

Eastminster United Church

April 5, 2015
Easter Sunday



*Indicates please stand in body or in spirit

"This is the Easter message, that awakening is possible, to the goodness of God, the sacredness of human life, the sisterhood and brotherhood of all." - Anne Lamott

We Gather as God's People

Call to Worship & Lighting the Christ Candle

One: Christ has risen!

All: Christ has risen indeed!

One: God is alive!

All: We are blessed with new birth.

One: Hope is alive!

All: Redemption is dawning.

One: Love is alive!

All: Our lives are transformed.

One: We are alive!

All: Hosanna! Hallelujah!

One: The church is alive!

All: God is with us! Hallelujah!

Introit

Three Days Had Passed

Words: John Thornburg;

Music: Joel Martinson

*Three days had passed;
three women went with downcast eyes
and splintered dreams
to tend the broken body of the one they loved.
Their hopes, as vibrant once as birth's first note,
were muted by a stone.*

"Who will roll away the stone for us?"

*And then, compelled by grace alone, they lifted up
their swollen eyes and saw what only God could do.*

*A messenger was there;
in human form but sent by God.
And what had seemed unthinkable in the heartbeat
just gone by was now supremely real.*

*The angel spoke these resurrecting words:
He has been raised.
He is not here.
He will go before you to Galilee, as he said.*

Alleluia!

Words of Welcome

Cathy Forrest

Opening Hymn VU#155 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Opening Prayer

God of renewed presence, on this Easter day we know that with you all things are possible. May the Good News of Easter joy fill our lives and make our hearts glad. May our lives reflect the hope that is in you, Peace and freedom for all creation. Hallelujah! Amen.

The Peace Shared

Children's Time

The children are invited to Church School.

We Share in Word and Song

Hebrew Scripture Isaiah 25:6-9 Judith Ramsay

Greek Scripture Mark 16:1-8

One: The Word of Hope.

All: Thanks be to God.

Meditation The Easter Paradox: Loss, Hope and Resurrection Rev. Sarah Miller

We respond with our Thanks and Prayers

Invitation to Offer our Gifts and Ourselves

Offering Hymn: VU#183 We Meet You O Christ

Please stand in body or in spirit during the last verse for the presentation of the offering.

*Dedication Prayer

We Celebrate Communion

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift our hearts in prayer.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Sung responses: MV# 203, 204 & 205

Hymn during Communion MV#202 Bread for the Journey

Welcome Table

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days, hallelujah!

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table,

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days!

I'm gonna eat with my sisters and brothers...

We're gonna feast on milk and honey...

Here all the world will find a welcome...

Prayer Following Communion

Thank you Holy God for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy. We are now commissioned to: feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Amen.

Anthem

Mary Laid Her Baby Down

Gordon Light, arr. Andrew Donaldson
Solo: Nora Wiens-Farrelly

*All the stars like sparkling stones,
all the brightest angel songs,
circled 'round a bed in a simple shed where she laid
her baby down. And she laid her baby down, Mary
laid her baby down, with a song of joy for his
newborn cry, she laid her baby down.*

*Came a day her boy was bound to a tree with nail
and thorn. None can ever tell all the pain she felt as
she laid her baby down.
When at last the day was gone and his final breath
was drawn, as in Bethlehem, she held him close
again... in that blackest night when there was no
light, she just laid her baby down.*

*To the city temple grounds Mary came with infant
son, and she tendered there all her warmest prayer...
and her songs of praise filled the holy place as she
laid her baby down.*

*But a glorious morning dawned, all the joy of heav'n
returned
And her little one rose up from the tomb where she'd
laid him gently down
God had raised him like the sun when Mary laid her
baby down, with a song of joy for his third day cry,
she gladly laid her baby down.*

*See the child, now tall and strong leave behind his
boyhood home; as he left that day Mary's heart gave
way ...
though it grieved her so, still she let him go and she
laid her baby down.*

We Go Out to Be the People of God

Life and Work of the Congregation

*Closing Hymn VU#232 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

*Blessing & Sending Forth

*Sung Blessing Hallelujah Chorus, from *Messiah* G.F. Handel

Postlude *Music for the Royal Fireworks* IV: "La Rejouissance" G.F. Handel

Today

Scriptures: Isaiah 25:6-9 p. 652 Mark 16:1-8 p. 54

~ **Special thanks** to the members of the Toronto Community Orchestra (Leonidas Varahidis, Artistic Director; Bonnie Sheckter, General Manager) and friends, for their gift of music this morning. Violins: Joyce Allen, Jerry Brail, Susan Ross, Iosif Deac, Fong Di Caterina, Sharon Scanlan and Solomon Hoasjoe. Viola: Catherine Inglis, Pamela Young and Meredith Crouch. Cello: Eleanor Moore, Dale Hildebrand. Trumpets: Don Galbraith and Edwin Lang. Bassoon: Nora Mular-Richards. Oboe: Jennifer Jones. Flute: Marie Campbell. Timpani: Marlene Sagada

~ **Upcoming Worship:** For the season of Easter, we will explore Doing Faith: How Communities and Individuals Live out their spirituality through action and social justice. Topics include: Intentional Community, Christian Communism, Jesuit Activists, Taize, and the work of Ched Myers, Julia Ward Howe.

Announcements

~ A BIG THANK YOU!

The Eastminster Youth Group would like to thank all those who made donations to our Winter Clothing Drive, in support of our Out of the Cold Program. You helped our guests stay so much warmer throughout this extremely cold winter. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and caring!

~ BOOK SALE FUNDRAISER WEEK 3!

Today is the third weekly Book Sale to help raise funds for the Eastminster Accessibility Project. Following the service, please take a few minutes to browse the many books on the Book Table in the Narthex. There are new gently used books available every week. Prices are flexible, so pay what you think it's worth. All proceeds go to the Eastminster Accessibility Fund - last week we raised an additional \$130, bringing the total to \$289. In case you don't know, Eastminster has committed to a major renovation project to increase the accessibility of the building for people with mobility impairments. We want to live up to our vision statement and truly become "open and welcoming to all". We have embarked on a three year plan to raise the funds to make this a reality - so far we have raised approximately \$58,000 of the \$650,000 needed. Watch for upcoming events and other opportunities for how you can help. Today, why not start by visiting the Book Table and pick up something good to read? Thanks for supporting the Eastminster Accessibility Project.

~ WE NEED VOLUNTEERS...

Volunteers are needed to assist with serving the coffee and snacks through the year. Our wonderful Sunday Custodian Joseph does most of the work, so all you have to do is provide snacks, serve with a smile, and clean up! It's a great way to meet people and welcome newcomers. With a large enough group of volunteers, you would only need to help out once every month or two. Please contact Doug Harris at dharris@iiroc.ca if you would like to volunteer.

Up Coming

~ **Tues. April 7 from 7- 9pm: STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE MEETING - Library**

~ **Wed. April 8 from 1-2pm: CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM MEETING - Rev. Sarah's office**

~ Sun. April 12 following service: POTLUCK LUNCH

Bring something to share and plan to stay for lunch. Please speak to Mary Gerritsma mgerritsma@sympatico.ca or Cathy Forrest cathy.4est@gmail.com if you can help with set-up or clean up.

~ Tues. Evenings at 7pm: NEW TO CHURCH? CURIOUS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY?

Join us for Embracing an Adult Faith: A 5-session Study by Marcus Borg on what it means to be Christian. Five Tuesday evenings at 7pm. Our next service of Baptism and Welcoming New Members will be May 31.

April 14:	Images of God
April 21:	Who is Jesus?
May 5:	Baptism, Salvation and Christian Rites
May 19:	Prayer, Practice, Participation
May 26:	Community, Giving, Reaching Out

~ Sun. April 19 at 12 noon: **TRUSTEES MEETING FOLLOWING SERVICE**

~ Tues. April 21 at 10.40am: **CHESTER VILLAGE SERVICE**

~ Fri. April 24 at 7 pm: **EUC READS! - BOOK CLUB**

Book: **MRS. QUEEN TAKES THE TRAIN** Author: **William Kuhn** Moderator: **Susan Wakefield**

* No library books available. Carolyn placed a mass order for \$13.36 book cost. Shipment arrives April 9th. Order ASAP from her to guarantee your copy. (Regular retail book cost about \$18 to \$21).*
New members welcome! Come out for a lively discussion by the fire, followed by the 9pm Social Wine & Cheese. Location: At the home of Neil Riach & Carolyn Curren (1 block from EUC). For more info contact: John Brown at 416-463-0844 or Carolyn Curren at 416-465-6174 or email: info@neilandcarolyn.com

Community Events

~ Sat. April 11 at 7.30pm: **"WHY ME?" AN EASTER REFLECTION**

You are invited to attend Birchcliff Bluffs United Church's Shower Curtin Productions - Easter Drama, "*Why Me? An Easter Reflection*". Located at 33 East Road (Warden Ave. & Kingston Rd.). Adults- \$10/ Children- \$2. Proceeds will go to help BBUC and the very busy Churches by the Bluffs Community Food Bank. Info at: bbucoffice@bellnet.ca or 416-694-4081

~ Wed. April 15 from 11am – 1pm: **PRAYER VIGIL: BUDGET 2015 - NO MORE TURNING AWAY AT QUEEN'S PARK.** As release of Ontario's 2015 provincial budget draws near, join people of faith at a Queen's Park prayer vigil to pray that our society and provincial government will heed the call for forceful action to counter poverty in this budget. Leaders of various faiths will offer short reflections and prayers. The vigil is sponsored by the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC), Ontario's major interfaith anti-poverty organization. You are welcome even if you can only attend for half an hour or an hour, as you are able. Visit www.isarc.ca for details or follow ISARC on Facebook.

~ April 17 & 24 - 7:30 pm/April 18 & 25 - 3 pm: **GODSPELL!**

Presented by the Knob Hill Community Players at Knob Hill United Church, 23 Gage Avenue, Scarborough (East of Brimley, between Lawrence & Eglinton). For more information contact Hedy Baker-Graf at 416-431-5054 or email Tracy Odell at my-universe@rogers.com. Tickets are \$15 each or \$10 for students.

~ Sun. April 19 at 1pm: **WALK LINE 9**

Re-Claiming the Corridor for People, Not Tar Sands. You and your family are invited to join us for a walk (RAIN OR SHINE) along the Hydro Corridor north of Finch Ave. (from Talbot Rd., west to Bathurst Ave.). We will be celebrating the use of this provincially-owned Corridor as a public recreation space; instead of a dangerous profit centre for Enbridge. (We will meet at 1pm at the west end of the TTC parking lot at Hendon and Yonge) <http://www.stopline9-toronto.ca/>

~ Tues. April 28 & 29: **DIVERSITY, INCLUSIVITY AND EQUITY SYMPOSIUM**

To be held in north Toronto with Desmond Tutu's daughter speaking for more information visit: <http://www.tutu.org.za/daughter-of-desmond-tutu-to-speak-at-gta-symposium>

~ Thurs. April 30 from 6:30 to 8:30pm: **DINE & DISCOVER FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES**

Please join us for an enjoyable evening and dinner at CRC (Christian Resource Centre), 40 Oak Street. Please bring others from your community you feel should get to know us. You will enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Chef Judi, a resident of 40 Oaks and hear CRC updates from Louise Moody, Executive Director, and other staff. Find out how you and your faith community can participate in the work of CRC. Please R.S.V.P. to Bruce Voogd by April 23 to let him know if you are coming and how many guests you will be bringing. You can reach him at 416-363-4234, ext. 238 or at brucev@tcrc.ca

Weekly Events

Mondays:	1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters - meet in Sarah's Office
Thursdays:	6:00 - 6:45pm	Children's Choir - meet in the Parlour
	7:30 - 9.30pm	Adult Choir - meet in the Sanctuary

Our Staff

Rev. Sarah Miller	sarah.bmiller@bellnet.ca	Office: 416-463-2179 ex. 100	Cell: 416-209-1181
Sue Swann , Church Administrator	eastminster@bellnet.ca		416-463-2179 ex. 103
Gerald Gordon , Property Manager	property.manager@bellnet.ca		416-463-2179 ex. 104
Hilary Donaldson , Pastoral Musician	music.eastminster@bellnet.ca		
Scott Pietrangelo , Music Leader			

Musicians

Michelle Suzanne, *soprano soloist*
Andrew Hodwitz, *bass soloist*
Jeff Schissler, *tenor soloist*
Joy Klopp, *alto soloist*

Custodians

Robert Covert
Jessica Aguiar
Alison LeGrow
Joseph Telford
Joshua Somer



"For the child taken, for the parent left behind."

Greater Toronto Regional Update – March 2015

National TRC Work

The last of seven national TRC events took place a year ago in **Edmonton, Alberta, March 27th – 30th, 2014**, and national and regional churches made efforts to have a large contingent of people attend, in support of the process and the survivors who told their stories.

The Commissioners, and all the participating churches, have now turned their attention to the TRC's closing events in **Ottawa May 31st to June 3rd, 2015**, including the release of the **Final Report** and its findings and recommendations on **Tuesday June 2nd**. Many churches are preparing for a significant presence in Ottawa, as well as numerous lead-up and follow-up events, as all who have participated in the process recognize that while the work of the Commissioners may come to a close in June, the work of truth-telling, healing, and the seeking of reconciliation and right relations does not.

A partner of the TRC, **Reconciliation Canada**, is planning a major **Reconciliation Walk** on **Sunday May 31st** to begin the closing events with an important public witness. It is hoped that many tens of thousands of people will take part.

KAIROS Canada is planning a series of events, including an intergenerational gathering of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal delegates **May 29th – 30th** at Carleton University, as well as other education gatherings, for those who can stay longer, through **June 3rd**. A large ecumenical **Worship Service** is also planned, to be hosted by Ottawa churches, following the Walk on the afternoon of **May 31st**. For more information on

the KAIROS schedule of events, or to register, go to <http://www.kairoscanada.org/get-involved/time-for-reconciliation/>

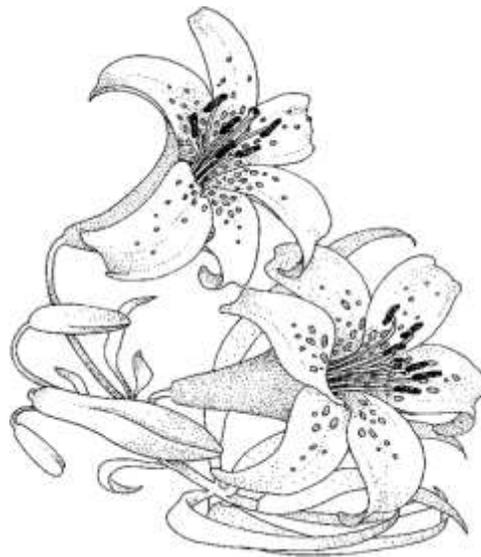
Regional TRC/ChurchWork

In the greater Toronto region efforts are being made among those who hosted *The Meeting Place*, the Toronto Region TRC event May 31st – June 2nd, 2012, including Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre and the Living Into Right Relations Circle of Toronto Conference, United Church of Canada, to work alongside others to plan for various gatherings leading up to, during, and beyond the TRC closing in June. A number of ecumenical solidarity events are being planned, including a **Reconciliation Walk** on the afternoon of **May 31st** (details to be announced), as well as special services to recognize **National Aboriginal Day** on **Sunday June 21st**. The group is also planning ecumenical training events for adults and youth, and will be supporting a delegation of survivors, with whom Council Fire works, to accompany local TRC witnesses to Ottawa, so that cross-cultural learning can take place.

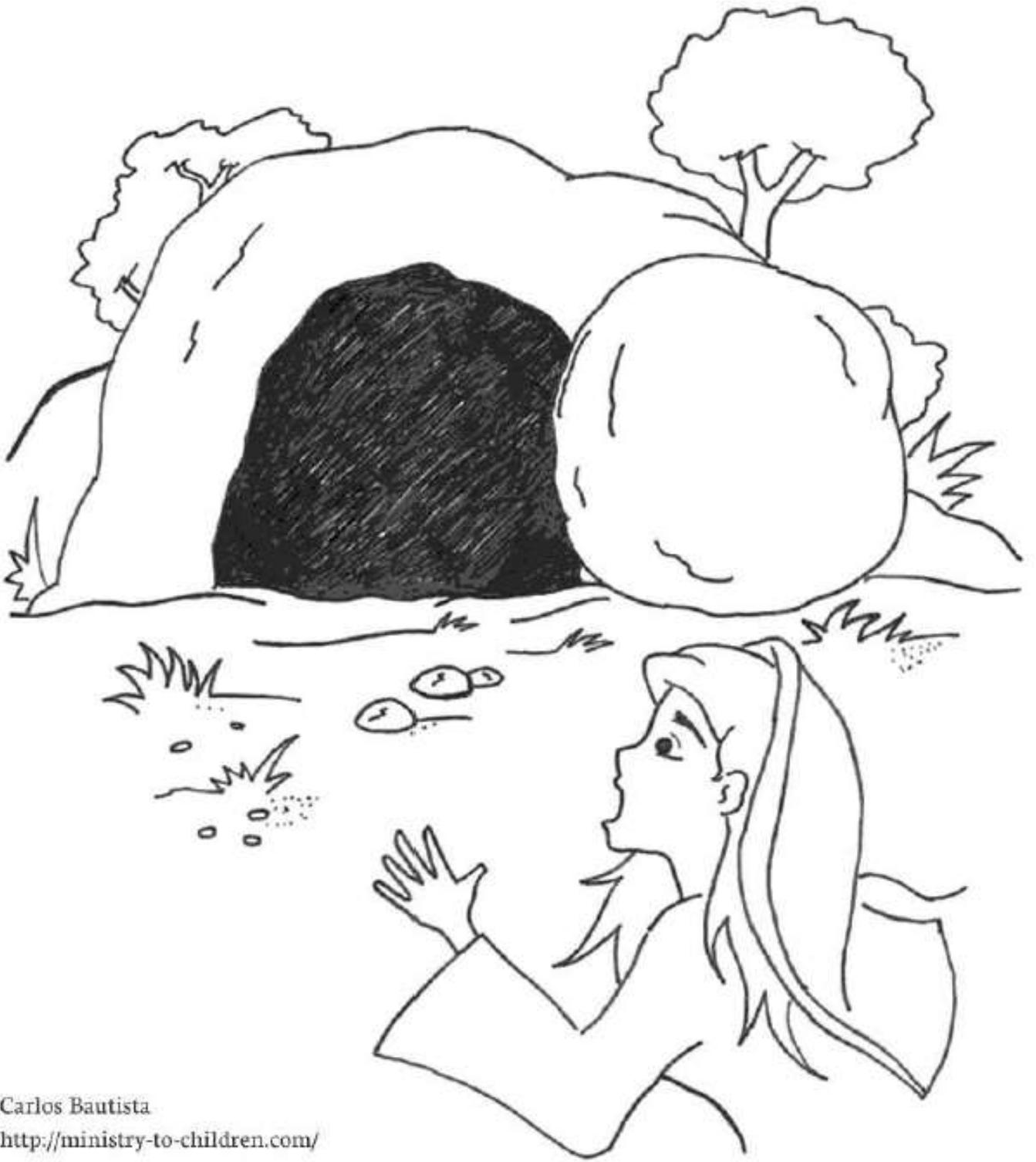
Advocacy continues regarding the **Native Women's Association of Canada's** call for a **Public Inquiry** regarding the **Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls** in Canada, which now numbers near 1200, as well as the need for a new and well-funded **First Nations Education Act** that provides autonomy and authority to Indigenous leaders for the education of their children.

Consider joining these regional efforts to pursue reconciliation and right relations from a faith-based perspective. Contact Linda Parsons, Facilitator of the Living Into Right Relations Circle, Toronto Conference, at linda.parsons@rogers.com or 905-895-7194.

More information about TRC events in Ottawa is available on the national website: www.trc.ca



Happy Easter!



Carlos Bautista
<http://ministry-to-children.com/>