

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 3, 2026
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:

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, Waebijewung, 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

We come today in lament for the gender-based violence that haunts our communities and country and world. We come together to pray for healing and hope; truth and courage. We come together with Christ, who is our centre, and our comfort and challenge. This candle reminds us of his presence whenever two or three gather in his name. - **Light the Christ Candle.**

2.

Call to Worship:

One: Come, you who have never known violence

All: We come, dreaming of this reality for all

One: Come, you who have been cat-called, whistled at, sent pictures you never asked for... and come, too, you who have done these things

All: We come, uneasy

One: Come, you who have suffered stalking, bruises, and fear.

Come, you who have caused these

All: We come, but worry why you call us

One: Come, join around Christ, sinners and saints, living and murdered, missing and present, join the circle. Christ calls us to see ourselves in each other; and to see God's own face in each other. Christ calls us to redress the violence among us and work with God to make Earth a safe place for all.

Invocation:

Be with us, Merciful God, as we do the difficult work of facing ugly truths and seeking to right wrongs. Be with us, Loving Christ, as we pray for healing and hope, courage and closure. Be with us, Bold Holy Spirit, and transform our hearts to love more as you love, so we can transform our communities.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" VU 220

Learning Time for All:-

- REDress day for mmiwg2s+

- Moosehide Campaign



Listening

Hymn of Illumination (MV 81)

Love us into fullness, touch us with your grace;

Jesus, in your mercy, draw us to your face.

Holy Scripture:

Acts 7:55-60 (Stephen is stoned.)

John 14:1-14 (I am the way, the truth, the life.)

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

And may they awaken in our hearts

3.

Sermon: "Her Grandpa Looked Through Garbage Bins."

Lighting Candles for the Murdered and Missing

Prayer

Creator God, we come to you with humility, courage, respect, and honesty as we lament the wrongs done to Indigenous women and girls, and to members of the 2-Spirit-plus community, the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people of Turtle Island.

We seek truth. We listen to the stories of family and friends who have lost a beloved grandmother, mother, daughter, auntie, sister, cousin, friend. Help us to face this difficult truth and to make much needed change.

We seek love. We pray for all who lives have been impacted by this trauma of death and disappearance.

We seek honesty. May those with information about these murdered and missing women and girls have courage to come forward.

We seek wisdom. May our leaders and police lead and search with speed and compassion, love, and concern. Banish racism and assumptions from their hearts.

We pray for healing. May those impacted by these murders and disappearances, as well as those who face bigotry and violence, continue to hold their loved ones in care and love. May our hurting nation seek to offer support, generosity, and love to all affected by these tragic losses. May we seek to listen to stories, to look at photos, and to offer our resolve.

We ask for courage. For all families and friends who offer testimony, stories, tears, and anger. For those who continue to search. For the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people of Turtle Island who fear for the women and girls of their communities. For our nation as we face the ugly truth before us.

We seek to be welcoming. For all people, regardless of their race, culture, orientation, beliefs, or any other category we place one another into, may we be kind, friendly, accepting of differences, and loving to all your peoples.

Creator God, you are present within us and all around us. Bring about a change in our collective hearts that transforms fear into hope, apathy

4.

into genuine concern, tragedy into a transformed society. Help us to hold Indigenous women and girls, and all easily exploited and ignored people, in our care.

Be with us, Creator God, as we do the difficult work of righting the wrongs done. Give us courage, give us honesty, make us humble, open our hearts to love more fully. Amen.

Learning Hymn: "Creator God You Gave Us Life" MV 27

M4M – Your Generosity Matters.

Healthy Food – Healthy Relationships

Responding to the Word

Invitation to Commitment:

With bravery, Stephen spoke his truth, the truth of Christ, to those with power. Being an ally is costly. For Stephen, it was his life. For Saul, the young man witnessing today, he will encounter Jesus and we know him as Paul. Paul would offer finances, time, prayer, travel, liberty, reputation, and more to aid the world knowing the love of God. Allies of God, let us commit a portion of all we have in time, talent, treasure, and terra towards the healing works of God near and far.

(The offerings are brought forward)

****Offertory Hymn:** (MV 191)

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share

Prayer of Commitment (unison)

Creator God, we offer back to you some of all that you have gifted us. Gather our offerings of time, talent, treasure and terra and send them near and far to love as you love. Let us be your messengers of hope and healing to our world. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Creator God, centre of our circle, we come around you today with joys and grief; we come with sorrow and shame and also happiness and forgiveness. We circle around you full of emotions, as diverse as we are diverse.

5.

Hear our prayers for forgiveness we shout in our hearts...
Hear our prayers for courage to communicate our truths...
Hear our prayers for honesty with ourselves, and with others...
Hear our prayers for wisdom that knows what we do to the least, we do to you, Our God...
Hear our prayers for healing inside ourselves, and in our communities...
Hear our prayers for truth to be known, and shared...
Hear our prayers for love to be our rule, our reality, our world...
Hear our prayers for the circle of all creation that exists in community around you... All of this we pray in Jesus' name, just as he told us to do in today's scripture, and conclude by saying the prayer he taught us:

“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: *“How Great Thou Art”* **VU 238**

Benediction & Carrying out the Light:

Jesus said we know where he goes - we know the way - the way is he, himself. He is as near as the path you travel; you are where he is; he is where you are. As we travel from here, know Jesus is with you guiding you. Creator God is with you, creating new ways to live and love. Spirit God is with you, challenging you to face the truth and the life. God is with you on your way. Amen.

Light is extinguished, we carry the light in our hearts

Choral Benediction: VU 974

***Amen! Amen !
Hallelujah, amen!***

Go now in the peace of Christ!

Little Current United Church PC

Welcome

To Worship



chpl.org

“Fifth Sunday of Easter”

And Red Dress Day

(May 5 2026)

May 3, 2026

Hymns for May 3, 2026 – LCUCPC

#1 VU 220 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come all who hear:
brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen
how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who out of love will befriend us.
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.

~ ~ ~

#2. 27 MV *Creator God You Gave Us Life*

1. Creator God you gave us life,
your image formed within our souls,
yet through the mist of time and space,
we search for that which makes us whole.

***Through hands that paint majestic skies,
and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.***



2. In ev'ry flow'r and ev'ry tree,
we see your great diversity,
yet greater still we see your love,
expressed in our humanity. **Refrain...**
3. When with our hearts, our hands our minds,
we share our gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God. **Refrain.**

~ ~ ~

#3 238 VU *How Great Thou Art*

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.
**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!**
2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. **Refrain.**
3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin. **Refrain.**
4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" **Refrain.**