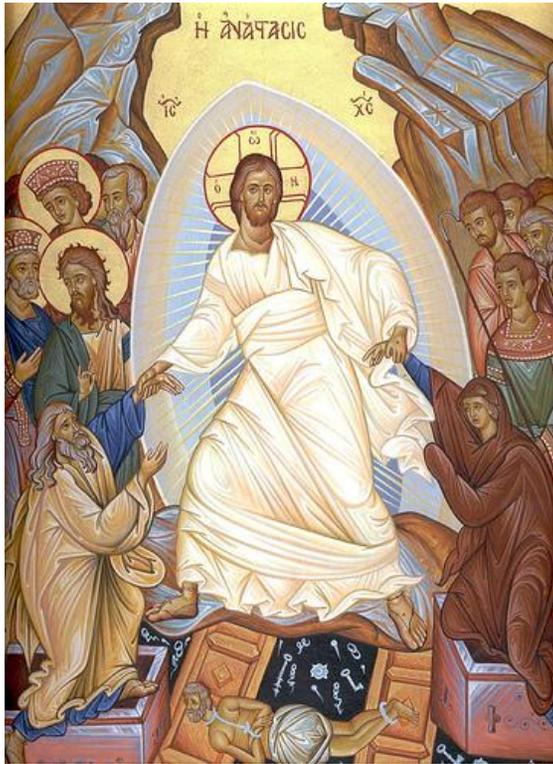


Elora  United Church
Bethany  United Church



FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

May 2, 2021

10:30 AM

Welcome to Worship

It is a blessing to celebrate God's presence together.

Thank you for sharing in our worship.

We're gathering for worship at a distance. Keeping physically apart is one way we care for each other, living out Jesus' command when he said, "Love one another." So it is good that we do this. Still, it is hard.

Still, we worship! God is with us, and the Holy Spirit brings us together into the community of Jesus. So we are blessed.

Joining Worship Online

We're using Zoom for our worship times. It is an online tool that allows us to share in the experience together.

You can use Zoom from your computer, tablet, or mobile phone. You can also use a regular phone to call in and listen to the service. You'll need the sign-in information. Simply email us at elorabethanyuc@wightman.ca and we'll be glad to send you instructions.

As We Worship

This booklet has all the information you need. Simply make your way through it on your own.

If you're able to watch online, all the words will be shown on your screen for you to see.

If you're sharing in the online worship the music will be playing and you can join in. Your computer microphone is muted, so you don't need to worry about others hearing you. Or, you can simply enjoy listening to the music.

We live and worship on the traditional territories of the Attawandaron, Wyandot, Mississauga, and Haudenosaunee First Nations. We are people of the "Between the Lakes" treaty and Haldemand land grant. Grateful for their stewardship of this land, we humbly seek to live together in pursuit of justice and right relations.

Today's Worship

God Gathers Us with Grace

Coming together is God's gift. Give thanks!

Gathering Music by Ginny Owens

Welcome and Announcements

It's Easter Again!

Silence

Music: The Angels Cried (Orthodox Virtual Quarantine Choir)

Invitation to Worship

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

***Alithos Anesti!* Truly He is Risen!**

Christ is risen from the dead,

**by death trampling death,
and to those in the tombs granting life!**

Surely God is in this place.

God, help me notice. Help us notice together.

Gathering Prayer

Song: Now the Green Blade Rises (VU 186)

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Words: John M. C. Crum, 1928
Music: Medieval French carol
Public Domain

Prayer of Confession

God Forgives!

God Feeds Us with God's Word

Listen to what God has done and is doing!

God's Word in Scripture: 1st Peter 1:13-21

Reflection on God's Word: "Hope-Fully Devoted"

Song: Christ in Me

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNy3NKSFwA

Spirit of heaven flood over me
Forming Christ in all that I do
Turn every sinful desire in me
Into holy passion for You

O Spirit of God come down
Let mercy and grace abound
My passionate prayer shall be
Christ in me

Spirit of beauty and holiness
Come refine with fire from above
Till I am cast in Your righteousness
And I love the things that You love

Breathe Your forgiveness when darkness falls
And my heart is heavy with sin
Fill me with faith for the higher cause
Of the ceaseless praise of the King

By Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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1460973

We Respond to God with Hope

Offer your prayers and gifts in response to God's grace.

Prayers of the Community

Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

In Our Church Family

The Gift of Our Offering

God Sends Us in Love

God is sending you! You are on a mission! Go well.

Songs: Take My Life and Let It Be (VU 506)

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874 (alt)
Music: source unknown
Public Domain

God's Word in Scripture: John 21:15-19

Sending to be With and For the World

Peace be with you.

Receive the Holy Spirit.

As the Father sent Jesus,
so Jesus sends us.

Wherever we go, God will be there.

God, help me notice. Help us notice together.

Blessing

Conversation Time

News for You

A bit of an Update (from Greg)

Since the busyness of Holy Week, I've been trying to live at a more reasonable pace. Even with the stay-at-home order, however, church work is busy!

I continue to use the church office from time to time, and our administrator Beverly continues to work from home. The Preschool is able to continue serving families, though at a

reduced capacity. So there is still some delightful bustle in the building. Still, it's pretty quiet.

Once restrictions are eased and we think it's safe, expect to see our Front Lawn Morning Breaks and Backyard Campfires to begin again. I can hardly wait!

I'm wondering about offering an online book group in June-July. Two books have my attention: *God and the Pandemic* and *The God That Is Love*. Let me know if you're interested, and if one of those books in particular grabs your attention.

Last week I took as a study leave. I'm grateful to Curt Hammond for taking over preaching responsibilities on Sunday. I took part in an online conference by a group called Cruxifusion (I chair Crux's board), where we heard challenging speakers, great preaching, and enjoyed fine worship and fellowship.

Also, I have a few books on the go, with titles like "Faith Formation in a Secular Age" (pretty deep, with lots to ponder), "The God That is Love" (a wonderful introduction to our faith), and "Fire of the North: The Life of St Cuthbert" (who lived in the English-Scottish borderlands during the 600s).

Mental Health Sunday

Mental Health Sunday (the first Sunday in May) is part of the church's effort to create communities of radical belonging for all people, including those living with mental health challenges.

The health of our minds as well as our bodies is vital to God's shalom-peace. For many of us, this very long season of pandemic-time has been so very hard.

I've come across 3 words that help me get at how I'm feeling: [languishing](#), [habitual-burnout](#), and an older word/concept that holds much wisdom, [acedia](#). What words or phrases describe your experiences these days?

Often at the same time, I'm experiencing moments of joy, discovery, connection, and laughter. Many of you are part of those experiences. Thank you.

You are not alone. If you're in a rough spot, please get in touch with me or someone else whom you trust. Or connect with our local resource, **Here247: 1-844-437-3247**.

Here's a prayer you might find helpful. Maybe it's words will help you to pray.

I feel alone, Loving God, and it troubles me.
I miss so much.
I miss the casual greetings of neighbours,
the warm hugs of family members.
I call them to mind:
(time of silent reflection)

I miss being able to shop wherever I like whenever I like.
I am thankful for online shopping but
I miss the groups of which I am a part,
exercise and special interest groups.
I remember my friends there by name:
(time of silent reflection)

And I miss what I have taken for granted all these years,
being in church for the Sunday service.
I miss greeting old friends and new friends
of the faith community,

I miss being present when the words of scripture are read,
I miss the time of reflection that follows,
and I miss the singing, how I miss the singing!
I miss making a joyful noise together,
but I also miss our mid-week study groups.
(time of silent reflection)

I am thankful for the wonders of the Internet,
through which I can see family members and friends
and talk with them as if they were close,
but I can't touch them
or see how they are.
I miss the holding and the hugs.

I rejoice that the Internet brings worship to my living room.
It is good to greet my fellow worshippers online;
it is good to share in our worship.
I give thanks for modern technology,
but it isn't the same, and I long for the time
when we can get back to
our church community home again.

Be my companion in the loneliness, Loving God,
be strength when I feel weak,
be endurance when I feel like despairing,
be the source of hope
when there seems nothing to hope for,
and stay with me in all the pandemic days.

I offer my prayer in the name of the One who knew loneliness
and what it felt like to be utterly abandoned, Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

By David Sparks, United Church of Canada minister

Mothers' Day Can Be More

...MORE MEANINGFUL, MORE INCLUSIVE, MORE HOPEFUL BY SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD.

Are you a mother who wants to make a difference? Do you have a mother or someone like a mother that you want to honour? Do you know people who have lost mothers or mothers who have lost a child? Are there people in your life whose untraditional expression of family should be celebrated?

You can help make this Mother's Day more. More meaningful. More inclusive. More compassionate. Here's how.

By making a special gift this Mother's Day, you will help families in need through our **Mission & Service** partners at home and abroad, supporting things like prenatal and parenting classes, respite care, medical clinics, safe shelter, and education for children.

A great way for mothers to inspire their family to give in a meaningful way!

A touching way to honour or remember a mom or let someone who finds Mother's Day hard know that they are inspiring you to give!

A beautiful way of celebrating diverse expressions of family!

When you make a donation online (united-church.ca/donation), you can send any number of free e-cards that you won't find on

the usual shelves to invite, honour, recognize loss, and celebrate. Feel free to borrow the wording from the e-cards and add it to physical cards of your own.

You can also donate over the phone by calling 416-231-5931 ext. 2738 / Toll-free: 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738. Or mail a cheque to: Philanthropy Unit, The United Church of Canada, 3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4. *Don't forget to credit our congregation if you make a gift online.*

Keep Connected

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EloraUC.org

elorabethanyuc@wightman.ca

Sign up for our weekly emails
Just drop us a note at elorabethanyuc@wightman.ca

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Ministers

Greg Smith-Young: ministerelorauc@wightman.ca

Barb Smith-Young: barbsmithyoung@gmail.com

For both: 519.846.2542

Share in God's Mission

Your offerings are an important way you follow Jesus by sharing in our life and mission together. Here is information about how you can give to either of our congregations.

Give to Bethany UC

You can give to

- our General Fund
- the United Church of Canada's Mission & Service,
- our Future Fund
- Project Welcome Refugee Sponsorship
- Community Dinners

Here are different ways you can give to Bethany UC.

Pre-Authorized Giving

Monthly offerings automatically deducted from your account. It's easy! Please contact Judy Howse-Ward to set this up. (519.846.2288)

Cheque

Made out to "Bethany United Church." Please indicate if you want your gift directed to particular funds. You can send your donation here:

Bethany United Church
75 Geddes Street
Elora ON N0B 1S0

Canada Helps

This online service lets you donate using your credit card. Go to canadahelps.org, then search for "Bethany United Church Elora."

Give to Elora UC

You can give to

- our General Fund
- the United Church of Canada's Mission & Service,
- Project Welcome Refugee Sponsorship
- our Building Fund
- Community Dinners

Here are different ways you can give to Elora UC.

Pre-Authorized Giving

Monthly offerings automatically deducted from your account. It's easy! Please contact Beverly Bond to set this up. (519.846.5597 | bond.beverly@wightman.ca)

Cheque

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Elora United Church
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E-Transfer

Your bank's website will have information about how to do this. When signing up, please use this email address for the payee: elorabethanyuc@wightman.ca

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