

Worship at Home and ZOOM worship for October 4 2020

Our Worship at Home this week mirrors our ZOOM worship service. The prayers and reflection here – including communion – are the same as those we will be using together.

To participate in the ZOOM worship over your telephone, call 647-374-4685 or 647-558-0588, and when asked enter this meeting id: **837 1663 1601** and this pass code: **975595**. You will hear the service and even be able to speak when it is appropriate.

If you would like to participate in communion, make sure you have some bread or a cracker and some juice handy!

If you'd like to comment or have a question, please call or email me directly:
416-951-7911 or minister@applewoodunited.ca

In the Spirit

Rev. Joanne

***Please make sure your microphones are muted during the service.
If you have called in on your phone, press *6 to mute yourself.***

Centering Music: "My Soul is Thirsting for You" MV 109 (chorus)
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord,
thirsting for you, my God (2x)
thirsting for you, my God.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

One: Come, people of God, to be refreshed, restored, and renewed.

Two: Come, family of God, to experience God's word and God's love
in scripture, in music, and in contemplation.

One: We come to gather at our screens and telephones,
we come to gather in our living spaces.

Two: We come to gather into community distantly,
but never far from the hearts and minds of our faith family.

One: God of all times and spaces, of all hearts and minds,
today we gather to worship and praise you differently,
separately, yet connected by your grace and your Spirit.
In this Season of Creation, renew our commitment to caring for
and respecting your gift of this earth and all its bounty,
no matter where we find ourselves.
Help us to be open to Jesus' example, which showed us
new ways of being in relationship with you and with others,

and remind us always that you are with us in all the ways that we gather, all the ways that we pray and praise. Amen

Opening Music: "I've Got Peace Like a River" VU 577

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul. (repeat)

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul. (repeat)

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul. (repeat)

Scripture Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-17

The Ten Commandments

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

John 7:37-38

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." '

Reflection: Playing By the Rules

Invitation to Communion: "One Bread, One Body" VU 467

One bread, one body

One Lord of all

One cup of blessing which we bless

And we, though many
Throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord

Gentile or Jew
Servant or free
Woman or man, no more

One bread, one body
One Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many
Throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord

Many the gifts
Many the works
One in the Lord of all

One bread, one body
One Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many
Throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord

Grain for the fields
Scattered and grown
Gathered to one, for all

One bread, one body
One Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many
Throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord.

Sacrament of Communion

One: Lift up your hearts.

Two: *And the family of God says, "We lift them up to God."*

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God as a world-wide family of faith – wherever we find ourselves today.

Two: *And the family of God says, "It is right to praise and give thanks."*

One: Eternal God, you are the Maker of heaven and earth,
we join with all your people across the globe –sitting in churches or living rooms or
kitchen tables, to give you thanks and praise.

Two: *You formed the universe in your wisdom
and created all things by your grace.
We praise you for all your good gifts:
the witness of saints and prophets;
the work of faithful women and men;
this earth in all its blessing and promise;
and this bread we will consume, scattered,
but brought together and made one across time and space.*

One: We celebrate our sacrament today in the hope that your people may be brought together
from the ends of the earth
into your reign of justice and compassion, across video screens shared and notes
exchanged, finding ways to break
down pandemic-created barriers.
So we gather with those of every time and every place
to give you praise and glory:

Sung: MV 203

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space,
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the one who comes
and bears your name always.

Two: *In time, you sent Jesus to us – a priest, a prophet,
a teacher, a saviour.
He walked with all, ate with many,
and taught us of your encompassing love.*

One: On the last night he spent with his disciples, Jesus took the common bread of his
people, gave thanks to you, broke and shared the bread, and said "Take, eat; this is my
body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Two: *When supper was over, he took the common cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his
disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, and as often as you
drink it, remember me."*

One: Let us be a community of healers and hope givers in this Worldwide Communion, as together in our hearts we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray you, God of Love, send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other, and to all the world. In this season of social distancing, may you remind us that we are never spiritually distant from you.

One: And now the Holy Spirit make us one in Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

Two: *The family of God says 'Amen'!*

*At this time, we also remember all those
with whom you would have us share your feast.
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain . . .
all who are ill or alone . . .
all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger . . .
all whom the world counts as last and least
We pray for your church and its varied ministries . . .
for the nations as they strive for peace and justice . . .
for the earth, and the fragile web of life we share . . .
for our families and friends*

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

One: This bread reminds us that any life, no matter how broken, or sick, or distorted it may become, can be made whole again.

The cup reminds us that any life, no matter how empty, or lonely, or isolated it may become, can be filled again. These are the gifts of God, for the family of God.

Two: *And the family of God says, "Thanks be to God."*

This would be the moment for you to take your own bread and juice, perhaps with the words "Jesus Christ the bread of life" and "Jesus Christ the true vine." If you are with another person, you might choose to serve the bread and juice to each other.

Prayer after Communion

One: Day after day after day you give yourself to us: in two or three gathered in your name, in connection across the miles, and in bread and wine. As we go from this distanced gathering around your table, may we feel restored to your body, companioned by your people, and sustained by the power of your Spirit as we witness to your healing and reconciling work in the world around us. Amen

Closing Music: "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky" MV 143

We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflow'rs growing.
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life in ev'ry earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night
and the weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and warhorns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
to join in common labour,
that all may have abundant life
in oneness with their neighbour.

God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating,
that new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life
and peace endure forever.

Blessing

As you go into the rest of your day, or week
know that God, who in love sang the universe into being, goes with you,
and that Jesus Christ, God's love song to the world, accompanies you,
and that the Holy Spirit sings God's love into each and every heart,
each and every day. Amen

For those who wish to remain to visit, you will be invited to turn on your microphones and stay on the ZOOM call.

Reflection for October 4, 2020 "Playing By the Rules"

These days, rules seem to be more invasive than usual.

They are meant to keep ourselves and others healthy and safe, to keep us mindful and respectful of each other's needs and vulnerabilities. Even if we tire of them, there are consequences to our community and personal health and well-being if we ignore them.

Don't kill, don't steal, honour your parents, observe the Sabbath day. Don't swear, don't covet, don't lie, don't commit adultery, don't idolize, put God first. Wash your hands, wear a mask, stay 2 metres apart, limit your social contacts, stay at home when you can. Those first ten 'rules' have been with us for a long time. The last few only months, but perhaps it seems like years. Both sets of 'rules' have some things in common.

Most basically, all of these good laws for living are based upon relationships. The first ten – which we know as the Ten Commandments or The Decalogue, include our relationship with God as well as community. The second set focus primarily on the relationship we have with those physically close to us – even if we have had no prior relationship to them. We share breathing space, and so we share the possibility that we could infect each other. We share community, so following – or ignoring - *all* of these imperatives affects the common good of those around us.

All of them help us to live healthy lives in community, in relationship, but also personally as we tend to our own needs to be and feel safe and nourished in life-giving ways.

To live a healthy life, a God-centered life, in a healthy community, we should be aware of relationships, of how we are treating each other and how we are caring for ourselves. While we take the 'right' amount of time to wash our hands, we also need to take the right amount of Sabbath time with our Creator God. While we keep distant from each other, we also need to stay truthful, and supportive, and respectful – for our own good and for the good of all, for the sake of our relationship with each other and with God.

Jesus, our refreshment, our Living Water, had a thing or two to say about rules. The most important one, we are told? Love God with all you have, love your neighbour as yourself. Love God in your care for others – as you put on a mask and as you act with respect. Love your neighbour in your relationship with God – as you take time to be centred in God's love, and as you see those around you as God's beloved ones.

May God be with us as we navigate through all the directives, recommendations, rules, decrees and laws of our days. May we remember that we are called to live in right relationships and into God's hope – with every commandment. Amen