

**YORK UNITED MINISTRIES
SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2021
AT YORK PINES UNITED CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude: Pastorale

C. Wesley

Welcome

Life and work of our Church

Acknowledgement of the Land

By now we know fully that we gather in the territory of the Ojibway peoples of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We support and accept the principles of Truth and Reconciliation. We acknowledge Anishinabe stewardship to Mother Earth as we worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together, with mutual respect, in the name of Gitchi-Manitou "The Great Spirit", The Holy One of Blessing, The God of Peace. Amen.

Lighting the Christ Candle

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Call to Worship

Jesus Christ is our shepherd.
He lays down his life for his sheep.
Jesus Christ is our shepherd.
He knows us, and we belong to him.
Jesus Christ is our shepherd.
He speaks, and we listen for his voice.

***Opening Hymn: "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"
VU 574 (v. 1,2,&4)**

**1 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**2 Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.**

**4 Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.**

Opening Prayer

We are your people, O God—the sheep of your pasture, the flock you have gathered. Lead us beside still waters; teach us the way of righteousness; and feed us at your table; We are invited to your table due to your endless grace, but our actions sometimes do not comply with your love. We talk about love, but we neglect the systemic evil and injustice. We talk about love, but we fail to love and serve one another. We praise your creation, we are slow to be adaptive to the ecological crisis. Loving God, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and abide in us by the wisdom and power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Response Song: "Psalm 23" (#749 VU – Refrain#1)

My Shepherd is the Lord; nothing indeed shall I want.

Words of Assurance

We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are accepted.

Thanks be to God.

***Affirmation of Faith: Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church¹,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Ministry of Music: Love Grows Here

**D. Besig
Christine Gunter and Brenda Walker**

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

1John 3:16–24

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister^[a] in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him

¹ "catholic church" means the Christian churches of all times and of all places.

whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Response Song: "Psalm 119" (#840 VU - Refrain #5)
Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.**

Time for Child in All of Us

Reflection: Faith and Action

Music for Silent Reflection: Voluntary

J. Alcock

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

The Offering of our Gifts and Ourselves

Invitation: How does God's love abide in anyone who has the goods of the world and sees a brother or sister in need, yet refuses to help? With love for God and neighbour, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

***Doxology: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" (541 VU)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creature high and low;

Give thanks to God in love made known;

Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Prayers of the People

Loving God. Thank you for the abundant life that you've offered. With gratitude, we offer our time and resources to serve you. Accept the centre of our hearts, and encourage us to love each other through your heart-filled guidance.

Creating God, in the spring time, we celebrate the life-giving bonds we have with all you have created. We give you thanks for the care that we can

give and receive as your creatures. We thank you for the land upon which we dwell, land that nourishes body, mind, and soul. God of creation, may we farm wisely, consume spiritually, respecting our land, and the life it gives.

We thank you for water, which fills the slough, and flows in river and brook. God of creation, help us to care for the water, keeping it pure and safe.

We thank you for the air, which gives life to us and to all that moves. God of creation, may we live and work in ways that keep the air clean and fresh.

We thank you for seeds and crops, plants and trees. God of creation, help us to sow reverently and harvest wisely.

We thank you for birds and animals. God of creation, as we care for and breed birds and animals, may we remember that they, like us, reflect your love.

God, during this time of the pandemic, help us to center our hearts to know your love of creation, to recognize the mystery of life, and to take action for the integration of the creation. Let us open our spiritual eyes and find your abundant love towards creatures every day and every moment. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray by saying;

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AS CHRISTIANS IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn: "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me" VU 635**

**1 All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?**

**Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.**

**2 All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!**

**3 All the way my Saviour leads me;
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
'Jesus led me all the way!'**

Blessing and Sending Forth

Sisters and brothers, loving God and loving neighbour are inseparable. When you love and worship God, your hearts toward your neighbour will be ignited. When you love and serve your family, friends, and neighbours, your heart will find God's power and presence. May the goodness and mercy of God follow you all the days of your life, and, at your life's end, may you dwell in the house of the Lord forever. **Alleluia!**

Postlude: Siciliana

W. Walond



York United Ministries Announcements

Worship Service

All services will be recorded in advance and posted to YouTube on Sunday morning. Today's service was pre-recorded at York Pines United Church. There will be no on-site services on Sundays until further notice. The video clip can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL772mvVOna2VqaLlmkQsNw?view_as=subscriber. You may subscribe to the channel and turn on notifications in order to be informed automatically, or check out the church webpages or Facebook pages. You may click "LIKE" button or leave your comments on the online services to encourage each other.

YAYA - YTB Q-Box Series

Q-Box Series are being updated. YAYA people, please check the YUM YouTube channel.

Zoom Gathering

Each church will have a Zoom Gathering with regular rotation. It is coffee time with casual conversation for 20-30 minutes. You may freely join and leave on the day for your church. The Zoom invitation is provided below. Please contact your church office for further details. The schedule is as follows:

*Today, **April 25th** at 11:30 a.m. for York Pines United Church members.*
To Join Zoom Coffee Hour Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87434653700?pwd=d0lNQlJGTjJoT0VJNlIiTRU1uTjlHdz09>

Meeting ID: 874 3465 3700

Passcode: 715783

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87434653700#,,,,*715783# US (San Jose)

+19292056099,,87434653700#,,,,*715783# US (New York)

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 647 558 0588 Canada
+1 778 907 2071 Canada
+1 204 272 7920 Canada
+1 438 809 7799 Canada
+1 587 328 1099 Canada
+1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 874 3465 3700

Passcode: 715783

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87434653700>

On **May 2nd** at 11:30 a.m. for New Hope United Church members and YAYA⁺ Band members.

YAYA Game Nights

Please mark your calendars for the following scheduled game night:

Friday April 30th

The games will begin at 7:30 pm. For more information, please contact Michelle Hunt (brian.michelle.zb@gmail.com).

YAYA⁺ Band

YAYA⁺ Band is preparing another praise song. Any suggestions for the song, inquiries, or communication for the praise band, please contact Michelle Hunt (brian.michelle.zb@gmail.com).

YUM Ukulele Class

YUM offers free virtual ukulele classes for adults. If you have your own ukulele, that is great. If not, YUM has 10 ukuleles to give *for free*. The free ukulele can be picked up at your church office on Monday afternoon. Delivery at your door can be arranged on Monday if necessary: Please ask your necessity to your church office by today. The 8 classes will be offered through Zoom 8 – 8:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursday from April 26(Mon.) If interested, please contact Rev. Lee or the church office *by today* (April 25th).

York Pines Anniversary

York Pines will celebrate its 55th anniversary Sunday May 16. Guest speaker will be Rev. Ross Carson.

York Pines Book Club

Next Book Club: Wednesday April 28th, 7:00 p.m.

We will select Literature and dates for the next sessions. We welcome suggestions; please send to the church email: yorkpinesuc@gmail.com
Thanks to all who participated during the past year as we adapted to a Zoom platform.

Offering

Thank you for sending your offerings to the churches. Your offerings support the ministry of the church and have been much appreciated. Please mail a cheque to your church directly, or make an e-transfer: kcuc@bellnet.ca; yorkpinesuc@gmail.com; newhopeunited@bellnet.ca.

Reading & Writing Isaiah (Daily Devotionals)

"While physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way." (1Timothy 4:8) Let's write our journal with the Bible verses every day as a form of individual spiritual exercises. Handwriting the verses given and your own short reflection time are encouraged. The Bible passages are provided each week in the bulletin.

- Monday, April 26 – Isaiah 53:6-7
- Tuesday, April 27 – Isaiah 53:8-10
- Wednesday, April 28 – Isaiah 54:14
- Thursday, April 29 – Isaiah 55:1-2
- Friday, April 30 – Isaiah 55:6-7
- Saturday, May 1 – Isaiah 55:8-9

YUM Calendar (April-May)

April 25	York Pines UC Zoom Gathering
April 26	Ukulele Class #1 (8 p.m.)
April 28	Book Club – <i>All</i> are welcomed.
April 29	Ukulele Class #2 (8 p.m.)
April 30	YAYA Game Night
May 3,10,17,24	NHSP Working Group meetings (10:30 a.m.)
May 3,6,10,13,17,20	Ukulele Class #3~8 (8 p.m.)
May 15	Food Bank at YPUC
May 16	The 55 th Anniversary of YPUC YAYA ⁺ Band submitting the recording due

Worship Schedule

	April 25	May 2	May 9	May 16
Preacher	Rev. Andrew Lee	Rev. Dr. Bill Fritz	Rev. Andrew Lee	Rev. Ross Carson
Location	York Pines UC	New Hope UC	King City UC	York Pines UC
Announcements	Christine Gunter	<i>Thom Stenson</i>	<i>Sheryl Sinka</i>	
Scripture Reading	Deb Carpenter	<i>Dahlia Buchanan</i>	<i>Tanya Nesterenko</i>	
Choir	Brenda Walker & Christine Gunter	YAYA+ Praise Band	<i>John Kell</i>	
Music Director	Ted Anderson	Sunny Rakovac	Rosemary DeSilva	Ted Anderson
Church	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6	Easter 7
UCC/YUM Calendar	Camping Sunday	Asian Heritage Month 1	Asian Heritage Month 2	Asian Heritage Month 3, The 55th Anniversary (YPUC)
Liturgical Color	Gold or White	Gold or White	Gold or White	Gold or White

Minute for Mission by Mission & Service

Few Tanzanians with albinism live beyond the age of 40.

When Ikponwosa Ero was five years old, she couldn't walk down the street without being taunted for having albinism, a genetic condition that results in lack of pigmentation in skin, eyes, and hair. Children would taunt her with rude songs and pull her hair. When she told teachers she couldn't see well (a condition common for people with albinism), they accused her of lying.



Today, Ero, a lawyer, advocates for people with albinism. In 2015, the United Nations appointed her as the first Independent Expert on the subject. Ero's priority is to end brutal attacks against people with albinism. More than 600

attacks have taken place in 26 African countries since 2007; two-thirds of the victims are children.

Credit: Image by esudroff from Pixabay

Being born with light skin is particularly dangerous in Tanzania, where 1 in 1,400 people have albinism. Few of these people live beyond the age of 40, not only because of high rates of cancer but also because of belief systems. Some belief systems portray people with albinism as magical. As a result, there is a lucrative trade in their body parts, which are believed to hold special power.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the situation even worse because people can't get to medical appointments or purchase sunscreen. In some communities, people with albinism are blamed for the outbreak of the pandemic.

That's why your generosity through Mission & Service is supporting the Morogoro Women's Training Centre to host seminars for young Tanzanian women with albinism. Topics like disability rights, legal protection, and entrepreneurship will be covered.

"The seminars are really important because they will not only provide training and give women a greater sense of their rights but also an opportunity to share experiences and talk about how their condition and the stigma around it affects them," says Wendy Gichuru, the United Church's program coordinator for Africa and the Middle East.

Your Mission & Service gifts support a variety of critical seminars like the Morogoro ones around the world. Thank you so much! Through Mission & Service, your generosity addresses prejudice and violence—and helps change lives.