May 1, 2016
Bayswater-Summerville 9:30 am  Westfield 11:00 am

WE GATHER IN HOPE

Prelude
* indicates “to stand as able”
Welcome Bienvenue Kulaslhkul  Response printed in bold

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory
“As we gather to worship let us pause to remember that in this region we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples – predominantly the lands of the Mi’kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.”

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sing:
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Voices United 958
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Gathering:
May God be gracious to us and bless us.
May God’s face shine upon us and bring us peace.
Let all people praise you, O Lord.
Let all people shout their joy to your holy name.
God blesses us continually throughout all our lives.
Thanks be to God, for God’s eternal love and blessing.

Opening Prayer:
Gracious God – we thank you for this Spring Day – this day that is filled with possibilities and hope all because of you.
We thank you for the new signs of life that we see around us – the spring peepers in the morning, the buds on trees about to take bloom and the warmth of the sun that warms our very spirit.
As we gather together for worship

Ralph describes one student who was on the verge of suicide. Suffering from depression in his second year; he found his way to the chaplain’s office at Knox College. After finding the support he needed, he is now close to getting his undergraduate degree.

“Students come from small towns and start questioning everything when they arrive. University is also often when mental illness appears. We are here to lend an ear and guide the students in the direction they need to go.” says Ralph.

We are thankful for Mission & Service which suggests the University of Toronto Ecumenical Chaplaincy and is inspiring the transformation of communities and students.

Please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith.
LIFE AND WORK OF OUR CHURCH

This Week
Today, Sunday, May 1, 7:00 – 8:30 pm  Youth Connection meets at Westfield United.

Looking Ahead:
Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 pm  Confirmation Classes meet at Westfield United.

Church in the World
Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action asking that we of the church educate ourselves on the history and reality of our aboriginal sisters and brothers. To help honour the request of the commission to broaden our education, two books are available for you to borrow. The Inconvenient Indian by Tom King and Comeback by John Ralston Saul. Books are at the entrance to each of the sanctuaries.

Community Work
Annual Spring Tea will be held at the Kingston Parish Hall, Saturday, May 7th, 2016 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Cost is $8.00 per person. Tea, coffee, sandwiches and sweets will be served. Sponsored by the Anglican Parish of Kingston.

ECUMENICAL CHAPLAINCY

The Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto has a presence at the university’s downtown Toronto and suburban campuses in Mississauga and Scarborough. Jeanette Unger and Ralph Carl Wushke are two halves of the downtown chaplaincy, which is a partnership between the Presbyterian and United Churches on campus and are part of a large multifaith network of chaplains.

The chaplaincy touches on various aspects of campus life. It offers interfaith co-creative programs on ecology and spirituality, as well as a safe-space for students who are often struggling in the university environment.

Prayer of Confession:
Holy God, we confess that we are reluctant to let go of our fears and worries. We let our anxieties control our actions, instead of being led by your Spirit of Peace. Forgive our stubbornness, and free us from whatever troubles our hearts. Give to us visions of the place in which your love and hope always reign and open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Lord, teach us to trust in you and that we may come to know the peace that only you can give. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:
Let the light of God’s eternal love flood into our hearts this day and may we feel the healing presence of God in our lives. We accept God’s forgiveness and hope as this is the gift freely given to us by Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God. We are not alone.

A Story for All Ages
*Hymn:  *Holy Spirit, Hear Us  Voices United 377

Scripture reading:
John 14: 23-29
Revelation 21: 10, 22-22:5
Reader:  This is the witness of God’s people.
Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer:  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, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever.  Amen.

Stewardship Minute
Could sharing our gifts with those who need them Be part of God’s hope for the world?

Offering Invitation

* Offertory Hymn:  We Praise You, O God Voices United 218

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.

Offertory Prayer:
Loving God, help our hearts to be so filled
with your peace that this congregation
will show forth your goodness to the world around us.
Let your loving presence be known
through our church’s ministries.
Accept these offerings
as a sign of our trust in you,
for we pray in Jesus’ name.  Amen

*Empowering Hymn:  We Are One Voices United 402

Sending Forth

Benediction:  Go Now In Peace
Go now in peace.  Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe,
reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen

Today’s Worship Resources
Sources:  Ministry Matters; The Gathering.  Used with permission.
Benediction:  Go Now In Peace, reproduced with permission under Licensing #605755

Today we join the World Council of Churches in prayer for the people of Djibouti and Somalia.

Readers:  Karol Watters (BW-SV); Gina Coffin (W)
Greeters/Offering:  Karol and Family (BW-SV);
Margaret Stackhouse & Wilma Biggins (W)

Rev. Elizabeth will be away April 28 – May 8.  For pastoral emergencies please contact Margaret Stackhouse after hours at 217-0063 (H)  721-4307 (C); office Mon. Tue. Wed., 738-8436  ext. 101 (W)