

Bolton United Church
Sunday Worship April 19, 2020

Music:

Grace and Peace to you from the Risen Christ:

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.

Opening Prayer:

Resurrected One, You stand before us and welcome us with your peace.

We gather today from the comforts of our homes as we continue to self isolate because of the Coronavirus, we do so knowing that we are not alone.

We pray also for our communities, country and world, we pray for our front-line workers, those living alone, the vulnerable and especially those living in institutions. We are aware of the deep grief many families and friends are struggling with and we hold them close to our hearts.

May Your grace and peace wrap us in your love and mercy as we continue to lean on you.

This we pray in your Holy name we pray. Amen!

Hymn: VU 175, The Is the Day That God Has Made.

Scripture: John 20:19-21

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

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."

Anthem

Reflection: "Peace Be with You."

Rev. Eleanor Scarlett

Minute for Mission

Julie Dunn

Pastoral Prayers:

Rev. Eleanor Scarlett

Hymn: VU 177 This Joyful Eastertide

Closing Words:

Hymn VU 175, This Is the Day that God Has Made

This is the day that God has made! Rejoice, Rejoice
And be exceeding glad! This is the day that God has made!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!

1: Christ has conquered death at last,
left the tomb that held him fast!
Gone the sorrow, gone the night,
dawns the morning clear and bright!

Refrain: as above

2: Jesus lives who once was dead,
Lives forever, as he said!
Risen now our Saviour King,
songs of gladness let us sing!

Refrain: as above

Hymn: VU177, This Joyful Eastertide

1.

This joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain,
Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain;
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.

2. My flesh in hope shall rest,

And for a season slumber,
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number.

2. Death's flood has lost its chill,
Since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.

Minute for Mission

Palestinian refugees living in the Al Husn refugee camp, 80 km north of Amman, Jordan, are under lockdown because of COVID-19.

Forty thousand registered Palestinian refugees and 3,000 Syrian refugees live in the camp, one of six so-called “emergency” camps originally set up in 1968 for people who fled the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the 1967 Arab–Israeli war.

Today, there is one health centre with a single doctor on staff in the Al Husn camp, and nearly half of the refugees living there don’t have health insurance. Accessing food, which is always a challenge, is extremely difficult now.

The Al Husn camp, like many of the world’s largest refugee camps, is bracing for the virus. In refugee camps, overcrowding, limited access to sanitation and food, as well as already weakened health conditions means that people are more likely to get sick.

From the nearby Za’atari refugee camp, Mohammad Tahir, an external relations officer for the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) says he is most concerned for the children: “A large portion of the population are children, and it’s hard to make them understand the need for isolation and extra handwashing. My real concern is that this is a very crowded environment, so if we do have cases it will be very hard to contain.”

At Al Husn, Fares Swais, the Executive Director of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) Jordan is determined to do what he can to help. “We are trying to reach people in need while we can,” he says.

In 2019, the United Church’s Mission & Service helped Swais and the DSPR build two greenhouses in the camp to teach women to grow vegetables and provide food to take to market. Now, the greenhouses overflow with vegetables. “Schools, families, medical centres, and other institutions inside the camp started ordering from our kitchen, providing employment,” says Swais.

While social isolation protocols shut down a lot of activity, within a week, the organization, adhering to social distancing protocols, still distributed more than 150 vegetable parcels to the poorest households inside the camp. Also, sugar, flour, and canned food from the organization’s kitchen were given to those who needed it most.

“This was the first response to COVID-19 in the Al Husn camp. We are very proud of our committees and volunteers, who are creative and ready to help the most vulnerable. We are going to continue to do what we can. In the weeks to come and when some normalcy is restored, we anticipate more need to relieve the poorest households in our different refugee camps,” predicts Swais.

Your gifts through [Mission & Service](#) mean that people living in refugee camps can receive support in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic through organizations like the DSPR. Thank you!