

# *The Voice*



*September 2010*

## **A Message from The Chair of Council**

It is said, “change is inevitable,” and that has certainly been true over the last few months at The Donway Covenant. Suddenly the future has become the present and brought with it many changes. Here are a few.

The Pastoral Oversight Team is attempting to improve its connection with pastoral charges by assigning one team member to take a special interest in each pastoral charge. We welcome Carol-Anne Green as the person assigned to our church. The idea is to become familiar with all aspects of our church and communicate any concerns back to Presbytery. Carol-Anne was part of the Oversight Committee that visited our church last March. Council discussed their report at the September meeting and may be implementing some of their recommendations.

One of our long time presbytery reps. Murray Cutler, has decided to resign from his presbytery duties. These duties recently included overseeing the construction of the Ina Grafton Gage Home. For many years Murray has been a valuable member of council and the knowledge and experience he brought will be missed.

Lorrie has decided to “spread her wings” and further her career by moving to another church. We wish her much success and thank her for her eight years of dedicated service. We will have an opportunity to express our thanks to Lorrie at a luncheon on September 26.

We look forward to having Alcina Chiu as our new Sunday school coordinator. Alcina has recently worked at Jubilee United Church, and her creativity and energy along with her musical talents are expected to provide a new approach.

We also welcome Jennifer Blazek, who filled in for Lorrie in pre school and has several years of experience working in early childhood education, as the new facilitator for the Parent & Tot Drop In program on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Summer was once a time when you could skip the odd Sunday but even that changed. Thanks to the worship committee for providing five excellent guest speakers this summer. The soloists and organists were also excellent. Jennifer’s series on aging rounded out a summer that made skipping a week very difficult.

As we look ahead to the Giant Fall Sale we encourage everyone to participate, and let’s hope the effort and enthusiasm we manage for it will continue in other church activities throughout the rest of the year.

Norm Childerhose

Chair of Council

### **Prayer by English Nun from 17<sup>th</sup> Century (This was printed in our bulletin a few weeks ago)**

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody’s affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, I want a few friends at the end.

## Editor's Note

Each issue I wonder if I will have enough material to fill a 24 page Voice, and each month I have more articles than I can use. That speaks to an active congregation. There have been losses of members in recent times for various reasons. Our congregation members are in different stages of life, aging and moving to assisted living, or are ailing and passing on. They are all missed, no matter where they are. We welcome new people to our worship services, and hope to see them also at other church activities.

You will read about changes at our church in the Chairman's Report. After eight years, our Christian Education Supervisor Lorrie has left to work in a church in Toronto's west end; we will miss her friendly smiles and quiet competence. We are pleased to have an enthusiastic new person to take over some of Lorrie's duties.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record (and most of us still remember what a record was), we hope you can help our church in whatever way you are able. As mentioned before, it takes at least 16 volunteers (not including the choir) to run a Sunday service, from ushers to coffee hosts to counters. That is a lot of people to organize each week! But even if you cannot help, we are happy to see you at our morning worship.

I hope that, like me, you all had a good summer and are ready for more refreshing weather and more structure in your lives. There are some interesting events coming up this fall around the church which can enrich your lives, spiritually and intellectually and socially. We look forward to sharing them with you.

Jill Reeve

## Sorry, I forgot!

*Last winter the Voice had an article by Donway member Joan Guinn, about her journey of faith. I subsequently received the following letter, which I misplaced and only found now. So here it is, with apologies, somewhat late. Ed.*

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to "A Special Moment" by Joan Guinn. She, and her late husband Joe, and I go back a long way. In fact our families have known each other for more than four decades. My home church, growing up, was Asbury and West United, where Joan and Joe attended. My mother was in the choir there, as was Joe, and I must say that that Joe had the most beautiful bass voice. He was also very handsome, had a radiant smile, and was a very kind, happy person. And Joan seems to me to have such a sweetness and serenity about her that makes her special. I was always fond of them both. So when they moved to Don Mills and started to come to the Donway, mother and I were really happy to see them again.

Thank you, Joan, for the fond memories. John and I both enjoyed reading about your Christian story of your conversion. It was enlightening for me to hear it again. You are truly a person to emulate. God bless.

Alice Thordarson

## **The Minister's Message**

Even those of us not returning to school still feel Fall as a time of new beginnings. When we were younger, the hopes and possibilities of brand new notebooks, and freshly sharpened pencils, offered open-ended dreams of potential learning and success in the coming months.

Here at DCUC, there are new possibilities opening, too. As our new church year begins, it's wonderful to see the beloved faces of people we have not seen for the summer, and it's exciting to think about new projects, new plans. In worship, we'll be focussing on the way in which worship and faith are combined. The United Church of Canada has a new statement of faith called *A Song of Faith* (see end of The Voice for a *Song of Faith* in detail) for us to think about. We'll ask ourselves what we really believe, what does "faith" mean, and who is this person Jesus who calls us to a holy and abundant life lived closely with Him.

We have a new Sunday School Co-ordinator and an exciting group of young people to learn from, and to worship with. Please come in and meet her some Sunday – you might be tempted to stay in the Sunday School just for the fun of learning our faith stories while doing drama, crafts, music, and art; I'm sure even older "children" would be welcome to join in.

No matter what we think of the Bible, as members of a Christian community it is still THE book to read – think about joining our discussion group this Fall as we read The Book of Job, and ask the question "If God loves us, why do bad things happen to good people?"

In Fall, we re-schedule our lives, trying to find time for all the people we want to see, things we want to do, places we want to be. As our schedules fill up, it's good to remember that the decisions we make about how we will spend our time reflect what we value most – how do you want to spend your time this Fall? What is most important to you?

I'm looking forward to sharing time with you. May God offer us the blessings of full and abundant lives in the ways we spend our time together.

Rev. Jennifer Palin

### **New Bible Study: The Book of Job**

Every Monday Evening at 7pm in The DCUC Library  
Beginning Monday, October 4

*If you have ever asked these questions, this discussion group is for you:*

**Why do bad things happen to good people?**

**If God loves us, why does God let terrible things happen?**

**What did I do to deserve this?**

*I've always tried to be a good person – why are these awful things happening to me and the people I love?*

**Other people do worse things than I do  
– why don't they suffer?**

**Why me?**

**ALL WELCOME!**

## **Welcome to our New Sunday School Coordinator, Alcina Chiu**

Alcina was born in Hong Kong and moved to Toronto at a young age, growing up in East York and Victoria Village. She has a Bachelor of Music degree, majoring in Voice, and has directed and accompanied many school choirs in the Toronto area in various music festivals and competitions, and is co-founder and director of Toronto Treble Makers, a community choir for 12 to 30 year olds. She is also an avid swing dancer. She is involved in teaching Nia, a dance fitness programme that combines mind, body and spirit. Currently, she runs classes at Jubilee United Church. She likes that it is suitable for people of all ages, which means that she gets to meet a wide assortment of people.

In addition to music and fitness, Alcina has been involved in Shakespearean theatre and teaching French at a private school. For the past ten years she has run the Vacation Bible School at Jubilee, and has helped with Christmas and Palm Sunday pageants. She has also worked at the Toronto Chinese Baptist Church. With her background in music, dance, drama, and children's programming, she looks forward to meeting everyone at the Donway, and sharing her gifts with us.

## **Good Bye from Lorrie Daly-Price**

To Everyone at the Donway Covenant United Church:

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for your support and encouragement over the last nine years. I was blessed to have had the opportunity to grow in so many different ways because of all of your support.

I will miss the many friends I made both from Sunday mornings and from the various weekday programs. It was a difficult decision to make deciding to make a move to a new position and leave everything familiar behind. However, for each of us to grow, change has to happen and I knew the time was right for me.

I have accepted a position at Humbercrest United Church in the Jane and Bloor area alongside Rev. Gary Redcliffe. Although I am sad to say good bye to each of you I am also very excited about having the opportunity to be mentored by such a wonderful Minister who, as a Professor of Emmanuel College, has so much experience to share.

Again, thank you to each of you. This good bye feels much like leaving home for the first time. So many of you are like family to me. It is because of that that I am strong enough to finally spread my wings and fly on my own.

Blessings to each of you!

Lorrie Daly-Price

## **Memories of Sunday School**

Sunday School was just that – SUNDAY school.

When we were christened, our name was dropped in the beautifully decorated dolls' bassinette and became part of the Cradle Roll. Very young, we sat downstairs and our homework was to memorize the little bible verse on a picture card.

Moving upstairs to the auditorium was a big event, Grouped according to age, we all met together for announcements, prayer and singing. As a teenager, I became pianist and a jovial gentleman, whom we all loved, let us in a robust sing song of our favourite hymns, very few of which were in the Hymnal but gathered by him from his many resources.

At a given time, we would disperse into the alcoves all around the main level and the gallery for classes, according to our age, boys with boys and girls with girls, Again we learned some lesson that was intended to help us handle life for the week to come.

There was concert every year and sometimes a stage built in the chancel for an anniversary celebration. Of course a picnic at Centre Island was the wind-up in June, with races, prizes, lots of food and a few upset tummies.

Sunday School, Mission Band, CGIT and Young Peoples filled many hours of my life until I was eighteen.

Joan MacTavish

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### **Sunday school in Rural Saskatchewan in the 1940's**

Growing up on a Saskatchewan farm, Sunday school was very different from what the city kids experienced.

Our United Church was one of a three point charge in Vonda, 10 miles away from our farm.

The minister sometimes had a children's story for my brother and me, but our Sunday school was by correspondence. My brother was not as enthusiastic as I was at receiving the lessons in the mail. There were bible stories and quizzes to be completed and mailed in to head office in Toronto. The assignments were marked, commented on and promptly returned.

It made me feel good to read these encouraging comments.

I particularly enjoyed drawing pictures of Bible Stories. My art work on The Burning Bush and Noah's Ark came back with comments like, "excellent work, A++," or "keep up the good work."

At times I wonder about the person in Toronto who patiently marked and commented on my assignments. If I could turn the clock back, I would like to thank that person.

Thinking back, my life was influenced by this program and I am grateful to the United Church for offering me a Christian education.

Don Messaros

## Message from The Music Director

We are off to a great start so far at Donway Covenant! The choir is back in full swing and regular rehearsals are from 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. every Thursday. We welcome new members. I urge anyone to come out and sing with us. There is no experience necessary and we would love to have you. A special thanks to the choir for their assistance in presenting the very successful Grandparent's Day service on September 12. The choir sang the beautiful, "Ave Verum Corpus" and led the congregation with the joyous song, Hinay Ma Tov (Brothers and Sisters Together). A special welcome back to Meghan Fleet, our amazingly talented soprano soloist. We are currently looking for a replacement baritone soloist and we hope to begin auditioning prospective candidates in the near future. We are busy preparing beautiful music for upcoming Thanksgiving, Communion, Remembrance Day and Advent services. Thanks so much for all of your kind words and support! Stay tuned for some exciting new music in worship this year. The Worship Committee will be discussing different approaches to worship this year and we will continue to incorporate music from a wide variety of traditions.

I am also very excited to be working with Alcina Chiu, our new Sunday School Co-ordinator. Alcina and I met in Boston at a Dalcroze Eurhythmics course and I had a hunch that she would be a great fit for Donway Covenant United Church. A big thank you to the hiring committee wrapping up the hiring process so quickly, so that we could have someone in place in September. It was wonderful to see so many children out for the Grandparent's Day service and hopefully we can spread the word about the children's program here. I look forward to helping out Alcina with music and planning some special children's programs in the future.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Music On the Donway concert series. On Saturday, November 6th at 7:30 p.m. we will be presenting, "A Tale of Two Tenors," which is a delightfully entertaining show featuring Leonard Whiting (tenor) and Edward Franko (tenor). The show has received rave reviews and standing ovations across Ontario and features comedy and audience sing-a-longs. On Saturday Feb. 12 we are inviting back the amazing jazz singer Terra Hazelton with the Mark Eisenman, piano, Steve Wallace, bass and myself on saxophone. This show was a huge success and so many of you wanted Terra back. She is returning with brand new repertoire and I am certain this show will be very popular. On April 30th, a very innovative group called Antler River will be coming to the church. This group features world music with a classical touch, and features flute, violin, bass and percussion. I hope to post audio clips of all three concerts ahead of time so that people get a feel for the music. Please consider supporting the series by purchasing season tickets. We are also looking for volunteers to help with marketing the series. Please contact me or Sigrid Angell, chairperson, for further details.

I am really looking forward to the coming year and look forward to re-connecting with as many of you as possible this fall!

Daniel Rubinoff  
Music Director



**Music on The Donway**

**Presents**

**A Tale of  
Two Tenors**

featuring

the delightfully entertaining

**Leonard Whiting (tenor) and  
Edward Franko (tenor)**

**Brett Kingsbury (piano)**

A tune-filled show with lots of laughs  
and audience sing-alongs.

**Saturday Nov. 6, 2010,  
7:30pm**

Tickets: \$20/adults, \$12/students/kids  
Call 416-444-8444 for tickets

The Donway Covenant United Church  
230 The Donway West, north of Lawrence Ave. East

## **From the Outreach Committee**

Our Fair Trade Fair, during Fair Trade Week, was very successful in attracting many people to our Sanctuary and Christian Education Centre on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 3p.m. They appeared to enjoy themselves while purchasing items from the vendors, patronizing the café, listening to speakers and watching films.

We can attribute much of the success of this event to the excellent advertising in newspapers, on radio and TV and the 190 e-mails sent out by Sigrid Angell, 13 volunteers, who phoned almost 200 people, the announcements in the Voice, the signs/posters inside and outside of the building and the flyers which were distributed to the congregation and certain areas of the community.

The more than 80 volunteers who worked in some capacity, made certain that the advertising was done, the café was staffed under the able leadership of Marion Childerhose, vendors and guests felt welcome and that the films and speakers in the living room were a success. All should feel very proud of their efforts. Vendors, guests, volunteers and committee members have suggested that this event should be repeated next year.

The next event was the "Taste for Justice" luncheon held in the living room on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Similar luncheons or dinners were held across Canada at this time. Members of the congregation who are interested in the work of Amnesty International were invited to the luncheon. The luncheon was under the leadership of Marion Childerhose and her faithful volunteers. The film, signing of letters and fund raising were under the direction of Helen Guillett and Jaren McLeod. Everyone enjoyed the event, which was considered a great success. There was a small charge for this buffet lunch and then guests were invited to make a donation to Amnesty International. All members of the congregation are asked to consider supporting this worthwhile cause when we begin the monthly letter writing campaign this month.

Plans are underway for the Film Fest and Soup Suppers. Dates are Wednesdays, November 3, 10, 17, 24 and December 1. Titles are: "Double Happiness", "Toronto Stories", "Little Mosque on the Prairies", "Passage to Ottawa" and "The Sweet Hereafter".

Thank you to all who have supported the Outreach Committee in these activities.

Marie Harvey, Chair of the Outreach Committee

## **Thank you from The 2nd Don Mills Venturers**

The 2nd Don Mills Venturers would like to thank the congregation for their help and support with our fundraising efforts this year. Thanks, in part, to members of the congregation, we were able to go sea kayaking in British Columbia in August. Your help is greatly appreciated and we would not have made it without you. Thank you."

- Andy Snowdon

A person got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

Come for coffee or tea in

# The Living Room

Sometimes, a cup of tea, or coffee, is just what you need.  
If you can quietly sit and **relax** in a comfortable,  
**cozy place with friendly people** while you drink and chat, or  
**just look out the window at the garden a little,**  
so much the better.

Well, there is such a place:

## The Living Room

Open 2-4 pm Friday, Sept. 24

at

Donway Covenant United Church

416-444-8444.

There's TIFF, and then there's the 2010

## DCUC Fall Film Festival

Every Wed. eve. in Nov. at 4pm & 7pm

\$5 pays for the film and a super soup supper @ 6pm

From the beginning, Canada has enjoyed the diversity of many different First Nations, as well as British and French culture. Now, we have an abundance of Canadian cultures – this Fall Film Fest will celebrate some of them:

**“DOUBLE HAPPINESS” (Nov. 3)** tells the story of Jade Li, a 22 year old aspiring actress of Chinese-Canadian heritage who lives at home with her parents. When they decide she is old enough to marry, the matchmaking begins. Jade must choose – will she live “Chinese” or “Canadian”? In the end she chooses both, a “Double Happiness”.

**“TORONTO STORIES” (Nov. 10)** In the confusion of Pearson International Airport arrivals, a young boy who speaks no English lands in Toronto alone. Somehow, he is transported downtown, and then left to find his way a wide variety of people. This film tells their stories, seen through his curious eyes.

**“LITTLE MOSQUE ON THE PRAIRIE” (Nov. 17)** Many of you will have seen some of this award-winning CBC drama. Now, you can watch the first season again with us and celebrate that in Canada, ALL people are welcome to come, make a home, and practice their faith.

**“A PASSAGE TO OTTAWA” (Nov. 24)** After his father has died and his mother is too sick to care for him, Omi, a young East Indian boy, arrives in Ottawa to live with his uncle. Omi believes he has a mission - to find a hero in Canada who can return home with him and cure his mother. In this new land, Omi discovers a new family to care for him.

**“THE SWEET HEREAFTER” (Dec. 1)** Winner of the Cannes Film Fest Grand Prix and Academy Award Nominee acclaimed Canadian Director Atom Egoyan films a story of differing reactions to a tragic event in a small prairie town. There is no such thing as a “simple truth”.

## **Fall Sale 2010**

After Christmas and Easter, I think the next most significant date in our church calendar is the second Saturday after Thanksgiving----our annual Fall Sale (formerly the Auction). Each fall, when weary volunteers are cleaning up after another busy sale, we wonder if we have the energy to do it again. And each year, the answer is "Yes". We consider the benefits: recycling of unwanted stuff, a much anticipated Don Mills community event, fun and fellowship for our church members, and much needed income. As our congregation ages, our volunteer pool grows smaller; therefore, we ask that if you are at all interested in helping with any part of the event, please come forward. No experience needed and you will be most welcome !

As in recent years, we will be accepting your donations only for the five days preceding the sale. This year, that is October 18 -22. If you really cannot wait till then, phone the office and we will make arrangements to store your things somewhere in the meantime. There is a list of items we cannot accept printed and displayed at the church. Regarding furniture, we cannot handle big, heavy items; it is hard on our volunteer pick-up men, and potential customers usually have no way of getting them home. We need lots of good quality items, especially for what was formerly our Auction floor; now we try to sell those items for a significant price. That seemed to work last year. Please ask your neighbours and friends and relatives to look through their homes and bring us their gently-used treasures. With everyone's cooperation, we will again have a fun and successful Fall Sale event.

Ted and Jill Reeve

Fall Sale Co-ordinators

## **Tuesday Morning Study Group**

This September 14<sup>th</sup> we will begin a new term. We would welcome new members to join the approximately 12-15 people that attend each week. No registration or future commitment to weekly attendance required! If you have an inquiring mind and wish to listen to others wonder about their church or faith, or add your own two cents worth, give us a try. We will be reading through a recent (2006) book by a British Anglican bishop N.T. Wright called "Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense." The blurb says: Wright challenges skeptics by offering explanations for even the toughest doubt-filled dilemmas, leaving believers with a reason for renewed faith.....Why do we expect justice ? Why are relationships often so painful ? And how will the world be made right?.....These questions take us into the heart of who God is and what He wants from us....

Sound interesting? For more information call Jill Reeve 416-447-7524 or Joan McCalmont 416-447-0942

## **Scarborough Choral Society**

Just before Remembrance Day, the Scarborough Choral Society is presenting a concert of songs of the war years at Parkwoods United Church (at York Mills and Victoria Park). It will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 3 and 7 pm. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 416-494-8397. - Les Pearce

## The Burden of Thirst (from National Geographic Magazine April 2010)

If the millions of women who haul water long distances had a faucet by their door, whole societies could be transformed.

Aylito Binayo's feet know the mountain. Even at four in the morning she can run down the rocks to the river by starlight alone and climb the steep mountain back up to her village with 50 pounds of water on her back. She has made this journey three times a day for nearly all her 25 years. So has every other woman in her village of Foro, in southwestern Ethiopia. Binayo dropped out of school when she was eight years old, in part because she had to help her mother fetch water from the Toiro River. The water is dirty and unsafe to drink; every year that the ongoing drought continues, the once mighty river grows more exhausted. But it is the only water Foro has ever had.

The task of fetching water defines life for Binayo. She must also help her husband grow cassava and beans in their field, gather grass for their goats, dry grain and take it to the mill for grinding into flour, keep the family compound clean, and take care of her three small sons. None of these jobs is as important or as consuming as the eight hours or so she spends each day fetching water.

In wealthy parts of the world, people turn on a faucet and out pours abundant, clean water. Yet nearly 900 million people in the world have no access to clean water, and 2.5 billion have no safe way to dispose of human waste---many defecate in open fields or near the same rivers they drink from.....

Where clean water is scarcest, fetching it is almost always women's work. In Konso a man hauls water only during the few weeks following the birth of a baby. Very young boys fetch water, but only up to the age of seven or eight. The rule is enforced fiercely---by men and women. "If the boys are older, people gossip that the woman is lazy," Binayo says. The reputation of a woman in Konso, she says, rests on hard work.....

In much of the developing world, lack of water is at the centre of a vicious circle of inequality. Some women come down to the river five times a day---with one or two of those trips devoted to getting water to make a beer-style home brew for their husbands. When I first came to Foro, some 60 men were sitting in the shade of a metal-roofed building, drinking and talking. Women, says Binayo, "never get five seconds to sit down and rest.".....

(The author goes on a water-fetching trip with Binayo)...An hour after we arrive at the river, she has filled two jerry cans---one for her to carry back up, one for me to carry for her. She ties a leather strap around my can and puts it on my back. I am grateful for the smooth leather---Binayo herself uses a coarse rope. Still the straps cut into my shoulders. The plastic can is full to the top and the 50 pound load bounces off my spine as I walk. With difficulty, I

make it halfway up. But where the trail turns steepest I can go no further. Sheepishly, I trade cans with a girl who looks to be about eight, carrying a jerry can half the size of mine. She soon struggles with the heavier can and about ten minutes from the top it is too much for her. Binayo takes the heavier can from the girl and puts it on her own back, on top of the one she is carrying. She shoots us both a look of disgust and continues up the mountain, now with nearly 12 gallons of water---a hundred pounds---on her back.....She has never questioned this life, never expected anything different.

.....Bringing clean water close to people's homes is key to reversing the cycle of misery.....When clean water becomes plentiful, all the hours previously spent hauling water can be used to grow more food, raise more animals, or even start income-producing businesses.....

Villagers think of water as a gift from God. But someone has to pay for it. Although water springs from the earth, pipes and pumps, alas, do not. And water is most expensive to provide for those least able to afford it.

Afterword by Jill Reeve

There are thousands of good causes one can support, from flood relief to children's health to micro-credit to cultural organizations to animal welfare to medical research to combat various diseases. How can we choose where to send our charitable dollars? We have featured a number of our congregation members' endorsements of their own favourite charities; it was interesting to learn how they decided on that particular cause. (By the way, The Voice is still interested in those stories for future editions.) Personally, in looking for foreign aid-type causes over the years, I have, among other things, supported foster children, I have sent money for teachers in Afghanistan, and to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign in Africa. They are all useful and needy causes. But one should not spread one's money thin: administrative costs always eat up a portion, so one should support fewer causes, but give more. A couple of years ago I decided to support HAVE (Help A Village Effort), started by some people 27 years ago in Minden, where we have our cottage. They help build wells and toilets and train people in water safety and hygiene. When I read the preceding article in the National Geographic, it confirmed to me that while digging wells may not be that exciting, it makes an incredible impact on the lives of women and their families. So that's now MY cause! What is yours?

## Everyone Sang

by Siegfried Sassoon

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;  
And I was filled with such delight  
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,  
Winging wildly across the white  
Orchards and dark green fields; on—on—and out of sight.  
Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;  
And beauty came like the setting sun:  
My heart was shaken with tears: and horror  
Drifted away....Oh, but Everyone  
Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the singing will never be done.

*(This poem was written to celebrate the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918, which finally brought the terrible carnage to an end. The poem ending "the singing will never be done" is an apt metaphor for the way in which poetry keeps the human spirit alive. Since there will be no Voice before Remembrance Day, I am including it this month. Ed.)*

## For Warmth

by Elise Maclay

Thanks, God, for warmth.  
For the sun coming up like hope,  
Like joy in the morning,  
Laying a gentle hand on my hair,  
Melting the sharpness of the world.  
Thanks, God, for warmth.  
For warm clothes, warm rooms, a warm bed.  
For warm-bodied animals. Cats. Dogs.  
Warm water to wash in,  
Tea, soup, warm bread,  
A fire on the hearth, warm friendships,  
Kindness from a stranger.  
Thanks, God, for warmth.  
It feels like Your smile.

## "A Friendship Blessing"

By John O'Donohue

May you be blessed with good friends.  
May you learn to be a good friend to yourself.  
May you be able to journey to that place in  
your soul where there is great love, warmth,  
feeling and forgiveness.  
May this change you.  
May it transfigure that which is negative,  
distant, or cold in you.  
May you be brought in to the real passion,  
kinship and affinity of belonging.  
May you treasure your friends.  
May you be good to them and may you be  
there for them;  
May they bring you all the blessings,  
challenges, truth and light that you need for  
your journey.  
May you never be isolated;  
But may you always be in the gentle nest of  
belonging with you *anam cara*—soul friend.

## Amnesty International Letter Signing Circle

We are making a difference!  
Sending out about 400 letters a month as Amnesty **Letter Writing Circle** (meeting after church service, on the third Sunday of the month) has helped countless prisoners of conscience. Some have been freed, some have had torture lessened.  
Perhaps we have time or energy to do more.

Here are some ideas:

**Join Amnesty.** We are among about two million others who want to

- Speak out for freedom and justice
- Research and investigate human rights abuses
- Prevent mass human rights violations
- Stop torture, wrongful imprisonment and disappearances
- You might give now, monthly, by legacy or as a memorial.

The phone is 1-800-Amnesty (1-800-266-3789), or Google Amnesty international.  
Members are people who make a financial

donation every year. They receive the **Activist** magazine quarterly. This has “good news stories” as well as information about situations that urgently need help.

Sign up for additional “**Urgent Actions**” so that you are informed of more situations to address.

Subscribe to “**Speak Out**”, a monthly on-line news bulletin to keep informed.

**Taste for Justice** is an event across Canada each June.

**Write for Rights** is a global event, every December.

There are frequently volunteer jobs in Toronto, as well as opportunities around the world.

Yes, we are making a difference!

Thanks,  
Helen Guillet

## Heritage Toronto Walks

A few months ago, at the invitation of a friend who is a member, I attended a meeting of the North York Historical Society at the Don Mills library. A feature of the evening was the first public showing of a new Heritage Toronto Walking Tour of Don Mills, the first “walk” that is not in the central part of the city. It is written and narrated by Dave LeBlanc, Architourist with the Globe and Mail Real Estate section. It is available on your computer to “walk” through Don Mills at home, or it can be downloaded to an Ipod, then you travel by car between the different quadrants, where you can park your car while you walk and listen to the tour. They showed only a part of it, and it was most interesting. You get to see old archival pictures and maps, then pictures of the construction of Don Mills, the early mall, important people in its development, and current buildings. The background narration is most informative. Even if you know a lot about Don Mills and its history, you will learn something new. You can find it online under Heritage Toronto, or go directly to Don Mills Itour.

There are two types of people in the world:  
there are those who wake up in the morning and say, “Good morning, Lord !”  
and there are those who wake up and say “Good Lord, it’s morning!”

## **Library News**

We have decided not to continue with Library Sunday once a month. Very few people participated in Library Sunday and most say they haven't the time to read the books they have at home.

If you wish to browse through the Library you can come in during the week and Jaren will be happy to unlock the door for you.

Jaren also has a large supply of books in a bookcase in her office. These books are current theological and sociological books that belong to Jennifer who is happy to lend them out.

We think you will find the selection of books in the Library and the new collection of books in the church office of interest. Come in and check out our new supply of books any day of the week when Jaren is there to help you.

Reading is a wonderful pastime and there are many books in both locations available for your enjoyment.

Gwen Van Hamme & Vivian Hall

## **Welcome Liberation of Retirement**

Rabbi Dow Marmur had an interesting column in the Toronto Star a couple of months ago. He was commenting on how very busy everyone is nowadays, with no time for anything but work and family obligations, and he welcomes the increased leisure time he has now that he is retired. Here are a paragraph from that article:

“Leisure also has a religious dimension. The Bible celebrates the Sabbath as sacred time: “Keep the Sabbath day to make it holy”. Though its many rules, as interpreted by my tradition, insist on cessation of work and encourage family togetherness, the major emphasis is on worship and study, two activities that make for culture. The Sabbath promotes freedom not as an end in itself but as freedom for God. It moves me to celebrate retirement as daily Sabbath in gratitude, and brings me even closer to God than when I used to conduct worship services.

Bertand Russell speaks to me and about me when he describes the freedom that comes with leisure; “Above all, there will be happiness and joy of life, instead of frayed nerves, weariness and dyspepsia.”

Looking around our own congregation, you can see that not only do our many seniors regularly attend worship services, they also enjoy stretching their minds to learn more about their faith through various discussion groups, such as Bible Study and the Tuesday Morning Study group. Special events that feature spiritual or social justice issues are also well received. Our bodies may be aging, but our intellects still thrive on interesting and relevant ideas.

Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than  
standing in your garage makes you a car.

## **A Bit of Trivia by Alvin Nelson**

Where did the misguided notion originate that homosapiens were the smartest of all of God's creatures, and the talents of all creatures, except man, were innate instincts? After feeding and observing a large group of songbirds for the past thirty years, I marvel at the many things these birds can do that man cannot do. Some of these things are:

1. Birds can fly miles without the aid of machines that belch clouds of petroleum by-products into the atmosphere.
2. After taking one conducted trip to Mexico, birds can make subsequent trips to Mexico without road maps, road signs, or "On Star".
3. Birds can build homes without first visiting a hardware store for tools.
4. Birds never stumble, crash into one another in flight, or fall off a perch.
5. Birds are topnotch engineers in that they never select perches that fail from their weight.
6. Birds are clothed in summer wear that can be made into warm winter coats by fluffing up their feathers to three times their body size.
7. Birds are friendly to the environment; all their waste can be recycled automatically.
8. Small songbirds such as finches are very civilized. Seldom do you see a bully among them at a food table. Some doves can be bullies.
9. Songbirds can see in all directions, are extremely alert, and live by their wits.
10. A bird can store food in his craw and is all-weather clad so he has no need for a clumsy backpack when he goes on a long overnight hike.
11. As with people, birds can walk, talk, sing and mate.
12. Birds in flight can land without the need for a control tower in a multi-million dollar airport.

As with children, most of the things that songbirds can do are learned, of that I am convinced. Have you ever watched a mother bird teaching her baby to fly? Even after a baby bird can fly, a parent bird will teach it how and what to eat. She will take a seed from the table and place it in the mouth of a youngster standing on the table with mouth open. One morning a finch demonstrated how caring she could be. She picked

up a seed from the table and placed it in the mouth of a male cardinal standing nearby with mouth open. After the young birds are several weeks old, all the birds will disappear for three or four days and then return hungry as wolves. I have concluded that the young birds have been taken on flight training.

Being born and raised in Central Alberta when much of the country was still in its native state, I have had considerable exposure to bird behaviour. A couple of these exposures will now be considered.

A very pleasant occasion that I well remember was walking along a country road to school on a sunny spring morning and seeing a meadowlark perched on every fence post for over a mile. What a delightful half an hour it was walking along the road and listening to these birds sing in harmony.

I never knew black birds could sing until one day in May during a snowstorm hundreds of them were perched on a willow bush near our house, and singing in unison as if they were trying to keep their spirits up in this foul weather.

There was a large wooded area of tall poplar trees across the road from our farm. During many summer evenings at sunset hundreds of crows would gather from all directions, perch themselves in a group on top of these trees, and then have a full blown caw for half an hour before retiring for the day.

When one considers the size of a songbird's head and the many things that the bird can do, one cannot help but marvel at the large amount of information stored in that little brain. Per unit volume of brain mass, a songbird probably has more information stored therein than stored in an equivalent human brain mass.

The next time you want to insult another person by calling him a bird brain, stop, think twice, you may be flattering him and demeaning songbirds. It is a humbling experience to realize that the little songbird perched outside your kitchen window may be smarter than you.

## **The Ladies Fellowship Group**

We started our Fall season on Thursday, September 9.

Our "Glorious Leader" Mary Vogl bid us a fond farewell and moved to Peterborough. She will be dearly missed at our meetings but we will stay in touch, for sure.

We are a group of Senior ladies who meet twice a month between September and June on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. To us Fellowship means a gathering of friendly women in a non stressful environment for a morning of chatting, lunch and devotions. We gather around 10am, we bring our lunch and coffee and tea are provided. We celebrate birthdays on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday with a delicious birthday cake.

This year we will be preparing the outer milk bags (the ones that hold the 3 bags of milk) for a process of making sleeping mats for countries in need of them. Please save your bags for us. We will be working on the mats in partnership with Jubilee Church.

We always welcome new friends to our Group. As I have said many times this group is my favourite group in the church.

Please join us at our meetings.

For further information please call me, Marian Childerhose, at 416-449-6993.

I look forward to hearing from you and having you join us for a time of friendly fellowship.

## **Announcements**

### **Marriages**

**Jonathan Luetkehoelter & William (Billy) Hossack**, Sept. 4, 2010.

### **Deaths**

**Archie McMillan** Passed away March 31, 2010.

**Bob Duncan** Passed away April 5, 2010.

**Kit Dowding** Passed away March 26, 2010.

**Edith Davies** Passed away July 5, 2010

**Marion Dunlop** Passed away July 12, 2010

**Dorothy Bleggen** Passed away July 12, 2010

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the departed.

## **Preparing this Edition of The Voice:**

Thanks to the staff, as well as to our collators: Patty Snowdon, Beth Struthers, Yildiz Habib, Helen Campbell

Editor: Jill Reeve, Assistant Editor: Patty Snowdon, Layout Design: Jaren McLeod.

## Up-coming Events

**Check out our website for up to date events listings at  
[www.donwaycovenant.com](http://www.donwaycovenant.com)**

- Sept. 19 - **Worship Service, "A Song of Faith"**
- Sept. 19 - **Amnesty International Letter Signing Sunday**, every third Sunday of the month after the 10:30a.m. worship service in the auditorium.
- Sept. 19 - **Memorial Flower Sunday**, every 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Sept. 19 - **The Voice newsletter** is available.
- Sept 21 - **Parents & Tots**, every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11a.m
- Sept. 21 - **Tuesday Study Group**, contact Jill Reeve (416-447-7524) or Joan McCalmont (416-447-0942) for details
- Sept. 22 - **Start of Qi Cong**, every Wednesday morning from 9:30am to 11am.
- Sept. 22 - **E.S.L. Conversation Group**, weekly at 1:30p.m. in C.E. Wing.
- Sept 23 - **Parents & Tots**, every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11a.m
- Sept. 23 - **Ladies Fellowship Meeting**, every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Starting at 10 a.m. in the Living Room.
- Sept 24 - **The Living Room**, Come join us for coffee, tea, company, conversation, relaxation and peace. 2pm to 4pm in the Living Room of the church
- Sept 24 - **Badminton**, every Friday night in the gym starting at 8p.m.
- Sept. 26 - **Worship Service, "Why Church?"**,
- Sept. 26 - **Farewell party for Lorrie Daly Price after the 10:30a.m. worship service.**
- Sept 28 - **Pastoral Care Group Meeting**, 1pm in the church Library. All welcome.
- Oct 3 - **Worship Service, "Who is Creator?"**, **Worldwide Communion**,
- Oct 3 - **Food Bank Sunday**,
- Oct 4 - **Start of The Book of Job - Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People? Small Group Discussion**, weekly at 7p.m., in the library. Call office for details, 416-444-8444
- Oct. 10 - **Worship Service, "Why Thanksgiving?"**
- Oct 11 - **Thanksgiving Monday - Office closed.**
- Oct 12 - **Committee and Council meetings**, 7p.m. & 8:15p.m.
- Oct. 17 - **Worship Service, "Who is Jesus?"**
- Oct 17 - **Amnesty International Letter Signing Sunday**, every third Sunday of the month after the 10:30a.m. worship service in the auditorium.
- Oct 17 - **Memorial Flower Sunday**, every 3rd Sunday of the month.

## Up-coming Events continued

- Oct 18 - 23rd **Start date of receiving items for the Fall Sale**, please drop off your gently used items at the church anytime between 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Oct 18 - **The Book of Job - Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People? Small Group Discussion**, cancelled for this week.
- Oct 19 - **Parents & Tots**, cancelled for this week only.
- Oct 19 - **Tuesday Study Group**, has been moved to the narthex for this day only
- Oct 20 - **Qi Cong**, has been moved to the narthex for this day only from 9:30am to 11am.
- Oct 20 - **E.S.L. Conversation Group**, has been moved to the narthex for this day only .
- Oct 21 - **Parents & Tots**, cancelled for this week only
- Oct 22 - **Badminton**, cancelled for this week only.
- Oct.23- **Giant Fall Sale**, 9 a.m. to 3pm.
- Oct. 24 - - **Worship Service, “What is Scripture?”**
- Oct. 31 - - **Worship Service, “What is Spirit?”**, All Soul’s Communion,
- Nov. 1 - **Food Bank Sunday**,
- Nov. 3 - - **Start of Film and Soup Dinner Night, “Double Happiness”** every Wednesday night starting at 4p.m. and again at 7 p.m. come join us for soup and a movie in the living room. **Call the church office to make reservations, 416-444-8444.**
- Nov. 6 - **Music on the Donway presents “A Tale of Two Tenors”, 7:30pm**
- Nov. 7 - - **Worship Service, “What is Sin?” Remembrance Sunday**,
- Nov. 10 - - **Film and Soup Dinner Night, “Toronto Stories”** every Wednesday night starting at 4p.m. and again at 7 p.m. come join us for soup and a movie in the living room. **Call the church office to make reservations, 416-444-8444.**
- Nov. 14 - - **Worship Service, “What is Worship?”**,10:30a.m. in the Sanctuary. Service led by Rev. Jennifer Palin
- Nov. 16 - **Committee and Council meetings**, 7p.m. & 8:15p.m.
- Nov. 17 - - **Film and Soup Supper Night, “Little Mosque on the Prairie”** every Wednesday night starting at 4p.m. and again at 7 p.m. come join us for soup and a movie in the living room. **Call the church office to make reservations, 416-444-8444.**
- Nov. 21 - - **Worship Service, “What is Power?” (Reign of Christ) ,**
- Nov. 21 - **Amnesty International Letter Signing Sunday**, every third Sunday of the month after the 10:30a.m. worship service in the auditorium.
- Nov. 21 - **Memorial Flower Sunday**, every 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Nov. 24 - - **Film and Soup Supper Night, “Passage to Ottawa”** every Wednesday night starting at 4p.m. and again at 7 p.m. come join us for soup and a movie in the living room.
- Nov. 26 - **Deadline for Submissions to The Voice newsletter.**

## A SONG OF FAITH

**From September 19 – Nov. 21, we at Donway Covenant will be devoting our Sunday worship to reflections on each section of the United Church of Canada's new statement of faith** which was approved by The General Council, in 2006. This does not replace prior statements: the 1926 Basis of Union, the 1940 faith statement, nor the 1968 New Creed. But, it does expand what our church means as a community of Protestant, North American Christians living for service in our time and place.

It is written in an unusual creedal style – as free verse poetry. Poetic form recognizes that when it comes to matters of faith, we cannot speak with the definitive voice of prose, but rather, we allude to matters of belief. What is stated is an opening for dialogue between you and God, and others, rather than a closing argument. It hopes to be *descriptive* of the church's historic understanding of itself rather than *prescriptive* of what individual faith should be.

It is a statement meant to be different things for different people. UCC members will read it as a way to reflect on their own faith, but it was also written as an expression of solidarity with secular groups who are committed to the work of justice within our society, and globally. It names sins of social oppression such as the concentration of wealth at the expense of the vulnerable, and reminds church members of their baptismal commitment to resist evil, to support the church's social ministry and political witness against injustice.

In the end, it is up to each of us to reflect prayerfully on these words, to build a more faithful relationship with our God; and for us as a church to find ways to live our faith in deeds, not only words. *A Song of Faith* is printed on the following four pages:

## A SONG OF FAITH

**Faith, (*This will be preached about on Sept. 19*)**  
God is Holy Mystery, beyond complete knowledge,  
above perfect description.

Yet, in love, the One Eternal God seeks relationship.

So God creates the universe, and with it the possibility of being  
and relating

God tends the universe, mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.  
God enlivens the universe, guiding all things toward harmony with their  
Source.

Grateful for God's loving action, we cannot keep from singing.

With the Church through the ages, we speak of God as one and triune:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We also speak of God as  
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer  
God, Christ, and Spirit  
Mother, Friend, and Comforter  
Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love  
And in other ways that speak faithfully of  
The One on whom our hearts rely.  
The fully shared life at the heart of the universe.

We witness to Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.

**Thanksgiving (*This will be preached about on Oct. 10*)**  
God is creative and self-giving, generously moving  
In all the near and distant corners of the universe.  
Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.  
Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.  
We sing thanksgiving.

**World Creator (*This will be preached about on Oct. 3*)**

Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery,  
Of living things, diverse and interdependent  
Of complex patterns of growth and evolution,  
Of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls,  
We sing of God the Creator, Maker and Source of all that is.

Each part of Creation reveals unique aspects of God  
Who is both creation and beyond it.  
All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related.  
All creation is good.  
We sing of the Creator,  
who made humans to live and move and have their being in God.

In and with God, we can direct our lives toward right relationship  
With each other and with God.  
We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.  
We can grow in wisdom and compassion.  
We can recognize all people as kin.  
We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as curse,  
But as a challenge to make our lives and choices matter.

**Spirit (*This will be preached about on Oct. 31*)**

The fullness of life includes moments of unexpected inspiration and  
courage lived out  
Experiences of beauty, truth, and goodness  
Blessings of seeds and harvest,  
Friendship and family, intellect and sexuality  
Reconciliation of persons through justice  
Communities living in righteousness, the articulation of meaning.  
And so we sing of God the Spirit  
Who from the beginning swept over the face of creation  
Animating all energy and matter, and moving in the human heart.

We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untameable  
Who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy  
Not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign.

We sing of the Spirit, who speaks our prayers of deepest longing, and  
enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world.

We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe, and a practice of  
opening ourselves to God's still, small voice of comfort,  
to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.  
Through word, music, art, and sacrament, in community and in solitude  
God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.  
We sing with trust.

**Sin (*This will be preached about on Nov. 7*)**

Made in the image of God  
We yearn for the fulfillment that is life in God.  
Yet we choose to turn away from God.  
We surrender ourselves to sin, a disposition  
revealed in selfishness, cowardice, apathy.  
Becoming bound and complacent  
In a web of false desires and wrong choices  
We bring harm to ourselves and others.  
This brokenness in human life and community  
Is an outcome of sin.  
Sin is not only personal, but accumulates to become habitual  
Systemic forms of injustice, violence, and hatred.

We are all touched by this brokenness  
The rise of selfish individualism that erodes human solidarity;  
The concentration of wealth and power without regard for the needs of all  
The toxins of religious and ethnic bigotry  
The degradation of the blessedness of human bodies  
And human passions through sexual exploitation  
the delusion of unchecked progress and limitless growth  
that threatens our home, the Earth.  
The covert despair that lulls many into numb complicity  
with empires and systems of domination.  
We sing lament and repentance.

Yet evil does not – cannot – undermine or overcome God's love.  
God forgives, and calls all of us to confess our fears and failings  
With honesty and humility.  
God reconciles, and calls us to repent the part we have played  
In damaging our world, ourselves, and each other.  
God transforms and calls us to protect the vulnerable  
To pray for deliverance from evil  
To work with God for the healing of the world  
That all might have abundant life.  
We sing of Grace.

**Scripture** (*This will be preached about on Oct. 24*)

Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word  
Passed on from generation to generation, to guide and inspire,  
That we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time and place  
From the human experiences and cultural assumptions of other eras.  
God calls us to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

The Spirit breathes revelatory power into scripture  
Bestowing upon it a unique and normative place in community life  
The Spirit judges us critically when we abuse scripture  
By interpreting it narrow-mindedly  
Using it as a tool of oppression, exclusion, or hatred.

The wholeness of scripture testifies to the oneness of God.  
The multiplicity of scripture testifies to its depth:  
two testaments, four gospels, contrasting points of view held  
in tension – all a faithful witness to the One Triune God,  
The Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.

**Jesus** (*This will be preached about on Oct. 17*)

We find God made known in Jesus of Nazareth  
And so we sing of God the Christ, the Holy One embodied.

We sing of Jesus, a Jew born to a woman in poverty  
In a time of social upheaval and political oppression.  
He knew human joy and sorrow.  
So filled with the Holy Spirit was he  
That in him people experienced the presence of God among them.  
We sing praise to God incarnate.

Jesus announced the coming of God's reign –  
A Commonwealth not of domination, but of peace, justice and reconciliation.  
He healed the sick, and fed the hungry  
He forgave sins  
and freed those held captive by all manner of demonic powers.  
He crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender  
He preached and practised unconditional love –  
Love of God, love of neighbour, love of friend, love of enemy  
And he commanded his followers to love one another as he loved.  
Because his witness to love was threatening  
those exercising power sought to silence Jesus.  
He suffered abandonment and betrayal,  
State-sanctioned torture and execution; He was crucified.

But death was not the last word; God raised Jesus from death,  
Turning sorrow into joy, despair into hope.  
We sing of Jesus raised from the dead, we sing hallelujah.

By becoming flesh in Jesus, god makes all things new.  
In Jesus' life, teaching and self-offering,  
God empowers us to live love.  
In Jesus' crucifixion, God bears the sin, grief and suffering of the world.  
In Jesus' resurrection, God overcomes death  
Nothing separates us from the love of God.

The risen Christ lives today, present to us, and the source of our hope.  
In response to who Jesus was and to all he did and taught  
To his life, death, and resurrection, and to his continuing presence  
We celebrate him as the Word made flesh,  
The one in whom god and humanity are perfectly joined  
The transformation of our lives – The Christ.

**Church** (*This will be preached about on Sept. 26*)

We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus  
By embodying Christ's presence in the world.  
We are called together by Christ  
As a community of broken but hopeful believers  
Loving what he loved, living what he taught  
Striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place.  
Our ancestors in faith bequeathed to us experiences of faithful living.  
Upon their lives, our lives are built.  
Our living of the gospel makes us a part of this communion of saints  
Experiencing the fulfillment of God's reign  
Even as we actively anticipate a new heaven and a new earth.

The church has not always lived up to its vision  
It requires the Spirit to reprove and reorient it  
Helping it to live an emergent faith while honouring tradition  
Challenging it to live by grace rather than entitlement  
For we are called to be a blessing to the earth.

We sing of God's good news lived out - A church with purpose:  
Faith nurtured and hearts comforted  
Gifts shared for the good of all  
Resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize  
Fierce love in the face of violence; Human dignity defended

Members of a community held and inspired by God  
Corrected and comforted,  
Instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ; Creation's mending.  
We sing of God's mission.

We are each given particular gifts of the Spirit  
For the sake of the world  
God calls all followers of Jesus to Christian ministry:  
Some are called to specific ministries of leadership  
Both lay and ordered  
Some witness to the good news  
Some uphold the art of worship  
Some comfort the grieving and guide the wandering  
Some build up the community of wisdom  
Some stand with the oppressed and work for justice  
To embody God's love in the world  
The work of the church requires the ministry and discipleship of all.

**Worship** (*This will be preached about on Nov. 14*)

In grateful response to God's abundant love  
We bear in mind our integral connection to the earth and each other  
We participate in God's work of healing and mending creation.  
To point to the presence of the holy in the world  
The church receives, consecrates, and shares visible signs of  
the grace of God.  
In company with the churches of the Reformed and Methodist traditions  
We celebrate two sacraments as gifts of Christ: baptism and communion.  
In these sacraments the ordinary things of life – water, bread, wine –  
Point beyond themselves to God and God's love.  
Teaching us to be alert to the sacred in the midst of life.

Before conscious thought or action on our part,  
We are born into the brokenness of this world.  
Before conscious thought or action on our part,  
We are surrounded by God's redeeming love.  
Baptism by water in the name of the Holy Trinity is the means by which  
We are received at any age into the covenanted community of the church.  
It is the ritual that signifies our rebirth in faith  
and cleansing by the power of God.  
Baptism signifies the nurturing sustaining and transforming power of God's  
love, and our grateful response to that grace.

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Carrying a vision of creation healed and restored,  
We welcome all in the name of Christ.  
Invited to the table where none shall go hungry  
We gather as Christ's guests and friends.  
In holy communion we are commissioned to feed as we have been fed  
Forgive as we have been forgiven  
Love as we have been loved.  
The open table speaks of the shining promise  
Of barriers broken and creation healed.  
In the communion meal, wine poured out and bread broken  
We remember Jesus.  
We remember not only the promise but also the price that he paid  
For who he was, for what he did and said  
And for the world's brokenness.  
We taste the mystery of God's great love for us  
and are renewed in faith and hope.

**Reign of Christ** (*This will be preached about on Nov. 21*)

We place our hope in God.  
We sing of a life beyond life and a future good beyond imagining:  
A new heaven and a new earth, the end of sorrow, pain, and tears.  
Christ's return and life with God, the making new of all things.  
We yearn for the coming of that future  
Even while participating in eternal life now.

Divine creation does not cease  
Until all things have found wholeness, union, and integration  
With the common ground of all being.  
As children of the timeless One our time-bound lives will find completion  
In the all-embracing Creator.  
In the meantime, we embrace the present, embodying hope,  
Loving our enemies, caring for the earth, choosing life.

Grateful for God's loving action, we cannot keep from singing.  
Creating and seeking relationship, in awe and trust  
We witness to Holy Mystery, Who is Wholly Love.  
Amen.