

Little Current United Church Pastoral Charge
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Minister: Rev. Whitney Bruno - lcucpc@gmail.com
Music Ministry: Judith Mosher, Ruth McDonald, & Choir
** an invitation to stand in body or spirit in the service
~ BOLD PRINT- Congregational Participation

Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 26, 2026

Camp Sunday

10:00 am at Little Current United Church

WELCOME: a special welcome to guests worshipping with us today. Please sign the guest book as you enter the sanctuary.

Gathering & Prelude

Announcements - The Life & Work of the Church

Worship Service material provided by United Church of Canada

We Approach God

Centering: *I've Got Peace Like a River - Choir*

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

Long, long ago, Creator God chose land to create the first beings made in the image of God - humans. From that moment, until this very moment, we are creatures of land. We honour Creator, and the land, when we walk gently, act in ways to help not just humans but all life, and know we are stewards - temporary caretakers - of this Eden. We sin when we break the relationships among people, land, creatures, waters, skies. This truth has been known by First Nations people since that long, long ago time. This truth is being relearned by settler peoples, who forgot this truth, or chose to ignore it. We acknowledge today this land is not our own. We are guests of Creator. This place, Waabijewung, Little Current, Mnidoo Mnis, Manitoulin Island, this place has been cared for by Odawa, Ojibwe, and Pottawatomi Anishinaabeg for generations upon generations. To honour God is to honour traditional stewardship, and to join with First Nations in caring for this land from which we are all made.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Picture it: breakfast time at camp. There is the clatter of dishes, the big yarns and messy hair. And there is Jesus. Wherever two or three gather in his name, he is present. He invites us to break our fast on the bread of life.

- Light the Christ Candle.

2.

Call to Worship: Your response is: "Thank you God!"

One: Come, let us thank God.

All: "Thank you God!"

One: For rain and sun, for snow and dark-

All: "Thank you God!"

One: For birds and worms, for bears and moose,

All: "Thank you God!"

One: For fish and daisies, for sheep and rice

All: "Thank you God!"

One: For more than we can ever say or name or express - we gather to proclaim to you, Lord:

All: "Thank you God!"

Invocation:

One and Eternal God of time and space, we are filled with awe. We experience the glory of the hillsides and mountaintops, the beauty of the lakes and valleys, and we are enthralled. Blessed are you. Help us to not take for granted the wonder of your creation as we share stories today of camping and outdoor experiences. Amen. (+1)

Opening Hymn: *'Spirit, Open My Heart'* **MV 79**

Learning Time for All:

Herding Sheep

Listening



Hymn of Illumination (MV 108)

***I know your Word,
your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God. (2X)
I know your Word is a lamp, O God,
to light my path for ever. (2X)***

Holy Scripture:

Acts 2:42-47 *(The believers share everything in common.)*

John 10:1-10 *(Jesus the good shepherd and the gate.)*

May God's spirit shape our understanding of these words.

And may they awaken in our hearts

Sermon: *'Jesus the Gate'*

3.

Learning Hymn: "It Only Takes a Spark" VU 289

Your Generosity Matters! Camp McDougall

- Why Camp McDougall?

Minute for Right Relations:

- Moosehide Campaign

Responding to the Word

Invitation to Commitment:

I thank you today for helping the church recover from a hard winter. Today, if you are able, I ask you to think about camp. Kids' camp, and your camp. Refugee camps and vacation camps. Homeless camps and RV camps. Some people camp for fun and enjoyment. Some people camp because that's the only option they have. As Acts tells us, if we hold all in common - all land, finances, time, prayers, talents and skills - if we work together, we make Earth like it is in heaven. We live into God's reign where there is wild and wonderful nature and safe places to sleep for all. Let us commit to God to live in common.

(The offerings brought forward)

****Offertory Hymn:**

*"These gifts we bring with grateful hearts
to reconcile, make new.*

*Gather us in grace, show us the way,
to live our lives in Truth -----
to share Your love in all we do."*

Prayer of Commitment (unison)

Gracious God, we are humbled that our offerings can do so much. Our church reaches out across Manitoulin and the Islands, and beyond, offering care, comfort, and fellowship. We extend our arms throughout Ontario, providing camping experiences for young people to come to Thessalon. We stretch from coast to coast to coast, supporting educational centers so that we have trained leaders for today and tomorrow. Thank you for this opportunity to give. Amen. (+2)

Prayers of the People:

Today we are doing a tree prayer. It is a meditation. This means please get comfortable. This might mean standing or sitting; or might mean a second pew pillow or a different seat. Please settle.

4.

And think of the ground. How are you touching it? With feet or a foot? With a wheel or a hand? Does the edge of your skirt or pants touch - how are you grounded?

Imagine where you touch growing roots like a tree. Down we go. Through the floor boards. Through the foundation. Down down down. Here is the quiet stillness of the earth. The place of potential and growth. Here are the seeds of our faith waiting in darkness for the time to be right. Imagine with me what is here.

Picture a person who has inspired your faith and think a prayer of gratitude to God for them. **(silence)**

Picture a scripture that gives your root nourishment - living water. For many it is Psalm 23. What is your source of nourishment? **(silence)** Thank you God, for your Word.

Draw on your faith and pull that nourishment up into your trunk - your body. Let it fuel your day. Your sapwood carries this for your immediate needs. What busy things are distracting you? Let your deep roots of faith and Word, of love and God, gently carry away the busy-ness and give you a moment just here. Just being. **(silence)**

Deep inside you is your heartwood. It testifies to our faith. Although dead, it is alive. The heartwood doesn't decay and holds up the entire weight of all the tree. It is our morals, our strength, our core, our past. There are the years you grew so much; and the years of hardship where you barely survived. Let us take a moment to thank God for the years we have known. **(silence)**

Everything we have experienced is written in our bodies, year after year, ring after ring. There are old wounds healed over. Fresh wounds weeping sap. So let us stretch our shoulders. Relax. Let God's nourishment flow through us and into our branches - our arms and hands, our head and ears and eyes. All that we do is supported by our past, our roots, and fueled by the living waters of God. Shake those branches and let the stress of the world fall off like rain or ice falling from trees. It is time for spring. It is time for new growth and new life. **(shake)**

Are you ready for some leaves? Leaves are amazing. Trees grow them and lose them as needed. They take the energy of the sun and the energy of the tree and produce sugars that fuel not only the plant's life, but all that depends on the plant's life like you and me. The leaves fall and feed the worms and soil - which in turn feed the mushrooms and bacteria.

These networks of roots connect tree to tree - so trees and plants of all kinds hold all things in common for the greater good. Imagine your leaves today - the things you do now to turn the goodness and light of God into the common good of all creation. **(silence)**

And let us think of how we have benefited from other's leaves, and the networks that connect us one to another across all plants, animals, peoples, skies, waters and lands. **(silence)**

Dear God, thank you for the web of life. Thank you for placing us in this garden. Thank you for ordering all things to be interdependent. Thank you for connection and love being the foundation of the cosmos. Thank you. In Jesus' holy name we pray as one forest full of individual trees saying: **“Our Mother/Father/God 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 forever and ever.” AMEN**

Going Forth Into The World

Going Out Hymn: “I’m Gonna Live so God can Use Me” VU 575

Benediction & Carrying out the Light:

Every breath you take is oxygen from plants. The water of your blood was the same waters that passed through dinosaurs. Every carbon in your body was once a star. We are deeply connected across time and space with all the cosmos. You are a living miracle, living within a miracle. Go out in wonder at this blessing from God. Amen. **Light is extinguished, we carry the light in our hearts**

Choral Benediction: Isaiah 55 VU 884 You Shall Go Out

***You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you,
There’ll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!***

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, XX

The trees of the field will clap their hands, XX

The trees of the field will clap their hands, XX

While you go out with joy!

Go now in the peace of Christ!

Resources Sourced:

(+1) – Laura Turnbull, Penticton, BC. – Gathering, L/E - 2026 – Pg. 51

(+2) – Laura Turnbull, Penticton, BC – Gathering revised - 2023

Little Current United Church PC

Welcome

To Worship



campmcdougall.com

**“Fourth of Easter”
Camp Sunday**

April 26, 2026

Hymns for April 26, 2026 – LCUCPC

#1. “Spirit, Open My Heart” MV 79

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

1. God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. **Refrain**
2. Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. **Refrain**
3. May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. **Refrain**

~ ~ ~

#2. It Only Takes a Spark – Pass It On (VU 289)

1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on
2. What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming,
that's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
3. I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found –
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top; I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

~ ~ ~

#3 “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” VU 575

1. I'm gonna **live** so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
2. I'm gonna **work** so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
3. I'm gonna **pray** so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
4. I'm gonna **sing** so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

