

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 22nd, 2022 – 10:30 am

Asian Heritage Month

*You are invited to say or sing the bold print

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

People everywhere-clap your hands! Shout to God with a joyful voice!

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Jubilation” by James Denton

SANDRA RUTTAN

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Collier Street United acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg people. The Anishinaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy, who made treaties 16 & 18 possible.

Hewitt Holmes



Today, as a community of faith, we commit to honouring the history and culture of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.

We move forward in a spirit of reconciliation and good relations with all peoples.

LIGHTING OF THE WORSHIP CANDLE

Hewitt Holmes

RESPONSE: VU #414 “God Be Praised at Early Morn” v.2

SANDRA RUTTAN /CHOIR

WELCOME & NEWS

How are you today? **We are blessed and highly favoured.**

Hewitt Holmes

WE PRAISE AND PRAY

God, you have made the nation greater-you have brought them abundant joy!

^WORDS FOR THE GATHERED:

Joyful praise is God's promise.

Music and song will gladden our hearts in worship.

Inspiration from the scriptures is God's promise.

Through our listening and reflection, God's Word will come alive.

Faith community friendship is God's promise.

As we build each other up, Christ's family will prosper.

The loving Spirit is God's promise.

The Spirit will lead us to worship and wonder!

(Responsive Prayers by David Sparks, Year C- Edited)



***HYMN:** VU 166 “Joy Comes With the Dawn”

SANDRA RUTTAN /CHOIR

SILENCE

WORDS OF LIFE:

As we align our vision with God's vision,

The past comes into perspective and the future is clear.

We will know joy, pardon, and peace, as you begin in a new way.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

(Responsive Prayers by David Sparks, Year C- Edited)

Hewitt Holmes

WE GROW TOGETHER

Throughout the provinces and in every city, wherever the decree was read, there was great rejoicing and celebration among the Jews there.

^WORDS FROM SCRIPTURE: Psalm 67 & Philippians 1:1-6 (Inclusive Bible)

Dave Lord

Let us listen to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

¹ O God, show us kindness and bless us, and make your face smile on us!

² For then the earth will acknowledge your ways, and all the nations will know of your power to save.

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you!

⁴ Let the nations shout and sing for joy, for you dispense true justice to the world- you guide the nations of the earth!

⁵ Let the peoples shout and sing for joy; let all the peoples praise you!

⁶ The land has given its harvest: God, our God, has blessed us.

⁷ May God bless us, and may God be revered even to the ends of the earth!

^{1:1} From Paul and Timothy, who serve Christ Jesus, To all the holy ones in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with their bishops and deacons:

² Grace and peace be yours from our Abba God and from Jesus Christ, our Savior.

³ I thank my God every time I think of you.

⁴ In every prayer I utter, as I plead on your behalf, I rejoice

⁵ at the way you have all continually helped promote the Good News from the very first day.

⁶ And I am sure of this much: that God, who has begun the good work in you, will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus.

*This is Life-giving Word for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.***

SERMON: “Easter Season – What Does It Mean to Live With Joy?!”

Hewitt Holmes

WE RESPOND TOGETHER

Cry out, shout aloud, you who dwell in Zion, for the Holy One of Israel dwells among us in majesty!

CHORAL ANTHEM: “The heav’ns sing praises to God” by L. van Beethoven arr. Alan Bullard Bullard

OFFERING & INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Anne Snell

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*Caribbean version with traditional words & inclusive language*)

WE GO TO BE GOD’S COMMUNITY

HYMN: VU # 232 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You” v. 1,3,4

SANDRA RUTTAN/CHOIR

COMMISSIONING:

May the God of hope fill you with such peace and joy in your faith,
that you may be filled with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

^CLOSING BLESSING: MV#218 "May the Love of the Lord"

SANDRA RUTTAN/CHOIR

PIANO POSTLUDE: "God You're So Good" by B. Younker, B. Ligertwood, K. Stanfill and S. Ligertwood arr. L. Shackley
SANDRA RUTTAN

A Litany of Thanksgiving for Asian Heritage Month

Asia stretches over a wide area from Turkey in the west to Japan in the east, and from Siberia in the north to Indonesia in the south. It covers approximately a third of the land area of the earth.

O God, we praise your work in creation.

In Asia we find jungles, deserts, forests, grasslands, wetlands, and more. There are mountains more than 8,000 metres high and islands no higher than sea level. There are places which have a tropical climate and places which experience permafrost. There is great diversity in the natural environment.

O God, we praise your work in creation.

There are 48 countries in Asia and 60 per cent of the world's population live in these countries. There is a multitude of races, languages, cultures, and religions. The society in which people find themselves is often very diverse.

O God, we offer our thanks for your love and grace at work in our diversity.

Many of the countries and areas in Asia became colonies of Western countries in Europe and North America. Even after achieving independence, there was continuing difficulty and much suffering as people experienced internal conflict and government instability. Japan made colonies of Taiwan, Korea, and parts of China, ruling them in a way that caused much suffering to many people.

O God, forgive us for the suffering that we have caused each other.

We, too, are a part of Asia. Let us turn our hearts towards Asia and seek a way that we may live and journey together.

O God, please go with us as we seek this path of peace and justice.

May we rid Asia of poverty and disease. May we put an end to war and conflict. We pray that you will give us the strength we need to travel this path.

O God, we pray that your blessing might be upon the people of Asia, the churches of Asia, and ourselves as we seek to journey with you.

Amen.

— Rob Witmer, retired United Church mission personnel, translated this prayer. This litany is used at Tsukrukawa Church located in the city of Machida, a part of Tokyo Prefecture and of the West Tokyo District of the United Church of Christ in Japan.