

Order of Worship
Sunday March 21, 2021
Lent 5
God Invites Us to Gather



Prelude *The Old Rugged Cross* arr. Faye López

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our church is on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. For thousands of years the first peoples gathered, loved, celebrated, created, and overcame great obstacles on this land. We give thanks that we can create community here too and pray that the communities we create will be spaces of peace and respect for all.

Call to Worship*

Every week is a new week, another chance to say:

"Here I am. Use me."

Every day is a new day, another change to say:

"Thank you for yesterday. Thank you for tomorrow."

Every hour is a new hour, another chance to say:

"Again and again, make me new."

We do not come to this place to stay the same.

We come to this place to be changed.

So let us worship holy God, who created yesterday, will create tomorrow, and even now is creating something new.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Duet *I Know Who Holds Tomorrow* Kim & Alicia Perrin

Prayer or Approach and Lord's Prayer

Hymn 220 *Praise to the Lord the Almighty* Voices United

Prayer of Confession*

Gracious God,

We want to see you.

We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus;

But not only that, we want to be people who have your covenant written on our hearts.

Why do we feel so far away from that at times?

What went wrong?

Where did we lose our way?

Could you, would you, once again, write on our fragile hearts?

We would be so grateful. Amen.

Hymn 69

Kyrie Eleison

More Voices

Assurance of Pardon*

Friends, despite our wonderings, despite our distractions, despite wrong turns time and time again, we are known and loved by God.

Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea,
God will never stop waving us home.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our fragile bones are held by the Great Creator.

Our fragile hearts are loved by the Great Creator.

Our tender spirits are forgiven by the Great Creator.

Today is a new day.

Again and again, we are forgiven;

Again and again, we are redeemed.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



The Word of God Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson

John 12:20-33

Sermon

There is Another Way

Rev. Jessica McCrae

Hymn 359

He Came Singing Love

Voices United

Our Response to God

Prayers of the People

Pathways

Jennifer Honsa

Video:

The Work of Pathways

Hymn 559

Come O Fount of Every Blessing

Voices United

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

Abide With Me

arr. Jon Purifoy

We warmly welcome Michelle Chung as guest musician!

** Some prayers from this service are from "A Sanctified Art"*

Announcements

Deliveries – Pastoral Care has had an individual offer to make deliveries to members of our congregation during this current lockdown and time of extreme Covid numbers. If you could use this service please contact Bev Mathew for further information at Bev.mathew@rogers.com or 905-826-5005.

Streetsville's Weekly Word – As another way to connect, Rev. Jessica has been sending this approximately once per week. If you do not wish to be part of the distribution, scroll to the end of the email and click on “*unsubscribe from this list*”. If you are not receiving this and would like to, please check your “junk” folder to see if it went there. If it did not please notify Rev. Jessica to add your name to the mailing list.

Craft Sale Vendors - A few weeks ago I wrote about the cancellation of this year's Harvest of Craft Sale and how our regular vendors have the opportunity to connect with our congregation members. Here are two more vendors who are interested in selling directly to you:

Shirley Jessop has a number of knit items available. These include towels, toddler and crib quilts, dish cloths and slippers. She can be reached at 905-858-2754.

Maria Cabral's business is “Hand Crafted Stitches”. She has knitted and crocheted doll clothes, toys and animals. She also makes blankets and basket beds. She can be reached at 647-746-9739.

Meetings

Today (Sunday)

Virtual Coffee Hour - Gather at your computer, tablet or smartphone on Zoom for coffee hour at **11:00 am** Sunday. We can support up to 100 participants on this. For more information click on <https://www.streetsvilleunited.ca/events/virtual-coffee-hour-2/>

This Week

Wed. 11:00 am – Virtual Café Join us on your computer, tablet or smartphone on Zoom for coffee! Every Wednesday morning. For more information click on <https://www.streetsvilleunited.ca/events/virtual-cafe/>

Sunday School

This Week's Sunday School Activities - A Heart for God

This week's readings focus on God's desire for our hearts to be full of love. The prophet Jeremiah speaks God's words of forgiveness; God forgives the people's sins and seeks to fill their hearts with love. One psalmist seeks to be in a right relationship with God and another wonders how to keep God's word close to the heart. We hear how Jesus is in a loving relationship with us, a love shown through his way of being.

1) The focus Bible Reading this week is Jeremiah 31: 31-34. This reading brings us yet another covenant. The earlier covenant with the people included the ten commandments, laws for living together in a loving community, The people however struggled to keep these laws. Now God remains faithful, forgives and gives a new way of living together. In forgiving the people for what happened in the past, God also promises not to keep bringing up past sins.

Questions to consider about after reading this Bible passage a) Why do you think it means that God's law will now be written on their hearts? b) What is the promise that God makes in his message from Jeremiah? c) What will be different about God's new covenant? d) What are some kind and loving actions that you can do because God's love is deep inside you?

Additional Scripture Readings: Psalm 51:1-12, Psalm 119: 9-16, Hebrews 5: 5-10 and John 12: 20-33

As we near the end of this Lenten season, how might your heart be filled with love for God?

2) Prayer: God of love, fill our hearts with your spirit so that we may draw closer to you. May we follow in Jesus' way and be inspired by our encounters with Christ to share your love in the world. Amen

Note from Finance Committee

So far during the restrictions of 2020 and 2021 to date, we have met our obligations to operate the church while closed for normal activities using your weekly gifts, Willow Tree School rental fees, and reserves.

As we enter into the second year of Covid restrictions, we thought it is important to advise all our church family of our financial year to date position for 2021.

Here is our current 2021 Budget position:

	2-Months Actual	2-Months BUDGET	Variance
Total Revenue	33,799	41,761	(7,962)
Total Expenses	45,064	44,236	828
NET INCOME	(11,265)	(2,475)	

Revenue will be our focus for all of 2021. We believe we can keep expenses “tight” and at or below budget forecasts.

The immediate concern is in our total envelope givings. To date, we are behind budget by \$10,345 or -31.4%. Keeping up with weekly contributions can be difficult during these unusual times, but we have ways to accept your contributions through e-transfer, mail, envelope drop-off, or setting a PAR account.

Several PAR contributors have increased their monthly givings already, which is much appreciated. It is hoped all members who contribute through other means can find a way to bring offerings up to date or assist by increasing their monthly givings to keep the church in the best financial position when we come out of Covid restrictions.

Our thanks and BE SAFE!

The Finance Committee

Givings - We continue to have expenses, such as utilities and salaries. If you are not on PAR, offering can be provided by:

- You can **e-transfer** directly to the church. From your online banking, add a recipient using the name **Streetsville United Church** and email address info@streetsvilleunited.ca E-transfers are automatically deposited in the church account with no need for a password. Please note that e-transfers **will** be included on your tax receipt. [More guidance here.](#)
- You can **e-transfer** directly to the **UCW**. From your online banking, add a recipient using the name **UCW Streetsville United Church** and email address ucw@streetsvilleunited.ca. E-transfers are automatically deposited in the church account with no need for a password. Please note that e-transfers **will** be included on your UCW tax receipt. In the comment line please add the name of the UCW group. [More guidance here.](#)
- Canada Helps (tax receipts provided by Canada Helps) at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13238>
- Mailing in a cheque (or post-dated cheques to Streetsville United Church at 274 Queen St. South, Mississauga, ON L5M 1L8
 - Pre-Authorized Remittance: We also now have over ten years' experience with United Church PAR, which automatically makes monthly deposits to the church. For more details, contact Neil Beattie at nbeattie@rocketmail.com or 416-909-0042.
- Cheques/envelopes can also be dropped off in the mailboxes at the **front or back doors** of the church. They are locked & secure.

Streetsville United Church Leadership Team

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