

Bolton United Church
Sunday Worship May 17, 2020

Silent Reflection

Grace & Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acknowledging the Land

We acknowledge that we are in the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credits, 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.

Opening Prayer:

Why is it so hard to trust in your grace, Generous Heart? You promise to pour out blessings upon us, but we are reluctant to let go of what we have. We put a lock on our hearts and feelings, while you share your precious Child with us. You call us home to dinner, but we would rather keep playing in the shadows of life.

We pray for those suffering from the Coronavirus, for those who have lost loved ones to the virus, for those suffering the effects of severe loneliness because of social isolation, for all frontline workers and everyone who help to make our time of isolation more livable.

Holy One, we pray that you continue to anoint us with the oil of your grace, until our hearts overflow with praise. Fill us with the living waters of hope, so we can share with others. Feed us at your Table of joy, so we might follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, with glad and gracious hearts. Amen

Silence

Hymn: MV 12, Come Touch Our Hearts

Scripture: Luke 24: 44-53

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Anthem:

Reflection: Rev. Eleanor - see attached

Silence

Hymn: VU 481, Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Blessings:

MV 12 Come Touch Our Hearts

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice, to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you, your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us, let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason, your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
help us to open doors of understanding, to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile, and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve, steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered, to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul, our mind, our strength, our all, come touch us with your grace.

VU 481 Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended, O now be extended the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all.

God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us; unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.