



Eastminster United Church
An East End United Congregation
April 15, 2018
2nd Sunday after Easter

**Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

"Grief is subversive, undermining the quiet agreement to behave and be in control of our emotions. It is an act of protest that declares our refusal to live numb and small. Contrary to our fears, grief is suffused with life-force. Grief is alive, wild, untamed and cannot be domesticated. It is truly an emotion that rises from soul."

-Francis Weller

We Gather as God's People

Words of Welcome

Neil Riach

*Opening Hymn:

VU #186 Now the Green Blade Rises

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: We light this candle to proclaim that even in the dark earth, in the cold tomb, in our moments of despair.

All: Hope abides! Love is stronger! Hallelujah!

Call to Worship

One: In believing, in doubting, we come to this service,

All: And God accepts us.

One: In wondering, in affirming, we come to his service,

All: And God welcomes us.

One: As individuals, as a faith community, we come to this service,

All: And God's Word speaks to us.

One: With rejoicing, with sorrow, we come to this service,

All: And the risen Christ is eternal hope for us, as we worship and as we live.

*Sharing the Peace

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Please share the peace of Christ with one another.

Opening Prayer

One: Creator, we turn to you now for a time of worship through drama. May this embodied sharing of your story help us to better understand the wisdom you have shared through scripture in our hearts and mind. In the parable of the prodigal son, we witness the beauty, heartache, and mercy in coming home. May your comforting and gentle love hold all of those for whom this story is a mirror of their grief. Amen.

We Share in Word and Song

Greek Scripture:

Luke 15:11-32

Presented by EUC choir

Anthem

I Won't Give Up

Jason Mraz

When I look into your eyes
It's like watching the night sky
Or a beautiful sunrise
Well, there's so much they hold
And just like them old stars
I see that you've come so far
To be right where you are
How old is your soul?

I won't give up on us
Even if the skies get rough
I'm giving you all my love
I'm still looking up

And when you're needing your space
To do some navigating
I'll be here patiently waiting
To see what you find

'Cause even the stars they burn
Some even fall to the earth
We've got a lot to learn
God knows we're worth it

I don't wanna be someone who walks away so easily
I'm here to stay and make the difference that I can
make;
Our differences they do a lot to teach us how to use
the tools and gifts we got, yeah, we got a lot at stake;
And in the end, you're still my friend at least we did
intend for us to work we didn't break, we didn't burn,
We had to learn how to bend without the world caving
in
I had to learn what I've got, and what I'm not, and who
I am

The children are invited to Church School in the Hurndale Room.

Sermon

Returning

Michiko Bown-Kai

Musical Reflection

We Respond with our Thanks and Prayers

Offering Hymn:

VU #112 O God, How We Have Wandered

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

*Dedication Prayer

Prayers of People & the Lord's Prayer (VU #959)

Christine LeBlanc

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Toronto Southeast Presbytery: Glebe Road United Church

East End Prayer Cycle: Property Manager and Custodians

We Go Out to Be the People of God

Life and Work of the Congregation

*Closing Hymn: VU #158 Christ is Alive

*Commissioning and Benediction

*Sung Blessing Peace, Salaam, Shalom Pat Humphries and Sandy O
Emma's Revolution

The image shows musical notation for a sung blessing. It consists of two staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive. The first staff contains three measures of music, each followed by the lyrics 'Peace, salaam, shal-om, ___'. The second staff contains one measure of music followed by the lyrics 'Peace, sal aam, shal - om. ___'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

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Postlude

Today

* **Welcome to Eastminster, an East End United Congregation**



If you're new, please fill out a contact card and drop it in the collection plate if you would like our weekly email newsletter or would like more information about Eastminster. Prayer requests can be added to the Prayer book also in the Narthex. Children 4+ are invited to church school after we pass the peace.

Thank you to Neil Riach, Christine LeBlanc, Troy Hammond, and Mary Gerritsma for all their help in today service!!

East End News/Announcements

* **East End United Transitional Council Question and Answer**

TODAY, April 15, after service

Eastminster Sanctuary

Please join us for a Q & A regarding the covenant and other questions you have sent us.

There will be a vote **Sunday, April 22, 2018** on the following motion:

Resolved that this congregation Eastminster, meeting on 22 April, 2018, request that Toronto Southeast Presbytery approve the amalgamation of Cosburn United Church, Eastminster United Church and Glen Rhodes United Church into a single pastoral charge as of June 30, 2018 in accordance with the terms and considerations of the Covenant Agreement dated March 13, 2018.

* **Eastminster Council Meeting**

April 17 7:00pm

Eastminster Parlour

Our next Eastminster Council Meeting is April 17 at 7:00 pm in the Parlour. Observers are always welcome, if you plan to attend as an observer, please let Pam Cameron (Cameron.pam@gmail.com) know in advance or please let the office know ahead of your attendance.

* **WE CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF BARBARA STRANG**

April 21 2:00pm

Eastminster United Church

Barbara Strang passed away peacefully at home in East York at the age of 55 on April 3, 2018 surrounded by her close family. She was predeceased by her father James Strang. Barbara had a heart full of love and gratitude for her husband Guy Smagghe and daughters Isabelle and Nathalie Strang, her mother Ethel, sister Susan and brother Don, her extended family and all of her dear friends. She was grateful to the many medical professionals who helped her in recent years. Barbara touched the hearts and lives of countless people as she worked to advocate for the world's children with UNICEF Canada for 13 years as Director of Communications. As a consultant, she developed policies to draw attention to issues of food security and nutrition to help the vulnerable people in Canada and around the world. Barbara developed resources to help Canadians understand and become allies on a healing and reconciliation journey related to the legacy

of residential schools in Canada. More than anything, she was an exemplary mother guided by her profound love for her two daughters. Barbara lived her life with remarkable sensitivity, grace and courage and she brought light and love to all those around her. In recent years, Barbara used her creative gifts and insight to write poetry that is full of deep spirituality and sincere humanity. She left us with a legacy of how to be kind and good and how to face the greatest challenges with humility and grace.

A Celebration of Barbara’s Life will take place at Eastminster United Church on April 21 at 2:00pm, with a reception to follow. Visitation will take place April 20 from 6:00-9:00pm in the Parlour at Eastminster. In lieu of flowers and respecting Barbara's wishes, the family is requesting donations to The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, Ovarian Cancer Fund - Research. Barbara revelled in colour, so please dress in whatever colours you are moved to wear.

*** Upcoming East End Worship:**

“If an audience kept complete silence during a challenge parable from Jesus and if an audience filed past him afterward saying, 'Lovely parable, this morning, Rabbi,' Jesus would have failed utterly.”
 — John Dominic Crossan, *The Power of Parable: How Fiction by Jesus Became Fiction about Jesus*

For the season of Easter, we explore the teachings of Jesus through parables and how they spoke to Jesus’ first audience, and are still relevant to us today.

As we now share a ministry staff team for East End United, we will be sharing worship together more frequently. Here's a schedule for the next couple of months so you can plan ahead.

<p>April 15: Parable of the Prodigal Son</p> <p>11:00am at Cosburn with Rev. Jane 10:30am at Eastminster with Michiko 10:30am at Glen Rhodes with Rev. Sarah</p> <p>April 22: Parable of the Great Pearl</p> <p>11:00am at Cosburn with Rev. Sarah 10:30am at Eastminster with Rev. Jane 10:30am at Glen Rhodes with Michiko</p> <p>April 29: Parable of the Good Samaritan</p> <p>NO SERVICE at Cosburn 10:30am at Eastminster with Michiko 10:30am at Glen Rhodes with Rev. Jane</p>	<p>May 6: Parable of the Vineyard Worker</p> <p>11:00am at Cosburn with Michiko 10:30am at Eastminster with Rev. Sarah 10:30am at Glen Rhodes with Rev. Jane</p> <p>May 13: Parable of the Sower and Mustard Seed</p> <p>11:00am at Cosburn with Rev. Jane 10:30am at Eastminster with Rev. Sarah 10:30am at Glen Rhodes with Michiko</p> <p>May 15: Taize Service</p> <p>7:00pm at Glen Rhodes with Hilary Seraph Donaldson</p>
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*** OUT OF THE COLD at Eastminster. Providing basic needs, warmth, dignity, kindness**

So far we have served over 2,300 hot dinners, 2500+ bowls of homemade soup, and served approximately 7,000 cups of coffee and tea, 2800 glasses of orange juice, 2600+ nutritious snack size protein and fruit salads. We are short of volunteers to serve our final delicious meals of the season on Friday April 27th. If you are available to help out from 6:15 - 8:30, please sign up. If you are a new volunteer to OOTC, please use the link on the church website.

- * **Volunteers are needed to welcome, read Scripture, offer prayers of the people, and provide refreshments.** If you would like to offer your time and talent, please sign up in the narthex!!
- * **Eastminster Nursery is Hiring**
We're looking for one or two people who are interested in a part time job looking after babies on Sunday mornings in our nursery.
For more info, contact Jane Sanden janesanden@eastendunited.ca.
- * **GLEN RHODES OUTREACH MINISTRY: Drop-in Food Bank**
Wednesdays 9:00-11:30am & 2:00-4:00pm
Glen Rhodes United Church
Glen Rhodes Food Program Update: Second Harvest food rescue organization delivered more than 30,000 pounds of perishable food valued at more than \$75,000 to the Glen Rhodes Food bank in the six months ending on February 28. Second Harvest, founded in 1985 is dedicated to reducing waste and diverting food from landfill sites. In a mid-year report to Glen Rhodes it said "Second Harvest would like to express our gratitude to your team for ensuring the food we rescue is put to good use. We are thankful to be partnered with organizations like yours, whose dynamic programming and commitment to addressing food insecurity is helping to make Toronto a stronger, healthier city."
- * **Volunteer opportunity:** The food bank at Glen Rhodes Church needs able-bodied helpers on Monday mornings to unload the weekly food delivery from Daily Bread. The task takes about one hour. The truck arrives between 9am and 12pm. Also needed are calm, responsible volunteers on Wednesday morning or afternoon for a variety of tasks such as helping in the kitchen to breaking down boxes or cleaning-up and stacking chairs after closing at 3:30pm Need more information? Contact Clarisse at Clarisse@TekSavvy.com or 416-690-1834.
- * **CATS: Community Art Time Studio**
Thursdays 1:00-4:00pm
Cosburn United Church
Drop-in for art and community, all levels and interests welcome - bring a project you're working on, or start something new. Some basic materials are available but participants are welcome to bring their own.
For more information, contact Greta King 416-421-5711.

East End Events

- * **EXPLORING OUR FAITH**
A conversation with Alanna Mitchell
April 17 7:00-9:00pm
Eastminster Auditorium
Alanna Mitchell is an award-winning Canadian journalist, author and playwright who writes about the intersection of science and society.

She is the author of 5 books including *Sea Sick: The Global Ocean in Crisis*; *Malignant Metaphor: Confronting Cancer Myths*; and her latest, *The Spinning Magnet: The Force That Created the Modern World--and Could Destroy It*.

She is recognized as one of North America's most respected environmental and science journalists who has done field research with scientists on every continent - praised for her ability to translate complex science into elegant literary non-fiction, including turning *Sea Sick* into an acclaimed one-woman play.

"We are connected to every stone, every creature, every cloud, every galaxy. And not just connected. We are the same stuff."
-Alanna Mitchell, "In the Beginning" *The United Church Observer*. January 2018.

* **READS Book Club**

Friday April 20 7:00pm (book talk) 9:00pm (social)

Book: Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

Moderator: Paula Neilson

Eleanor Oliphant introduces us to a wholly unique character in only 322 pages; one we'll never forget! It's a contemporary novel set in Scotland that's newly published and internationally popular!

While we have read about many endearing male characters (Ove, Harold Frye, Major Pettigrew, Graeme Simpson's guy in The Rosie Project)....this is our female counterpart to get to know. A deceptively easy and delightful read. Buy your book or get a book buddy to share with.

As hard to get at the library (hundreds of holds waitlisted for it). Please note our meeting is not at the end of the month (one week early).

Enjoy a lively discussion by the fire, followed by the 9 pm Social Wine and Cheese. Held at the home of Neil Riach and Carolyn Curren, a block from the church. **For address, queries email Carolyn at: neilcarolyn@idirect.com or call 416 465 6174 or John Brown at 416 463 0844.**

* **EAST END TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

April 21 9:30am

Cosburn United

Transitional council meetings are always open to any observers who would like to attend.

* **ANCIENT COIN TALK by Enrico De Dominicis**

Wednesday April 25 7:00pm

Eastminster United Church Auditorium

'Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's....a journey with the coins of ancient Judea!'

* **Experience a Therapeutic Touch session for yourself**

Sunday May 6, 11:45AM – 1:30PM

Eastminster Parlour

Therapeutic Touch® (TT) is an accepted healing modality which can promote relaxation, reduce anxiety, manage pain, improve sleep and facilitate healing. Standing firmly on 40 years of clinical practice and research, it is widely used both by health-care professionals and laypersons. Although profound in effect it is easily taught and learned and is a skill available to everyone. Experience the benefits of TT for yourself.

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex to reserve your spot

Contact – Paula Neilson pmneilson@gmail.com

Eastminster Therapeutic Touch Branch

* **EAST END TAIZE WORSHIP SERVICE**

Tuesday May 15 7:00pm

Glen Rhodes United Church

Join Hilary Seraph Donaldson as she leads us through a contemplative Taize worship service.

* **DOCUMENTARY SCREENING**

Belonging in the Body- Transgender Journeys of Faith

June 8 7:30pm

Eastminster United Church

Join East End United in collaboration with Generous Space Ministries for a screening of "Belonging in the Body- Transgender Journeys of Faith" followed by a Q&R with Executive Director, Wendy VanderWal-Gritter.

Community Events

- * **Listening, Learning and Living into Reconciliation**
A Weekend of Indigenous History, Culture, Food and Art
APRIL 20-22, 2018,
Lansing United Church, 49 Bogert Ave

This event is hosted by a committee from both Lansing and Cummer Avenue United Churches as a part of their ongoing response to live as witnesses to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The agenda includes the movie "Colonization Road", keynote speaker Lee Maracle, a KAIROS Blanket Exercise, workshops by Brian Charles and Jennifer Henry, a Survivor-led Residential school sharing circle, and more. More Information www.lansingchurch.com | www.cummeravenueuc.ca/trc-event

- * **Setting A Bigger Table with John Pavlovitz**
Saturday April 21 9:30-3:30 pm
Fairlawn United Church

John is an American pastor and activist who has become prominent in Donald Trump's era. He is a stalwart voice for the Religious Left. He is the author of A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community.

Fairlawn United presents two innovative workshops by John Pavlovitz on Saturday April 21: DEALING WITH COMPASSION FATIGUE and SETTING A BIGGER TABLE.

For more information and tickets: <http://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/events/festival/>

- * **SISTER ACT presented by the Curtain Call Players (CCP)**
May 4-12 Matinees @ 2:00pm, Evening shows @ 8:00pm
Fairview Library Theatre- 35 Fairview Mall Dr.

CCP was founded at Glen Rhodes and many of our members either appear on stage or help with front of house or crew! For more information and tickets, you can check out their website <http://www.curtaincalltoronto.com/>

- * **The TCO Presents "Dancing with the Stars"**
May 8, 7:30pm
Eastminster United Church

The Toronto Community Orchestra is very pleased to invite you to a fantastic evening of classical, folk, and all that jazz

Featuring Dvorak's Romance for Violin and Orchestra, Holst's Jupiter (from the Planets), a Suite from the movie Chicago (arr. Ted Ricketts), and more!

With soloists Alessia Disimino, and Alex Redman

All are welcome, admission is free, donations are gratefully accepted. Please join us in the Auditorium for a reception after the concert.

Weekly Events

Mondays:	1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters -	Meet in Sarah's Office
Thursdays:	7:30 - 9.30pm	Adult Choir	Meets in the Sanctuary

Staff

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Soloists: Michelle Suzanne - soprano, Sarah Hallikas – alto, Jeff Schissler - tenor, Andrew Hodwitz - bass			