southampton United Church in Ontario performs this hymn by Canadian collaborators Walter Farquharson and Ron Klusmeier. These hymnists have collaborated on many pieces together, including several others you will recognize from *Voices United*: "Give to Us Laughter," "Shout for God!," "Stay with Us through the Night," "Teach Me, God, to Wonder," and "Though Ancient Walls."

[556 Would you Bless Our Homes and Families. Virtual Choir, Southampton United Church, May 16, 2021](#)

- 1     Would you bless our homes and families,  
        source of life who calls us here;  
        in our world of stress and tension  
        teach us love that conquers fear.  
        Help us learn to love each other  
        with a love that constant stays;  
        teach us when we face our troubles,  
        love's expressed in many ways.
  
- 2     When our way is undemanding,

let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures,  
sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking  
and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another  
and in you, our gracious God.

3 From the homes in which we're nurtured,  
with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family  
everyone whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer,  
may we in your love remain;  
may the love we share in families  
be alive to praise your name.

4 Let us reach beyond the boundaries  
of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen  
spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles,  
love's expressed in many ways.

### **Commissioning & Benediction**

#### **Sung Sending Forth: Go Now in Peace**

*Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price; Music: Don Besig*

**The Waterford Congregational Church Choir in Maine performs this well-known benediction at an outdoor worship service.**

#### **Go Now in Peace**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen, amen, amen.

#### **Online Postlude: If Ye Love Me** by Thomas Tallis

Tenebrae, an award-winning British chamber choir under the direction of Nigel Short, performs Thomas Tallis' *If Ye Love Me* at St Augustine's Church in Kilburn, North London. Tallis was an English Renaissance composer primarily of sacred vocal music, and he served as composer, teacher, and musician at the courts of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I. *If Ye Love Me* is a four-part setting of a passage from today's Gospel reading, John 14:15-17:

If ye love me keep my commandments,  
and I will pray the Father,  
and he shall give you another comforter,  
that he may 'bide with you forever;  
e'en the spirit of truth.

[If ye love me - Tallis - Tenebrae conducted by Nigel Short](#)

---



Change is inevitable – except from a vending machine. – Robert C. Gallagher

The import thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become. – Charles Dubois