

## MAY 17 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### COMMUNITY WELCOME

- Tawow, Bienvenue, Welcome to this time of worship. While we continue to join remotely in our individual or family places of social isolation and physical distancing, please be mindful that in this moment we are joining in a spiritual way with the entire community of St. Albert United Church and others who are also participating in this same worship opportunity from their homes and places of safe physical distancing.

#### - **Items to gather together before beginning:**

➤ ***A Voices United and a More Voices* hymn book if you have one**

- As you and/or your family move through the service, I invite you to read aloud the words of the prayers, readings, etc. Even if you are alone, speaking the words aloud can help internalize and deepen the worship experience. If there are other loved ones gathered with you, I invite you to share the leader parts with all who are comfortable with and able to read.

- In addition, at points in the service below there will be links to YouTube videos of an opening, the All Ages Time, the Message and celebration of Communion. There will also be links to some music/sung hymns that unfortunately are not local but are legally accessible on the internet. I have included them because we are all aware that music is such an important aspect of worshiping. When you click on these links you may have to shut down the ads that pop up first and close the link as soon as the hymn is finished before it goes to another that may or may not be appropriate.

(Today's prayers were taken from and/or adapted from Community Advocate: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, was written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, UCC. Copyright 2020 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.)

## WELCOME TO OUR VIRTUAL WORSHIP

### [MAY 17 Welcome and Opening Prayers](#)

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We long for community and the Presence of God.

**People: In whom we live and move and have our being.**

Leader: This day Christ tells us that we will never be alone. An Advocate—spirit of Truth--will share our journey.

**People: With whom we will live and create community and celebrate being.**

Leader: May love of God be with you.

**People: And the joy of Christ surround you.**

Leader: May we know the presence of the Advocate as we gather in this community of peace, may God's Truth lead us to the path of discipleship with deeds of bold mercy and courageous justice.

**People: As an Easter People following a Risen Lord, may the life of Jesus live on in us and through us. Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)

Ever-Present One, we have come here today for many reasons, each with our own story. May these reasons and stories be immersed in your Sacred Story, finding ourselves caught up in the drama and beauty of Jesus' teachings, life, and ministry. Enable us to move boldly into the future and to fulfill the hope of love that Jesus taught even when it seems, at times, we forget that you know us at our very depth. Even though we can become anxious and afraid that you are not with us, in these days of isolation and worry, call us to the work of imagination, generosity and patience, which are possible when we remember Whose we are. Amen.

HYMN: [Morning Has Broken](#)

(If you would like to sing along the words can be found at #409 of Voices United and on the screen.)

TIME FOR ALL AGES: [Loving Your Neighbor](#)

(Douglas [the puppet] learns that the phrase "love your neighbor" means so much more than "don't hate your neighbor." Showing God's love should be more about what we do than what we don't do.)

HYMN: [Puppets sing: This Little Light of Mine](#)

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Please share the reading among those who gather physically with you.

Acts 17:22-31 (The Scripture quotation contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

The God who made the world and everything in it, the God who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is God served by human hands, as though God needed anything, since God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

From one ancestor God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and God allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and

perhaps grope for God and find God—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. For "In God we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are God's offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now God commands all people everywhere to repent, because God has fixed a day on which God will have the world judged in righteousness by one whom God has appointed, and of this God has given assurance to all by raising Jesus from the dead."

**John 14:15-21** (The Scripture quotation contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and God will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

**SILENT REFLECTION:** *Please take time to reflect on all we have heard.*

**ANTHEM:** ["How Then Shall I Live?" by Linnea Good](#)

MESSAGE: Life In the Spirit of Love

by Rev. Mervin Gallant

[MAY 17 Sermon and Closing Prayers](#)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/JESUS PRAYER

We pray together now a paraphrase of the Jesus prayer from New Zealand...

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-Giver, Source of all that is and shall be. Father and Mother of us all, loving God in whom is heaven: the hallowing of your name echo through the Universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world.**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings. Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

SHARING OF GIFTS

Thank you to all of you for the various ways in which you continue to support the ongoing ministry of St Albert United Church through sharing your 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.

<https://stalbertunited.ca/donations/>

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)**

**Today we call upon you, as your children oh God, to share in the love and work of Jesus. We, as the gathered Church, the Body of Christ, continue in our day to witness and work on behalf of our Lord, returning our gifts, tithes and offerings. May these gifts, O God, become action and intention, fulfilling Christ's commandment to love. Amen.**

### **BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH (in unison)**

**All of us have been created and called to be in community  
Which today takes many forms!**

**Know this, but more importantly, live this:**

**As God's children we are loved and equipped for great ministry.  
Follow Jesus' commandment to love boldly, even in solitude,  
as you are held in the grace and love of God. Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: [Go Make a Difference in the World](#)**

**(If you would like to sing along the words can be found at #209 of More Voices.)**