

SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH

Kingston, Ontario



Minister

REV. ELIZABETH MACDONALD

Organist & Music Director

MR. CHARLES WALKER



As an Affirming Congregation

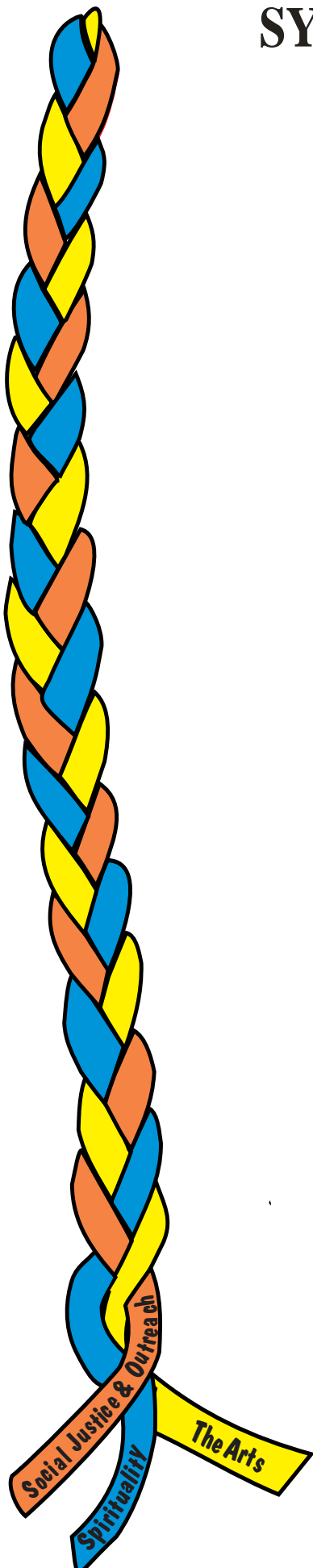
we seek to be a vital faith community within The United Church of Canada

engaged in spirituality, justice and creativity,

informed by Jesus Christ and the Bible,

and discerning the call of the Trinity

as we celebrate diversity, inclusivity and abundant life.



SUNDAY, May 20, 2012
Ascension Sunday on the Easter Road to Pentecost
Sacrament of Baptism
 Morning Worship at Ten Thirty
 (* Indicates Stand If You Are Able)
BOLD TEXT INDICATES CONGREGATION'S PARTICIPATION

Gathering in the Light of God's Love

Prelude: Hymn Preludes on "Morewellham" and "Ajalon" ~ *Seth Bingham*

Welcome

Centring Music: Risen One, Ascending ~ *Ashley Vanstone*

Easter Dove Prayer

***Hymn 189** "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" ~ *Ascension*

Invocation

Introit: "Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice" ~ *Healey Willan*

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Alleluia! When you said, "Seek you my face," my heart said unto you, "your face, Lord, will I seek." Hide not your face from me! Alleluia! The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear?

Prayer of Confession

Risen Christ – Do not leave us, we pray, in the grip of half-baked ideas about what it means to trust you and your resurrection promise of New Life. Lift us up out of half-hearted ways of living our faith into unfolding Mystery. Forgive us and set us free to live and love with abundance and abandon as you lived, as you died and as you live now. *Amen.*

Assurance of God's Love

***Hymn 444** "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" ~ *Stuttgart*

Sacrament of Baptism

Questions of the Congregation:

People of Sydenham Street United Church, as a baptized and baptizing Church, do you welcome this child?

Yes, we do, by the grace of God.

Will you support and nurture this child and all children within this community of faith?

Yes, we will, by the grace of God.

Do you commit yourselves to being a community which seeks to worship God and works towards justice and peace, while loving God's people and caring for God's creation?

Yes, we will, by the grace of God.

Congregational Prayer

Most Gracious God, we thank You for all that You have done for us, especially today, for declaring Your love for this child, Georgia Swan. As you have loved her from the beginning, so continue to protect and guide her throughout her life that she may be a loyal friend and follower of Jesus Christ. Help all of us keep the promises we have made here today.

We thank You for Your goodness to these parents, Mary and Jason and their family, for the

wonder of life, for the enrichment of their home. We pray that You will reveal the meaning of Your love more fully in and through the love that they share. Inspire, challenge, and strengthen all those seeking to do Your will, and those striving to live Your vision faithfully.

We here, each of us, whatever our age, ask that you make our baptism real and complete, so that we may live together in the unity and power of the Holy Spirit and at last live forever in your presence through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anthem: A Celtic Prayer ~ Mark Cabaniss

Paraphrase: Gracious Lord, hear my prayer, as with my voice I raise songs of praise to you. Grant me your peace, and let me feel your everlasting love anew each morning. Help me to know your will, for I long to dwell in your care. Guide my steps, and give me the strength to live by your Word, by your Grace. Search me and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; search out any wrong to be found there, and lead me in the way everlasting. With all my heart I shall sing of the unchanging love of my God, whose mercy endures forever. Gracious God, hear my prayer in the quietness of this hour.

Reflecting on the Light

Responsive Psalm “Faith in Transition” (please see back page of bulletin)

An Ascension Story: John 21:1-14

For the Word of God in Scripture

For the Word of God among us

For the Word of God within us

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Going Forth from Light into Light

*Hymn 187 “The Spring Has Come” ~ *Vervacity*

Offerings of our Life and Work

Offertory Anthem: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* ~ John Rutter

Refrain: *All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, he made their glowing colours, he made their tiny wings. (**Refrain**) The purple-headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky; the cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one. (**Refrain**) He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. (**Refrain**)

*Dedication of the Offering

O God, your life within each soul has blessed us all with grace;

We thank you for this gift to every nation, every race.

And as we share of what we have, we give in thankfulness,

That all the world may know your love, that all your name may bless.

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer (pg. 910 in *Voices United*)

*Hymn 418 “Go Forth for God” ~ *Old 124th*

*Commissioning

4

***Sung Benediction (Voices United #419) "May the Grace of Christ"**

Postlude: Psalm XIX ~ *Benedetto Marcello*

Welcome to the service this morning

You were greeted by Jack Soule. After Worship please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Downstairs Hall. Your hosts at Coffee Hour are Vicki Ruthven & Diane Soule.

Our thanks to Incoming Worship Chair, Eileen Woloshyn, and Queens School of Religion student, Darin MacKinnon for their participation in this morning's service.

Today we hold in our thoughts and prayers, *Georgia Cadence Swan*, her parents Mary & Jason and her extended family, many of whom have travelled to be here today as together we celebrate Georgia's baptism with great joy and hope .

For those people who are hearing impaired, we have hearing-assist equipment available.

MGOS: Our youth program, Many Gifts One Spirit will be led by Marie Anderson this morning at 10:30 AM for ages 4-9 and at 4:00 PM on Monday for ages 9-16. On Sunday morning, children have finished at the end of the worship service.

Hospitality for our youngest children!

A "**drop-in centre**" for children (up to 4 years old) and their parents is set up in the chapel. No supervision is available but if your little one is restless, needs to play and have some space, please check out this inviting option.

News & Announcements

Congratulations and best wishes to longtime member and former Chair of our congregation, **Don Redmond**, who turned 90 on May 19.

Upper Hall Renewal – Volunteers Needed

"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there" Matthew 18:20

The floor tiles in the upper hall are in desperate need of replacement and we have contracted to have this done between 11 and 20 June. But the new tiles will cry out for new wall paint, so the Property Committee and the Thursday Fixers have decided to repaint the upper hall and hallway. As we have commitments to Cantabile and the Choral Society, we must work around their rehearsals.

We are seeking volunteer painters and workers (carrying, cleaning, making tea, cheering, etc) to help us complete this large task. Please consider signing up on the sheet outside the lower hall, for any or all of the following times: Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons, 1:00 to 3:30 and Saturday mornings 9:30 to 12:30, beginning 17 May and ending 2 June. All are welcome and you may bring friends.

Annual Report

Copies of this year's Annual Report are available on the desk outside the church office. The report will be received at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 27. If you pick up a report, please bring it with you to the meeting on May 27.

Annual Congregational Meeting Next Sunday, May 27: Come, discuss & vote on the 2011-2012 SSUC Annual Report & Nominations for lay leadership in 2012-2013, as together we continue to discern & respond to God's vision for, and call to, SSUC.

Origami Doves

Our origami prayer dove mobile is nearly complete! We've been adding doves every Sunday starting at Easter, and the last ones will be added next Sunday, Pentecost. The mobile will remain in place until the end of July. Many thanks to all the dove makers and installers for creating this beautiful and meaningful piece of art.

The Partners in Mission Food Bank gives out 600 hampers of food every month to low income families in Kingston, as well as distributing breakfast foods and fresh fruit snacks to 4200 children every school day. If you have looked at your food bills recently, you will understand why it is increasingly difficult for low income families to pay for both rent and food. All contributions are welcome, but cereals, oatmeal, peanut butter, rice, canned stew, canned fruit and canned tomatoes for homemade sauces are particularly welcome. Please place your donations in the wicker basket in the front vestibule.



Small Group Ministry

At SSUC our Small Group Ministry is an important part of being community. Why not consider taking part in one of the interest groups associated with this program? Joining a Small Group is a great way to get better acquainted with your SSUC friends. For more information contact: Jane Mallory 613 544-4015 robnjane@cogeco.ca

Small Group Gatherings

- **The Movie and Coffee small group** will meet on Monday May 28th at the Screening Room for either of the movies that start about 7 p.m. Check the newspaper or the Screening Room website for exact start times. After the movies, we'll all have coffee together. New members welcome! Our regular movie night is the last Monday of the month. Contact Barb Carr for more information. 544-4081 barbecarr@hotmail.com
- **Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life** will meet Monday, June 4, 7 PM in the Chancel

Meetings

June 6—7 PM, Worship Committee in the Chapel

Coming Events

May 26—Cantabile Choirs “Passion and Romance”

June 1—Crystal Lehtimaki Spring Recital

June 7—Queen’s School of Nursing 2012 Pinning Ceremony

June 10—Rajaton in Concert

June 16—PFLAG Breakfast in the Lower Hall

June 24—Bev Porter Student Piano Recital

Community News and Events

The Limestone Quilters’ Guild & The Kingston Heirloom Quilters present **Quilts Kingston**, June 8, noon-8 PM, June 9, 10 AM-6 PM, & June 10, 11 AM to 4 PM at the Royal Kingston Curling Club, 120 Days Road. Admission is \$6. The show is featuring an international award winning quilter, Kathy Wylie, who uses her quilts to express her faith.

Kaleid on the Road

PRESENTS...

RAJATON



Finnish A Cappella Superstars

With a 250 Voice Choir of Kingston & Area Choral Artists

Sunday, June 10th | 7:30 pm

Sydenham Street United Church | \$28.00

Tickets: Grand Theatre Box Office - 613.530.2050 - or at the door



*art & psalm inspired by:
Acts 1:1-11*

FAITH IN TRANSITION

*O Master of Transition
our childhood faith*
— rooted in the material,
the magical, the literal —
soon dematerializes —
thins, fades, rises, and
is swallowed by the cloud of
our need for proof.

*When childhood faith tries
to move on — we hang on;
We stand in its empty place
hurting heart and whirling mind
gazing after it — trying to fathom
where it has gone
what it has become.*

*You ask why
we stand staring into space;*

You tell us faith will return
as mysteriously
as dematerialized
as we saw it go.

*You urge us to return
to the Holy City
to pray and to study
to examine ourselves
to worship and work
in your world.*

*You counsel us
to watch and to wait
for your transition of
literal to metaphorical
magical to mystical
material to spiritual.*

*O Master of Transition
with faith in transition
we watch and
we wait.*

AMEN.