



**Lakefield &  
Young's  
Point United  
Worship**  
July 18, 2021

### **Greeting**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImnKOZ1S22M>

Meet me in the stillness, Lord.  
Free me to receive.

### **We Light the Candle**

(Please light a candle in your own space as you are able.)

Light loses nothing in its sharing. A flame ignited from another spreads the light, growing it, building upon it, offering warmth and hope, a beacon for the way ahead. Thanks be to God for Jesus the Light, igniting our hearts, offering warmth and hope, and revealing the way ahead.

### **Call to Worship**

Come with your questions, come with your awe!

**For the God who broods over the chaos meets us in this place.**

Come with your energy, come with your weariness!

**For the God who breathes new life into the dust meets us in this place.**

Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

**For the God who dared to become human meets us in this place.**

### **Prayer**

God of our hopes and dreams,  
we are empty, and long to be filled;  
we are hungry, and long to be fed;  
we are lost, and long to be found.  
Gather us into your love,  
and pick up the pieces of our lives,  
just as Jesus gathered up the fragments  
of the five loaves and two fish  
that remained after feeding the five  
thousand.

Call us anew to eat our fill  
and to find our true nourishment in Jesus,  
the bread of heaven. Amen.

*Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009*

### **Hymn VU 672    Take Time to Be Holy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFApbg-wcmE>

### **Prayer of Illumination**

O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold, and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your Scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace — so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses ... so that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust. Amen.

### **Psalm 89 vs 1-8**

I will sing of God's steadfast love.

### **Hymn VU 563    Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbWX4xuuipQ>

### **Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

Jesus teaches from a boat and heals the sick.

### **Reflection**

I love the book of Psalms. No matter what you are going through in life, no matter what the world looks like, no matter the beauty or crisis you are experiencing, there's a psalm for that! They are incredible pieces of poetry

that encompass the full gamut of human experience. Which means they are eloquent, and hope-filled, and violent, and emotion laden, and challenging - sometimes all in one psalm! Such is the case for today's reading of Psalm 89.

At the heart of Psalm 89 is the question of faithfulness, more particularly, the psalm centers on the faithfulness of God and God's faithfulness to David.

The opening four verses of Psalm 89 are a proclamation of God's "steadfast love" and "faithfulness." These two traits are central in defining God's character and relationship with Israel. Steadfast love is translated from the Hebrew word *khesed*. It's a difficult word to convey in English. We see different English Bibles using a variety of translations like: steadfast love, loving kindness, love, kindness, mercy, loyalty, favor, devotion, goodness, and still others. The range of translations gives a sense of the broad meaning of the word—more than any other expression, *khesed* defines God's fundamental relationship with Israel. In both verses God's *khesed* is said to last "forever." This statement denotes the eternal character not only of God's self, but also of God's attitude towards God's people. It is the psalmist's confidence in the steadfastness and faithfulness of God despite what is happening in the world around them that provides the basis for these joyful words. And the world around them, is a mess. The lectionary reading focusses on the celebratory pieces of this psalm, but it is important to remember why these words were written, the hope they promised for those who heard "the song." Later in the psalm, the celebration turns into anguish and despair, as the psalmist laments a stunning defeat of Israel and Jerusalem and pleads for

God to remember the faithfulness and promises that characterized God's relationship with Israel in the past. The events of 587 BCE shatter the world in which God and king are in control. In 587, the Babylonians destroyed the temple in Jerusalem, put a violent end to the House of David, and enslaved and dispersed the people. At such a time, is it any wonder that the people call on God to remember the promises made, call on God to remain steadfast and faithful? God's steadfastness is centred for King David and his people in the promises he has made to them – of a nation, a people, a future

When the world is full of chaos, when our worlds shatter, we need to sing of the steadfast love of God! We need to do that for us. We need the reminder. But there is also something very powerful and cathartic in challenging God to also remember. Hey God! Do you remember what you said – that you would be our God and we would be your people? Do you remember your promise to be with us always? To love us? Protect us? Help us thrive? Do you? Do you remember? Because some days, it sure doesn't feel like it...

The psalm provides no easy answer to the difficult questions it raises. In the midst of the chaos — the psalmist is both seeking reassurance and naming his confidence in the steadfast love of God. It's a little like self-talk—the "C'mon, Kerrie you can do it!" or "Don't be silly, there's nothing to be afraid of." conversations we hold with ourselves at times. At a moment in Israel's history when the promises of God, the steadfastness and faithfulness of God seem the most preposterous, that's when David names them – a reminder and a challenge.

I will sing of God's steadfast love forever.  
Even when I can't feel it.

I will sing of God's steadfast love forever.  
Even when it feels impossible.

I will sing of God's steadfast love forever.  
Even when the world shows me how  
foolish it might seem.

Psalm 19 is a cry for help from a person or a people who believe that God is faithful, but who are in a position of pain from which it feels like God hasn't kept promises. Worse, they are in a position from which they cannot imagine how God could keep the promises. But God did. God brought the people back to the land, redeeming them, healing them, planting them again in the soil of their promised land to grow and flourish. It is often the case in the life of faith that we cannot see over the horizon to a place or time where life will be better. But the promise is that the low moments are not the only ones; that God is faithful and remains in relationship with us.

I WILL sing of God's steadfast love.  
Forever!

The message version reads this way:  
Your love, God, is my song, and I'll sing it!  
I'm forever telling everyone how faithful  
you are.  
I'll never quit telling the story of your  
love—  
how you built the cosmos  
and guaranteed everything in it.  
Your love has always been our lives'  
foundation.

Do you remember, God? Do you?

I remember. I remember. Lord, help me to  
remember your steadfast love.

### **Response to the Reflection – a gift of music from Islington United**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8TjvkSWqCY>

### **Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

God of hope, who comes to us in the  
mundane moments of our lives:  
in the laundry room and kitchen,  
in the boardroom and barn,  
as we sort papers or money,  
We are so thankful this morning for all the  
good gifts you have given us:  
for the phone call when we needed it,  
for friends who make us laugh,  
for hard decisions that grow us deeper into  
faith.

We bring before you today those we know  
and love  
who are ill,  
who are struggling with life's deep  
questions,  
who are looking for ways to make ends  
meet,  
who are laden down with grief...  
we ask for your abiding presence.  
We ask for your strong healing presence.  
remembering your promise to be wherever  
two or three gather in your name.  
We offer these prayers in the words Jesus  
taught us so long ago:

### **Remembering the Offering**

Five loaves and two fish  
are never enough  
until you start  
giving it away.

Dear God,  
Remind me to  
share  
whatever  
is in my basket

today.  
You will do the rest.  
Amen.

Rev. Karla Miller

## **Extinguish the Candle**

### **Gift of Music from Islington United Church**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2DIK5g6vCc>

### **Benediction**

You are God's beloved people, refreshed, restored, forgiven and healed. Go now into this world confident in the gifts God has given you. Go to serve God's people, bringing words of peace and hope to all whom you meet. And all God's people said, **Amen.**