

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 14th, 2023 – 10:30 am

Asian Heritage Month/Mother's Day

*You are invited to say or sing the bold print

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

We praise you, O God, and celebrate your presence with us.

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Aria Cantabile » by J. Offenbach, arr. S. Scott

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Anne Snell



We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the people with whom the Three Fires Confederacy: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, was agreed upon.

We accept our responsibility as Treaty people on this territory wherein Collier Street United resides.

We honor the heritage and stewardship of this land.

As we gather to worship and work at Collier Street United,

**we recognize that we have assembled on sacred ground,
a traditional gathering place for many peoples of Turtle Island.**

We commit to honoring the covenantal relationship with the First Peoples: Métis and Inuit.

We move forward with reconciliation and good relations with all people.

LIGHTING OF THE WORSHIP CANDLE

Anne Snell

RESPONSE: MV #180 "Sing, sing out! Sing a New Song" v.1

WELCOME & NEWS

Anne Snell

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

WE PRAISE AND PRAY

Your glory fills all heaven and earth, all time and space.

^WORDS FOR THE GATHERED:

We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God, who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally, teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in time of need.

Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!

*HYMN: VU#179 “Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks” v. 1,2,4

OPENING PRAYER

Anne Snell

SILENCE

WORDS OF LIFE:

Good and gentle God,

we pray in gratitude for our mothers and all those who, like mothers,
have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life.

**You who became human through a woman,
grant to all mothers the courage they need to
face the uncertain future that life with children
always brings.**

RESPONSE: MV #60 “God, We Give You Heartfelt Praise” by Timothy Tao

SANDRA RUTTAN/CHOIR

WE GROW IN TOGETHER

Your gifts surround us and dwell within us. We are your children.

^WORDS FROM SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:22-31

Marion Tizzard

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

²² Then Paul stood up before the council of the Areopagus and delivered this address:
“Citizens of Athens, I note that in every respect you are scrupulously religious.

²³ As I walked about looking at your shrines, I even discovered an altar inscribed, ‘To an Unknown God.’ Now, what you are worshiping in ignorance I intend to make known to you.

²⁴ “For the God who made the world and all that is in it, the Sovereign of heaven and earth, doesn’t live in sanctuaries made by human hands,

²⁵ and isn’t served by humans, as if in need of anything. No! God is the One who gives everyone life, breath—everything.

²⁶ From one person God created all of humankind to inhabit the entire earth, and set the time for each nation to exist and the exact place where each nation should dwell.

27 God did this so that human beings would seek, reach out for, and perhaps find the One who is not really far from any of us—

28 the One in whom we live and move and have our being. As one of your poets has put it, 'We too are God's children.'

29 "If we are in fact children of God, then it's inexcusable to think that the Divine Nature is like an image of gold, silver or stone—an image formed by the art and thought of mortals.

30 God, who overlooked such ignorance in the past, now commands all people everywhere to reform their lives.

31 For a day has been set when the whole world will be judged with justice. And this judge, who is a human being, has already been appointed. God has given proof of all of this by raising this judge from the dead."

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

WE RESPOND TOGETHER

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.

SERMON: "Delighting in the Fragrance of Papaya Flowers"

Rev. Tina Conlin

Guest Speaker - Davenport Perth Community Minister.

PIANO ANTHEM: "Jasmine Flower" Chinese Folk Song arr. Edward Han Jiang

OFFERING & PASTORAL PRAYERS

Anne Snell

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Spoken)

WE GO TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.

HYMN: VU#703 "In the Bulb There is a Flower"

PRAYER OF BLESSING: *(Ask all women in the congregation to come forward)*

Anne Snell

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

PIANO POSTLUDE: Prelude and Fugue in E minor by J.S.Bach

Guest pianist: Oliver Peart

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Welcome to Worship at Collier Street United Church.



We are glad you have joined us today in person and online, our worship leaders are:
Hewitt Holmes – Minister of Worship, Congregational Care and Leadership
Worship Leader – Anne Snell
Guest Speaker – Tina Colon
Sandra Lisa Ruttan – Music Director
Choir – Music leadership
Terry Tizzard – Audio & Visual Projections

ASIAN HERITAGE



Maria Christina Conlon, or Tina, baked pies, cookies, and a variety of other specialties at the Groaning Board straight after receiving her M.Div at Emmanuel College in 1983. Not only did this job help give her an insight into her former classmates who conducted luncheon meetings at this place, but it also gave her enough money to put together resumes to look for jobs. She worked in a variety of contract employment from building a shelter for non-English speaking women and children, to volunteer coordination and as a community coordinator at Frontier College, now known as United for Literacy. Before working for FoodShare, she worked at Chalmers UC in Guelph where she helped the church become a community ministry. Afterwards, she worked for the Downtown Churchworkers Association where she helped found the Multi-Faith Coalition Against Racism in response to some police shootings. As one of the first members of Toronto Food Policy Council, she volunteered on its board for seven years, proud to have played a part in ensuring that bST, or BGH would not be sold in Canada.

As a Missioner at the West Don Area Ministry, now known as Regent Park Community Ministry, she led a discussion series with unchurched and de-churched WDAM community residents called "Unprotected Texts," reflecting on biblical narratives. She also found a way to illustrate these stories through painting and formed a group called Old Town ARTbeat. While conducting midweek prayer services in the Peace Garden, she met indigenous people who invited her to Council Fire and eventually became a member of Toronto Urban Native Ministry. In June 2014, she started working as the Davenport Perth Community Minister. In 2019, when the United Church of Canada recognized that community ministry is also a community of faith, she requested discernment and was ordained in May 2022.

Tina Conlon came to Canada in her late teens with her family in 1972 from the Philippines after its declaration of Martial Law and where she was beginning to see the colonization of food. She was one of eight children of the late artist Rol Lampitoc and Cecilia, a self-taught pianist. Tina has three grown children and resides with her husband Philip in a housing co-op in downtown Toronto. Tina Conlon is Davenport Perth Community Minister.