

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 21st, 2023 – 10:30 am

Ascension / Asian Heritage Month

*You are invited to say or sing the bold print

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

In awe and wonder, we lift our eyes to the heavens.
We raise our songs of joy to the Creator of all time and space.

ORGAN PRELUDE: Fantasia on “Praise Him, Praise Him” by J.A. Clarke

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hewitt Holmes



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

Hewitt Holmes

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

WELCOME & NEWS

Hewitt Holmes

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

WE PRAISE AND PRAY

Gaze into heaven and see the glory of God.
We lift up our eyes to behold the ascended Christ.

^WORDS FOR THE GATHERED: (inspired by Acts 1:9-1)

Hewitt Holmes

On this Ascension Sunday,

A new day has begun.

Hope wins!

A fresh start is granted.

Faith wins!

Something new is about to happen.

Life wins!

Showing us the new way.

Love wins!

Come, let us worship God,
who is inviting us into life in a new way,
a way that transcends death,
a way of hope, faith, life, and love.

**We will worship Christ,
who overcame death to give us new life!**



*HYMN: VU#339 "When Morning Guilds the Skies" v. 1,2,3

PRAYER

SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hewitt Holmes

Ascended One,
You help us to bring our dark areas of life
into the light of love, faith, and hope.

**Ascended One,
You give us,
The insight that leads to change,
and the courage to make a fresh start.**

Ascended One,
We are grateful for your pardon and peace
that brings us to your new way.

**Your peace makes us
co-creators of life, light, love, faith, and hope.
Amen!**

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

SANDRA RUTTAN/CHOIR

WE GROW TOGETHER

*We grow together as we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.
We rejoice in the hope to which Christ has called us.*

^WORDS FROM SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:36-53 (Inclusive Bible)

Tim Marks

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

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus actually stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ In their panic and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸ Jesus said to them, "Why are you disturbed? Why do such ideas cross your mind?"

³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; it is I, really. Touch me and see—a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones as I do."

⁴⁰ After saying this, Jesus showed them the wounds.

⁴¹ They were still incredulous for sheer joy and wonder, so Jesus said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

⁴² After being given a piece of cooked fish,

⁴³ the savior ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the psalms had to be fulfilled."

⁴⁵ Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures,

⁴⁶ saying, "That is why the scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.

⁴⁷ In the Messiah's name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of all this.

⁴⁹ "Take note: I am sending forth what Abba God has promised to you. Remain here in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high."

⁵⁰ Then Jesus took them to the outskirts of Bethany, and with upraised hands blessed the disciples.

⁵¹ While blessing them, the savior left them and was carried up to heaven.

⁵² The disciples worshiped the risen Christ and returned to Jerusalem full of joy.

⁵³ They were found in the Temple constantly, speaking the praises of God.

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

SERMON: "Ascension – The Church - Witnesses!"

Hewitt Holmes

WE RESPOND TOGETHER

*Sing praises to God and the Ascended One, Jesus Christ.
We will shout to God with loud songs of joy.*

CHORAL ANTHEM: VU#414 "God, Be Praised at Early Morn" by Dawei Wang

OFFERING & INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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

WE GO TO BE GOD'S COMMUNITY

*We open ourselves to the wisdom of God.
We seek a spirit of revelation as we are filled with power from on high.*

HYMN: VU 274 "Your Hand, O God, Has Guided" v. 1,2,3

COMMISSIONING:

Christ is lifted up, above all other names;

**therefore we go out into the world in humility and peace,
living with courage, not repaying wrong with wrong.**

Christ is at God's right hand,

**therefore we will support the weak and respect everyone,
rejoicing as we serve Jesus Christ.**

May the blessing of the God of peace consecrate you,

**and keep us healthy in body, mind, and soul,
and without shame at the full reign of Jesus Christ.**

May the Spirit make us faithful – Amen.

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

SANDRA RUTTAN/CHOIR

PIANO POSTLUDE: "A Moonlit Night on the Spring River" (Chinese folk song)
arr. Edward Han Jiang

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
Sandra Lisa Ruttan – Music Director
Choir – Music leadership
Terry Tizzard – Audio & Visual Projections

Asian Heritage Month

May is officially recognized as Asian Heritage Month in Canada. Asian Heritage Month offers us an opportunity to learn more about the history of Canadians of Asian heritage and to recognize the struggles and challenges faced by Canadians of Asian descent, including racism, discrimination, and xenophobia. It is also an opportunity to celebrate their diverse contributions to our society.



Over the last two centuries, immigrants have journeyed to Canada from East Asia, Southern Asia, Western, Central and Southeast Asia, bringing our society a rich cultural heritage representing many languages, ethnicities and religious traditions. **Asian Canadian Cultures in Canada Include:**

- **East Asia:** China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan
- **South East Asia:** Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, East Timor, Vietnam
- **South Asia:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- **Western Asia:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
- **Central Asia:** Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan