

HASTINGS ROSENEATH PASTORAL CHARGE
The United Church of Canada



July 7, 2019—Riverside Service

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“GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME”

^**MUSICAL PRELUDE:** *(Leader & Choir Enter)*

*(^) means, please stand, (Bold Print - Congregation Response)*

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCHES**

^**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Rev. Jamie York*

^**HYMN:** MV#145 Draw the Circle Wide

*Refrain: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.*

*Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

1. God the still-point of the circle, round whom all creation turns; nothing lost, but held forever, in God’s gracious arms. *Refrain*
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small; let our loving know no borders, faithful to God’s call. *Refrain*
3. Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we’ve ever dreamed before; let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. *Refrain*

**OPENING PRAYER:** *(In Unison)*

*Gracious God, in the rest and renewal of summertime,  
we gather with our community of faith.*

*We praise you for the sights and sounds of summer  
that remind us of your wonder and delight.*

*May this time together fill us with delight  
so that our spirits may dance the sacred story  
and our lips whisper joyful possibilities.*

*All praise and glory be yours. Amen.*

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- 2 It is the wind of God that dries  
my vain regretful tears,  
until with braver thoughts shall rise  
the purer, brighter years;  
if cast on shores of selfish ease  
or pleasure I should be,  
O let me feel your freshening breeze,  
and I'll put back to sea.
- 3 If ever I forget your love  
and how that love was shown,  
lift high the blood-red flag above;  
it bears your name alone.  
Great pilot of my onward way,  
you will not let me drift.  
I feel the winds of God today;  
today my sail I lift.

^**COMMISSIONING:** *(Responsive)*

*As we go from here this day, we go knowing...*

*We are the waters in which God swims!  
Through the currents, crashing waves,  
and depths of the unknown, a Holy Presence remains.  
May God continue charting new courses  
and ways of being in the world, that unites creation  
in a collective call of “Peace! Be still!”*

**BENEDICTION:** *Rev. Jamie York*

**CHORAL BLESSING:** *(Go Now in Peace)*

*Go now in peace, never be afraid*

*God will go with you each hour of every day.*

*Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,  
Know God will guide you in all you do.*

*Go now in love and show you believe*

*Reach out to others, so all the world can see*

*God will be there, watching from above,*

*Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

*A-a-men, A-a-men, A-a-a-men (Don Besig & Nancy Price)*

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** “River in Judea”

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Mark 4:35-41 (M)

Leader: In this reading is Good News for God’s people.

*People: May the Spirit of the Living God be with us today! Amen.*

**^HYMN:** VU#563 Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore

1 Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore  
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.

*Refrain: O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,  
and while smiling, have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
by your side I will seek other seas.*

2 You know so well my possessions;  
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
- you will find there my nets and labour. R

3 You need my hands, full of caring  
through my labours to give others rest,  
and constant love that keeps on loving. R

4 You, who have fished other oceans,  
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me. R

**SERMON:** “A River of Destiny”

**^HYMN:** VU#577 I’ve got peace like a river

1 I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

2 I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

3 I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:** “Dialogue on Reconciliation”

**^OFFERING AND DEDICATION:** (In Unison) MV#191  
*What can I do?... What can I bring? ...What can I say?  
What can I sing? I'll sing with joy... I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love... I'll do my share. (Repeat)*

**^PRAYER of DEDICATION:** (In Unison)  
*Bighearted God, we pray that you take these our gifts.  
Bless them... Use them... Calm storms with them.  
Create in our communities new, imaginative,  
and life-giving streams from them. Amen.*

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER**

**^HYMN:** VU#625 I feel the winds of God today

1 I feel the winds of God today;  
today my sail I lift,  
though heavy oft with drenching spray  
and torn with many a rift;  
if hope but light the water's crest,  
and Christ my bark will use,  
I'll seek the seas at his behest,  
and brave another cruise.

## Dialogue on Reconciliation

Kenji Marui travelled to Australia as part of the Moderator's Dialogue on Reconciliation to consult and build a relationship with the Uniting Church in Australia, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, and Indigenous groups in Australia. He reflects on this experience:

“At a theological gathering of our Canadian visiting group, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress members, and students training for ministry, we engaged in earnest conversation about the effects of colonialism in our lives, in our churches, in our societies. As a second-generation Canadian born to Japanese immigrants, I struggled to find my place in the discussion. I don't look like a settler but have throughout my life operated with such a mindset. Yet I also know the effects of racism and discrimination. I grow weary of having to explain or justify myself in society, of my reality of being unrepresented or misrepresented in media.

“There was tension in discussing the interrelation of gospel and culture because it is such a one-sided dynamic: Christianity has been so dominant and pervasive, so closely associated with assertions of Western superiority, that it becomes difficult to disentangle Jesus' true messages and intent from the historical and traditional interpretations of his parables and teachings.

“Aboriginal culture has long been deemed second-class at best and downright demonic at worst.

“As we look to what might come next in this unfinished process, there is a commitment and understanding that this work is too important to ignore. The work goes on thanks to your gifts for Mission & Service.”

*Excerpt from [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca), Round the Table blog, March 28, 2018*