

WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON MAY 29TH, 2022.

Ravenshoe Pastoral Charge

Minister: Rev. Calin Lau VAM: Rev. Dianne Graves

Music Director: Kathy Anderson (RUC)

Office Administrator: Sandra Dickinson

VU – Voices United Hymnbook MV – More Voices

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Prelude

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Announcements

Pass the Peace

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Lighting of the Christ candle

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Singing of the Lord's Prayer VU 960

Call to Worship

Listen. Can you hear it?

The sound of those imprisoned.

Listen. Can you hear it?

The sound of those who have been silenced because of gender, race, age, ability, or orientation.

Listen. Can you hear it?

The sound of those who cannot speak up for themselves.

Listen. Can you hear it?

Let us, the people of God, clear their throats, and break the silence.

Come, let us worship God.

Hymn: VU 213 Rejoice, the Lord Is King (v. 1, 2, 4)

Gathering Prayer (*unison*)

Liberating God, may we not hold silence but speak out. May we find in our throats the words of compassion and peace for those whose voices have been taken away. May we be a community that lives the story of those the world has silenced, for this is your story of justice and resurrection. Amen.

Responsive Scripture: Psalm 97 VU 817

Hymn: VU 412 This Is the Day (v. 1, 2, 3)

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:16-34 (NRSV) *Wayne Butcher*

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to

kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection "Liberating Love"

Hymn: VU 575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

We Give and Receive our Offering

As we offer our gifts, embolden us to stand out against the backdrop of a world that says, "take care of your own."

Offertory Hymn: VU 579 The Church is Wherever (v.2)

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

We dedicate ourselves to another's freedom, O God, to bring the fullness of life to those caught in life's shadows; to offer grace where another's hurt has bruised; to offer peace where another's violence has damaged; to offer a heart where another's story entraps; to offer justice where another's power has oppressed. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Hymn: VU 382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God (v. 1, 2, 3)

***Commissioning and Blessing**

Leave the sanctuary of this sacred place and, in the power of Spirit,

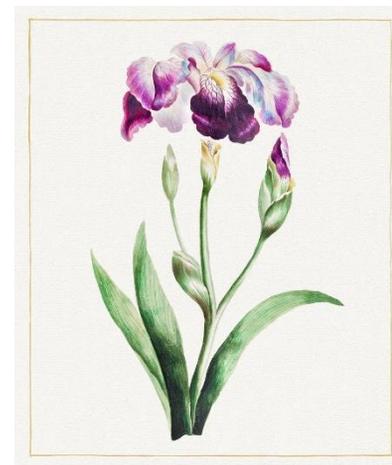
break the chains of resistance to God's love in the world.

May our feet tread steadfastly on the earth which waits to be released from harm and oppression.

May God's creativity place within us the necessary tools for releasing justice in our world. And may Christ give us courage to break free into the realm of truth. Amen.

Hymn: VU 429 May the Blessing of God Be upon You

Postlude



Announcements:

Rev. Lau will be on vacation & study leave from June 8th to July 31st inclusive. A decision was made, by both boards, to close both locations for the month of July. The services of June 12th, 19th and 26th will be held jointly at Keswick for 10am.

Date of Sunday Service	Guest speaker
June 12, 2022	Sister Jane from Loretto Maryholme
June 19, 2022	Pastor David Blow
June 26, 2022	Sister Jane from Loretto Maryholme

Emergency Pastoral Care

Rev. Linda Wheler (Trinity UC in Newmarket)	905-895-4851 or cell 416-995-3623 revlinda@trinityuc.ca will be available the 2 nd week of June and the 1 st , 2 nd , and 3 rd weeks of July.
Rev. Dianne Graves	905-478-8196 diannegraves11@gmail.com

Asian Heritage Month:

Parallel Journeys of Healing

Nobuko Iwai shares her experience of being born in Japan and raised in the United Church of Canada.

Go to united-church.ca and look for 'Round the Table Blog' to read the full article.

A Clash of Faith and Culture

Rev. Calin Lau shares his experiences living in Hong Kong. Go to united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/clash-faith-and-culture to read the full article.

Ravenshoe United Church Seventh Sunday of Easter



*Asian Heritage Month
May 29th, 2022
Rev. Calin Lau*