

Transfiguration/Anniversary Sunday for RUC

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett

Feb 11, 2024

Fairview United/Rockingham United Shared Services

Minister - Rev. Angela MacLean

Chairs of Worship – Heather Archibald, Anne Forbes

RUC Organist & Choir Director – Kathy MacNeil

Fairview Music Director - Maureen McGee

Audiovisual – Dianna Prest, Geoff Doane

Ushers – Donna Richards, Heather Coady, Sandra Fenn

PRELUDE ~ HYMN SING

VU 240 *"Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven"* (vs 1,2,4 and 5)

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favour
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the high eternal one.

Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Praise with us the God of grace!

Words: Henry Francis Lyte, alternative adaptation vv. 1-3, 5 Ecumenical Women's Center. Music: John Goss. Descant: © 1975 W. Herbert Belyea, c/o Audrey Belyea, 1179 Grosvenor Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3M 0N1 Public Domain.

"In the Garden" (vs 1&2)

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.*

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. [refrain]

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VU 657 "He Leadeth Me" (vs 1,3,4)

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

*He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!*

*His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me!*

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine,
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *[refrain]*

And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory's won,
even death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. *[refrain]*

Words: Joseph Henry Gilmore. Music: William Batchelder Bradbury. Public Domain.

VU 509 "I, The Lord of Sea and Sky" (vs1, 2)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them.

Whom shall I send? *[refrain]*

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VU 703 "In the Bulb There is a Flower"

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Words, Music: Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License A-736543

VU 25 "Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
see the Lamb for sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall then behold you,
robed in awesome majesty;
all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you,
pierced, and nailed you to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

Now redemption, long expected
see in solemn pomp appear;
all the saints, by us rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!

Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
crowns and empires fall before you,
claim the kingdom for your own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Everlasting Christ, come down.

*Words: John Cennick. Revised by Charles Wesley and Martin Madan. Music: English melody.
Arranged by Thomas Olivers. Public Domain*

GREETING

May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

OPENING HYMN: MV 30 *"It's A Song of Praise to the Maker"*

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea,

Refrain

And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.

It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore, *[refrain]*

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum along.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover,
the summer breeze joins the song, *[refrain]*

It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.

It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings, *[refrain]*

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ABOUT THE THEME

WE SING: VU 315 *"Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty"* (vs 1, 2)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Words: Reginald Heber. Music: John Bacchus Dykes. Descant: © 1971 Godfrey Hewitt, c/o Marion Hewitt, 10-12 Clarence St., Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3. Public Domain

CALL TO WORSHIPⁱ

Rodger Middleton

We gather, looking back to see the paths taken,

Looking forward to see our path.

We honour those who have gone before us,

Learning from their successes and failures.

We celebrate who we are today,

And welcome the possibilities and opportunities before us.

We gather to worship God,

the God of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

OPENING PRAYERⁱⁱ

Creator God, whose love is higher than the heavens!

**Righteous God, whose love extends from the mountains and seas
to every living thing!**

You take us under your wing, loving God, where we find refuge.

You give us hope and possibility for the journey.

You transform our lives with your compassion.

May your love flow in us and through us,

for now and for eternity. Amen.

WE SING: VU 315 *"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"* (vs3,4)

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth
and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)ⁱⁱⁱ

We come now, Loving God, ready to be transformed and transfigured.

**We are ready to experience how your love can change us:
our beings, our lives, and our world.**

Open each one of us this day to the power of your love;
may we be infused with its full potential.

As we come to fully know you and your love, we also come
with a sense of guilt, for we have not always loved you as you loved us.

We have ignored moments of potential and searched for failure.

Sometimes we have moved away from love and have been drawn in by
hate. There are times we have forgotten how much you love us and have
been swallowed by self loathing.

**Forgive our foolish ways. Once again, draw us deeper into your love
and bring us to wholeness and life in your love. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The Good News is for us all. The wonder of God's love is forgiveness for
all, over and over again. The wonder of God's forgiveness is the

opportunity for us all to have a fresh start, ready to share the wonderful love and forgiveness of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Children Of God"

Youth Choir

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A TIME OF WONDERING

WE SING MV 92 "Like A Rock"

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.
Like the starry night sky God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.

Words: Keri K. Wehlander, 1998
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WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Anne Collinson

Mark 9:2-9 The Transfiguration

REFLECTION "Peter, You, and Me"

WE SING: VU 218 "We Praise You, O God"

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

*Words: Julia Cory. Music: Netherlands melody. Harmonized by
Edward Kremser. Descant: © 1980 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Used with permission, all rights reserved. One License A-736543*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Response after you hear "Holy One hear our prayer"

Holy One, help us reflect your love, goodness, and justice to the world.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ANTHEM: "All are Welcome"

Senior Choir & Men's Choir

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WE SING: VU 540 "Grant Us Lord The Grace of Giving"

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Words: anonymous. Music: attributed to Christian F. Witt, Psalmody Sacra, adapted by Henry John Gauntlett. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION^{iv}

Generous God, transform what we offer this morning for your work in this world. Transfigure us in our giving that we might know your joyful spirit through the spiritual practice of committed offerings. Inspire us to live into your abundance, in Jesus' strong name. Amen.

WE SING: VU 586 *"We Shall Go Out With Hope of Resurrection"*

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of our love.

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WE ARE SENT OUT

COMMISSIONING^v

SUNG BLESSING MV 130 *"Rise Up"*

Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.

Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name

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POSTLUDE

ⁱ *call to worship for church anniversary | Worship Words*

ⁱⁱ *Glad Faith Klassen, Stamford Lane U.C., Niagara Falls Ont., Gathering Worship, A/C/E (Year B) p. 51.*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Heather McClure, Wesley U.C., Montreal, Que., Gathering Worship A/C/E 2023/24 A/C/E (Year B), p. 51.*

^{iv} *Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, ON Gathering Worship A/C/E 2023/24 Year B, p 51.*

^v *Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, ON*