

Bolton United Church – Sunday Worship

September 13, 2020

Prelude:

To God be the glory great things God has done!

Introit: VU 396 Jesus, Stand Among Us VERSE 1

Welcome & Announcements:

Please note: **we will not** be having lay readers, **singing by the congregation, handshakes and or hugs at our welcoming time.** Offering plates will be left at the front and the back of the church for your use, upon entering or leaving the service. You are invited to sign up for PAR, or online donations (**details are the website, follow the link**). Hymn books and Pew Bibles have been removed from the pews and no bulletins will be provided. We will rely only on the PowerPoint screen. Communion will be available, served to you in your pew, by gloved and masked servers.

Acknowledging the Land

We acknowledge that we are in the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabe peoples, on whose land and by whose waters we gather. We acknowledge their stewardship as we worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

Hymn: MV 1 Let Us Build a House

Opening Prayer:

Most Holy and Loving God, we gather today like we have never done before, we come from places we have never walked before. During the past seven months we have experienced some level of darkness due to the Coronavirus, yet we have not allowed it to define us. As Barbara Brown Taylor states in her book Learning to Walk in the Dark, moments of darkness often lead to transformation. Open our hearts and our minds to receive the transformative message you have for us today. As we gather today, let us pause to remember those we have lost from our community and beyond to COVID 19 as well as to those who have died from natural causes. *(Silence)*

Be our guide along the way and help us to be your Light to everyone we meet. May this time be a time of hope as we experience the joys of your love. Tender God, we open ourselves to the calling of your Holy Spirit, Breath of God, blow in our lives this day, fill us with the freshness of Your amazing grace. Cleanse and renew us that wherever we are, we may remain your people in this our broken world. Silence: Amen.

Assurance of Hope:

Hymn: VU 382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Anthem: Glory Be To God / by Joseph M. Martin

Scripture: John 20: 19-23 New International Version

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

One: The Gospel of Christ

Response: Thanks be to God!

Reflection:

Rev. Eleanor Scarlett

Hymn: VU 619 Healer of Our Every Ill

Commissioning & Benediction

May the Light of God's love transform us, may the Spirit of God's voice be a source of strength. May the wonder of God's awareness lighten our path, may the courage of Jesus our sibling be with us today and always and may the promise God's assurance encircle us today and always. Amen!

Postlude: VU 481 Sent Forth by God's Blessing VERSE 1