

Strathearn United Church

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Fifth Sunday of Easter



Our Living Statement... Strathearn United Church is a loving Christian community living by faith and action, communicating through worship, education, fellowship and outreach, greeting the future with hope.

Minister	Rev. Sandy Ferguson
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Dr. Don Mayne
Music Director	Kathryn Wood
Musician	Shannon Hiebert
Office Administrator	Rena Spiess
Custodian	Rup, Coverall Services

PRAYER CYCLE OF THE WEEK

Our Family: Peter & Loes Challoner, Jean Chandler, Chapelsky Family, Christine Clarke, Karen Cottrell
Within Strathearn: Mission & Outreach Committee
Northern Spirit Region: Yellowknife Pastoral Charge
World Council of Churches: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

We, the congregation of Strathearn United Church, are situated on Treaty 6, traditional lands of the First Nations and the Metis People.

Strathearn United Church welcomes you to our
Morning Worship where all are welcome!
15th of May 2022, Fifth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME & GATHERING

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. -Isaiah 40:31

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

From the Iona Community

One: You, the God of all time, want us to wait. For the right time in which to discover who we are. Where we are to go. Who will be with us. And what we must do. Amen.

HYMN: “For the Healing of the Nations” VU678

- 1 For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords. To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.
- 2 Lead us forward into freedom, from despair your world release; that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.
- 3 All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned: pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow life’s brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind; for our growing in
your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind; that, by
our response and service, earth its destiny may find.

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A UNITED CHURCH CREED

**We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe
in God who has created and is creating, who has come
in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make
new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to
celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in
Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice
and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and
risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE:

"Grant to us, O God, a heart renewed" VU949

***Grant to us, O God, a heart renewed;
speak to us afresh your forgiving word.***

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Adapted from the Common Book of Prayer

**All: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and
strayed from they ways like lost sheep. We
have followed too much the devices and
desires of our hearts. We have left undone**

**those things which we ought to have done.
And we have done those things which we
ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord,
have mercy upon us. Listen as we confess our
faults. Restore us as we say sorry according
to thy promises revealed through Christ Jesus.
So once more we can live our lives as a witness
to the presence of Your love amongst us.**

One: God have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

One: God have mercy. Merciful God, You free us from
the burden of our sins when we truly repent,
thanks be to God for this gift of grace. Let us
celebrate together in prayer...

All: Our Father, who art in heaven... Amen.

HYMN: "I See a New Heaven" VU713

**R: *I see a new heaven. I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.***

- 1 There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
the Tree of Life will be. **R**
- 2 There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole
like flowers after the rain. **R**
- 3 There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
reveals the promise of love. **R**

4 There, there where we work with the love of healing hands. Labour we must, true to our trust to build a promised new land. **R**

R: *I see a new heaven. I see a new earth as the old one will pass away, where the fountain of life flows and without price goes to all people who abide in the land.*

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WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION 21:1-6

One: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

All: **And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

One: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them as their God

All: **They will be God's peoples, and God will be with them**

One: God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

All: **And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also they said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."**

One: Then they said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS 11:1-18

One: The Word of God, for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

THE WORD OF GOD ENACTED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*God, make Your will known to us and be patient with us.
- Adapted from Common Prayer*

One: God, You touch our lives with healing and with justice. New life is your gift. We give You thanks for Your Good News, revealed through Your Son Jesus Christ. Good News that invites and challenges us to be living witnesses to Your hope for a better world. And so in silence we give thanks for those who have been such witnesses in our lives. (Silence) God of compassion, we pray for this troubled world, for people who struggle with sorrows, who struggle with injustice, who struggle with despair, who struggle with uncertainty, who fear the future, who yearn for hope. And God we pray that You be with us, as we do what we can, to be your presence in this world. And God we come to You with the prayers of our hearts. For those who we know who struggle with illness of the mind, body and spirit. For those who are

alone, for those who yearn for connection, these names we bring to you. (Silence) Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Though I May Speak" VU372

- 1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
- 2 Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.
- 3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

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SENDING FORTH: *From the Gospel of John 13:34-35*
One: Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Visit us online: Facebook and www.stratearnuc.com

Next-to-New Shop: We're open downstairs in the Junior Room each Sunday following worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS continued...

Annual Congregational Meeting: May 15th directly following worship (11:45 am). It will be in the Sanctuary and take approximately 30 min. Agenda includes: In Memoriam; 2020 ACM Minutes; Nomination's Report; Committee Presentations for 2022; Financial Report and 2022 Budget; Mission & Service Fund 2022 Goal; and Thank You's. The worship service on May 15 will be recorded, but the ACM will not be. To make arrangements to receive Annual and Financial Reports, please contact the office, 780-466-5822.

Book Club: Zoom meeting is May 19, 2022, at 7:00 pm We are reading *The Midnight Library by Matt Haig*. To receive the link to join the meeting, please call Kathryn Wood, 780-293-0752 or Nancy Tysick, 780-468-1352.

Update from the Board: We are continuing with weekly indoor services. Each month the Board will assess the covid stats and our safety protocols. Here are the following new updates:

- ❖ Visiting in the Sanctuary following worship, is permitted while following safety protocols. A new form of fellowship gathering will be introduced in June.
- ❖ Facing a new reality, discussion and planning for Fundraisers, Worship Enhancement/Technology, and Activities are in the works. Watch for monthly updates.



In Memoriam:

Steven Shandro, May 11, 2022

Steve was a member of Stratearn United for over 40 years. Our prayers and thoughts are with his wife, Mary, and their family during this difficult time. A service has not yet been determined.