

Gladwin Heights United Church, The United Church of Canada

Please be aware that this service is broadcast live on Facebook at 9:30am

The Second Sunday of Easter Camping Sunday April 27, 2025

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

++ Please rise in body or spirit

MV = More Voices; VU = Voices United

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING:

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

We worship on the unceded territory of the Halq'eméylem-speaking peoples. Following the recommend practice, we acknowledge the territory extemporaneously.

We light the Christ Candle.

We light the Rainbow Candle.

WE WELCOME EACH OTHER

On this Second Sunday of Easter we celebrate the Good News of Easter and God's call to form and be disciples who testify to what we have seen. And so we celebrate Church camps:

A space to learn and grow

one person brings up a plant

A space to try new things

one person brings up a paddle, archery bow, or musical instrument

A space to pass on our story

one person brings up a Bible

A space to connect with nature

one person brings up a campfire log

A space to forgive and forget

one person brings up a stick with a piece of white material tied to it as a peace flag

A space to be still and listen

we listen to nature sounds

A space to make new friends and build community

everyone is invited to bring their photos from camp

A space to connect with God

one person lights a candle

A space to just be welcome to worship.

Written by Maya Landell—from Camping Sunday Service 2002

WE CENTRE IN GOD:

Creator God, we hear your wilderness cry from the depth of our souls and long to answer.

We seek you out in the silence and beauty of nature, in the sound of the birds, the rustling trees, the lapping water, and crunching of branches.

Our eyes and ears are opened to your presence in the newness of day, the brisk air, and the colours of the sunrise.

**Be with us in this time of storytelling and memories,
guiding us along the forest's edge into oneness with you.**

May we follow faithfully the way of Jesus in this and all the paths of our lives.

Amen.

Written by Karen Bridges and Shauna Gibbons—from Camping Sunday Service 2005

++HYMN: VU 352 – “I Danced in the Morning”

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD:

God of Justice and Mercy,

**On Good Friday you revealed the hollow “justice”
of the powerful.**

On Easter Sunday you vindicated Jesus, raising him from the tomb.

You sat him at your right hand.

But still the self-interest of the powerful and of our own egos resist your justice and try to silence your witnesses.

[Silent Prayer]

AND WE ARE ACCEPTED:

The Holy Spirit continues to raise up new witnesses to your salvation, nurturing and forming them in Her Church so that all may know the saving work of God in Christ.

We are forgiven; we are made new; we are strengthened to embrace the new possibility. Thanks be to God!

WE RESPOND: MV 108 – “I Know Your Word”

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

We share our camping or wilderness stories.

SCRIPTURE: **Reader: Florine Lint**

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 150 [VU 221 – “Sing Praise to God”]

Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

SERMON:

++HYMN: VU 601 – “The Church of Christ in Every Age”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE

PASSING THE PEACE:

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER VU 921 [Ecumenical Version]

MISSION AND SERVICE STORIES:

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

Let us present our offering to the work of God.

++OFFERTORY: “Take my Gifts” [Tune: VU 460]

Take my gifts and let me love you, god who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

The offering is brought forward.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

In the midst of our despair, God offers hope.

In the midst of our death, God offers life.

In the midst of our sorrow, God offers joy.

God does not erase what has happened;

God enters into it, gives it meaning,
and leads us beyond it into new possibility.

**In these gifts, we enter into what God is doing
and reach for resurrection.**

++HYMN: “Called and Gifted for Christ’s Service” [Tune: VU 232]

WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD

++COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

EXTROIT: MV 209 – “Go, Make A Diff’rence” [Refrain & v2]

POSTLUDE

END OF WORSHIP

BEGINNING OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY