

**Iona Presbyterian Church
& St Cyprian's Anglican Church**
Toronto, Ontario

July 18, 2021
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Worship via Zoom (live)

To join Zoom by computer device, please click:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2897790104?pwd=WTVXeWtJZWV2RW9JVGJGOE5VUVB1dz09>

Meeting ID: 289 779 0104

Passcode: 432441

To dial in by your phone:

Either 647 374 4685 or: 647 558 0588

Meeting ID: 289 779 0104

Passcode: 432441

*Led by the Rev Dr Emily Bisset,
(Minister, Calvin Presbyterian Church)
& the Rev Alex Bisset
(Minister, Riverdale & Westminster Presbyterian Churches)
Co-Interim Moderators, Iona Presbyterian Church*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Gathering Fellowship

Led by Laura Hope

Welcome

Hymn # **434 For the Beauty of the Earth**

(Bob Williams and Laura Hope)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18yTlpDT4-npUWoTj3PuGWfsDp1QFJYPu/view?usp=sharing>

- 1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**
- 2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,**

**hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**5. For each perfect gift of thine,
to the earth so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

(Folliott Sandford Pierpont [1835-1917])

Call to Worship

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
Let us worship God together!

(Psalm 46:1-3)

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart
and mind
and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Anthem: **Come, know my joy, the Maker says** Laura Hope and Bob Williams
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jan9fv9h73Iq7s5JNBVIBctJnYd5isiu/view?usp=sharing>

*1. "Come, know my joy," the Maker says and pour out works of power
that sear the sense, defy the mind and fill the soul with awe,
and we with open mouth receive God's gifts with infant need,
and, sight unfocused, scarce perceive Love's presence as we feed.*

*2. The feast we join is long begun; God bids us welcome here
to name and use the sovereign gifts within our human care
with God's own joy some seem to soar, a fierce and holy flame;
some gifts are thorns we scarce endure to touch, or face, or name.*

*3. "Come, seek my face," the Giver says, "with heart and soul and strength;
let fear give way to love; come, step upon the waves of faith"
Dear Giver, Gift, we seek your face: you share our thorn, our scar.
We learn your joy when by your grace we share the gift we are.*

*4. "Come, learn of me", the Servant says and multiplies a feast
of loaves and fish, of bread and wine, transforming every guest.
"Come" says the Host, "from west and east bring gifts to share-come,
eat!-None lost or wasted when God's feast of joy will be complete.*

(Andrew Donaldson [1951 -])

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures:

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Read by Marjorie Knights

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

Psalms 103:1-12

Read by Hank Huang

Congregation reads **bold** text

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
**and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.**
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits -
*who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,**

**who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

*The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.*

**God made known his ways to Moses,
God's acts to the people of Israel.**

*The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

**God will not always accuse,
nor will God keep his anger for ever.**

*God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

*For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love towards those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far God removes our transgressions from us.*

Ephesians 2:11-22

Read by Becky Girdler

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon *What Is God Like?*

<https://youtu.be/wLLrSoU7GN8>

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn # 310 **Bring Many Names**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aj7Ms2Z35Tc>

Lyrics Included In Video

(Brian Wren [1936-])

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (sung)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sh-mlNJihO_AIecA1ckWSGGeoSeaub1-/view?usp=sharing

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Hymn # 290 **Immortal, Invisible**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6HP-SboCDk>

Lyrics Included In Video

(Walter Chalmers Smith [1824-1908])

Benediction and Sung Amen

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cosdwPjNKMQoJCxaZJSvi_8vEORYJEyl/view?usp=sharing

Announcements

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Trinity Mandarin Calls New Minister

Grace Chang has been called to be the new minister of Trinity Mandarin Presbyterian Church, succeeding her husband the Rev Wes Chang who retired earlier this spring. Grace will be ordained and inducted by the Presbytery of East Toronto on Sunday, September 19. More details will be announced closer to that date.

Honouring the Children: Reconciliation and Residential Schools Fund

In response to the devastating confirmation of unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools, and in honour of the children who were lost and all people living with the consequences of that legacy, The Presbyterian Church in Canada has established the Honouring the Children: Reconciliation and Residential Schools Fund. This fund will support initiatives associated with searches for unmarked burial sites in communities where schools were operated by The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

This work begins with listening. We continue to live out the covenants made in the 1994 Confession, be led by the principles articulated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and seek the guidance of Indigenous people and affected communities. Responses may include searching for graves, responding to trauma and supporting healing initiatives. All work will complement efforts to address systemic racism against Indigenous people, both in the church and Canadian society, and the ongoing healing and reconciliation work being done in the ministries of the National Indigenous Ministry Council.

To begin, The Presbyterian Church in Canada has committed \$1 million from national funds, and invites congregations and individuals to make additional contributions to this important work. At its meeting on June 13, the Session of Iona Presbyterian Church voted to make a \$150.00 donation to the Honouring the Children fund, and to encourage individuals from the congregation to make direct donations as well.

More information can be found at

<https://presbyterian.ca/2021/07/02/honouring-the-children-fund/>