

Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 10, 2020
St. Albert United Church

COMMUNITY WELCOME <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kh3UiM-gnWQ>

Tawow, Bienvenue, Welcome to St. Albert United Church on this third Sunday of Easter as we gather through the wonder of virtual means.

As we come together, we acknowledge that we do so in the traditional lands of Treaty 6 First Nations and a significant trading community of the Métis Nation.

We also affirm all are welcome to share fully in our life and work regardless of age, race, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, belief, economic circumstance, ability or background. St. Albert United Church: a place where EVERYONE has room to grow.

If you have a concern regarding someone who is ill, grieving or in need, please inform the ministers.

Note that for the songs/hymns there is a link for the words and music. Simply copy and paste.

We gather, cultivating space for everyone...

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are many, we are one,
born in this land, or far from afar;
young in age, or full of years,
steeped in joy or deep in tears. (*Gong sound with silence in btw prayer*)
Come meet Christ in one another,
let each gift be shared and honoured:
language, culture, home, diaspora—
each so rich, enriching others. (*Gong sound with silence in between prayer*)

Let's be many, let's be one;
gathered here, or scattered hence:

heav'n and earth and humanity

celebrating diversity. (*Gong sound with silence in between prayer*)

—“*We Are Many, We Are One,*” by the Rev. Amy Lee and the Rev. Dr. Wenh-In Ng,
originally composed for the Sounding the Bamboo gathering; used with permission

GATHERING PRAYER:

And Jesus said, "Come!"

To all parents and all children: he said, "Come!"

to the parentless and the childless: he said, "Come!"

to all who long to be nurtured: he said, "Come!"

Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

for I am gentle and humble of heart

and you will find rest for your souls."

Written by Carol Penner Adapted. <https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship>

HYMN: VU 356 “Seek ye first the kingdom”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FuurRAJkZY>

TIME FOR ALL AGES: 2 Lovely Illustrated Books

When we are back together Rev. Deborah will be happy to share these books
with the children (and adults) of St. Albert United Church.

“A Family is Like a Cake” by Shona Innes and illustrated by Irisz Agocs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfugBxGY3Tc>

“Families, Families, Families” by Suzanne Lang and Max Lang

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2GAPIHXAk>

HYMN: ^{Cheerios} celebrates “Right On Tracks - It's All Family”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDEXD3LSOGU>

A KYRIE DURING A TIME OF QUARANTINE

Seeking peace in a broken world,
but also knowing God's peace through God's presence,
we pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Seeking peace in suffering, illness, and pain,
but also feeling God's peace through healing, prayer, and those who help,
we pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Seeking peace through our distress, depression, isolation, and fear,
but also feeling God's peace through the words of loved ones
and the hope we see in the world,
we pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Seeking peace through the pain of worshipping separately,
longing for our holy community to be gathering,
but also feeling peace through God's presence with each of us
as we worship together distantly,
we pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, loving Lord.
We need you now, as we have needed you every day.
We cannot live without you.

Amen.

~ written by Pastor Nissa Peterson, Chatfield & Root Prairie Lutheran Churches. Posted
on **MightyNiss** <https://mightyniss.blogspot.com/2020/04/kyrie-for-worship-during-coronavirus.html>

We listen, attentive to the voice of Jesus

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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These verses from Psalm 31 serve as a summary of the faith of the psalmists throughout the Psalter—that is, they always live in fundamental dependence upon God, not only trusting that God can and will help, but also inviting others to trust and find hope in God (verses 23-24).

The series of synonyms for “refuge” solidifies the point—“rock of refuge” (verse 2; the Hebrew word translated “refuge” is different than in verses 1, 19); “strong fortress”/“fortress” (verses 2-3); “rock” (verse 3; again, a different Hebrew word than “rock” in verse 2). God can be trusted to protect and preserve.

A Reading from the Psalms:

Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

Prayer and Praise for Deliverance from Enemies

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

¹In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

²Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

³You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name’s sake lead me and guide me,

⁴take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.

- ⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;
 you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
 deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
- ¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
 save me in your steadfast love.

One: Herein we seek wisdom. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Jesus spoke the following words as he prepared for his own death with full knowledge that his disciples would soon be overcome with grief.

There's a hint that Jesus' words weren't meant to offer physical security. As Jaime Clark-Soles reminds us, the promised "dwelling places" (*monai*) are linked grammatically to the Johannine concept of "abiding" (*meno*). The dwelling places are the noun form of the verb that Jesus uses just a chapter later, when he tells the disciples, "Abide in me."

A Reading from the Gospels:

John 14:1-14

Jesus the Way to the Father

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe^[a] in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going."^[c] ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know^[d] my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me^[e] for anything, I will do it.

One: Herein we seek wisdom. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SILENT REFLECTION:

We take a few moments to reflect on all we have heard.

HYMN: MV 92 “Like a Rock”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bv-Qe3zqzNE&list=RDBv-Qe3zqzNE&index=1>

MESSAGE: “There is room for Everyone” - Rev. Deborah Hoekstra

https://youtu.be/qsdhGKvl_A0

ANTHEM: MV 136 “When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSg0Ni4sSTk>

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR FAMILY SUNDAY:

God of all Living and Loving:

How pleasant it is when women, men, and children
live together in unity!

How noble is your creation and the world that you have made!

How blessed we are to receive the gifts of life and love!

We are thankful for families,
where scattered piles of stuff testify that we live fully in the moment;
where the noise of laughter and the silence of sadness are freely shared;

We are thankful for families,
where we find sanctuary from danger and judgment;
where words of love and openness are the rule of life.

We are thankful for families,
where our differences are the spices of life;
where our unity is something that we can always take for granted.

We grieve for families,
where violence and rejection are living realities;
where hearts are broken, and dreams are shattered.

We grieve for families,
where walls of protection become fortresses of isolation,
where language is a weapon of destruction and hate.

Help us to understand,
those families whose identities are different from ours;
the ways of loving, parenting, partnering
and working together for peace.

Help us to dare,
to stand strongly against hate and divisiveness;
to encounter our differences with love and respect.

This we believe:
that love is stronger than hate;
that hope is stronger than despair,
and that good is stronger than evil.
In the name of the One who is Loving and Living, **Amen.**

SHARING OF GIFTS

It is very important that we remember to continue to share our gifts of time, connection, prayer, talent and resources with God's people. Please, consider continuing to support agencies and associations which have relied on your financial support prior to these changing world circumstances. We recognize that during these difficult times, personal finances may be severely diminished. However, please consider contributing financially as you are able to support St. Albert United Church's ministry. Expenses continue even with the suspension of services and operations.

Please check the church website for ways in which you can support ministry with time, talents and resources.

(www.stalbertunited.ca)

SHARING OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S WORK

Reach out in a variety of ways to your family, friends, and fellow congregation members—connect with and support each other.

Please check the church website for updates and information.

(www.stalbertunited.ca)

HYMN: "Be Not Afraid" by Catholic Artists from Home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFODlpFOoBg>

SENDING FORTH:

Go into your week,
knowing that you are embraced by the love of God;
a love that is sweeter and more tender
than any you have ever known.

Written by Carol Penner Adapted. <https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship>

SUNG BLESSING: 'Ma Te Huruhuru'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hw4u2QognkY>

MUSICAL POSTLUDE