



Kitchissippi
UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, March 20, 2022
LENT 3

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP at 10 AM LIVE STREAM GO TO
WWW.KITCHISSIPPIUC.COM

MESSAGE FROM DIANA BRUSHEY



Hello and happy Friday!

Happy in many ways, yet there is also more distressing news and headlines around the world that may have us feeling uncertain or (speaking for myself) having us feel more wakeful when we wish to rest. As a child, I never really heard the term Cold War, likely in part because my mother made a protective space around the idea. She herself had grown up very close to a major NORAD base and in the duck-and-cover era, her mother had been perhaps more brutally honest about the reality of that strategy. Surely Grandma was just being direct and truthful but I gather that left my mom feeling vulnerable during emergency drills.

I was a sensitive child and an early reader so sometimes the information that came to my attention was beyond what I was ready to process. I remember my mom gently explaining "some things are just for grown-ups to worry about and take care of; you are safe." Though other families undoubtedly needed different approaches for their kids, it worked for us; when the emergency broadcast tests came on, I never really thought about it. Instead, I fostered an ambition of becoming an ambassador, and collected articles about the United Nations.

As a teen, I was nominally aware of the dissolution of the USSR but noticed more that my parents (and even Gen-X media and movies) still cast certain nations in villainous roles -- almost comically so, for to my brother and I, countries and people were just ... countries and people! (and isn't that how it should be?). I do remember, though, feeling a sense of betrayal and despair when I realized war was still happening; that Remembrance Day ceremonies weren't really commemorating the end of War. I imagine everyone who lived through the War to End All Wars felt the same.

It wasn't until the dreaded Y2K rolled around that the media build-up of What If really focused my attention again. In the midst of revelry, my group of friends shared a mix of hope and angst.

Well, now I know that's not so unusual. In university I studied historical and literary texts that showed how this is a deep part of the human condition; we all have and all will have these feelings about big issues, as we wonder at the beautiful and sublime. And though it may seem to us today that things are precipitous, the truth is -- life always has been. Our learning of cosmology, ecology, and biology shows us the incredible journey and circumstances from which life itself arose on this planet and the forces life had adapted to and emerged from in all manner of diversity and design. Our theology gives us a framework in which to keep asking and answering our questions of life, death, and everything*. We may not be certain if humans are the only species consciously dealing with issues of mortality and morality, but it seems likely that some other

creatures have a simple sense of this, too. And certainly we do know that all people, everywhere, in every time and place have wondered "What If" and tried to find resilience and hope. The Deor poem from the 10th century Exeter manuscript in Old English lists laments of the time, but has the refrain "Þæs ofereode, þisses swa mæg." (that was overcome, this also shall be); in other words, "this, too, shall pass." We all feel the same cares and concerns and also delight and joy that comes with everyday living. Does this knowledge help?

Perhaps; I know it helps me a bit to feel some kinship, somehow. * A sense of humour helps, too, as per the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, in which the answer to life, death, and everything is given as "42".

And I do take comfort and direction from Scripture, often. On days when the news is worrisome or simple everyday tasks and emotions feel overwhelming, we can, of course, consider the lilies...

For Jesus said: "do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the birds; they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. If God so cares for them, how much more then for you! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If you cannot do this, why worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which lives today and tomorrow is spent, how much more shall God clothe you -- take faith!...."

Jesus assures us God knows what we need. (to continue on, you may hear the hymn "Seek ye first" start playing in your head).

We may all grapple with these things, and also the odd sense of problems of the world while also hearing the sweet songs of spring in the air! How can we reconcile these things?

My 3 year old has lately been articulating feelings more: if he's excited about something -- a toy, a game, a book -- and then something bad happens -- toy falls over, game pieces don't work, book falls on toe -- he tearfully exclaims "now I don't WANT to do the fun thing!" And oh, I understand! My husband gently said to him yesterday, sometimes it feels like a bad thing can push away all the good feelings and fun. But we can also choose to let a good feeling and fun push away the bad feelings." (I needed to hear that, too, so asked him to repeat it).

This can work in the simplest of ways; I'll bet you've heard cardinals singing and enjoyed more sunlight and felt warm breezes, maybe had more visits lately, too! And it can work in the deepest of ways when we consider God's love through Christ: that amazing message of embodied love, forgiveness, and deliverance. This miracle of love, that creates, redeems, and sustains us, is what we can turn to both the little irritations AND simple delights, as well as in joyful celebrations AND big, terrifying What If moments of our lives.

Here are three diverse things that have been running through my head and giving me peace, joy, and energy this week. First, sage words of advice from the wise one Gandalf in J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, when the hobbit Frodo lamented hard times and hard choices.

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

Second, a reflective song celebrating the time of spring, from Piaa Cantones in 1582 -- with Danish lyrics predating (latin translation is attached). I was going to record a solo version to share in worship but this full-choir one from a few years back is just right for this weekend! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8O4ymHtc1l>

Finally, an upbeat Calypso song about seeing God in someone else, by Toronto's Juno-nominee KoboTown. I met their founder and songwriter Drew Gonsalves in teacher's college when we were separately invited to sing at a memorial for one of our professors. Our prof was Trinidadian, as is Drew, and the joyous and meaning-full Calypso song still comes to mind.

It's GREAT for dancing around on a Friday afternoon (turn it up!) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OW8lh7nohjw>

You can read the lyrics here: <https://www.ouvirmusica.com.br/kobo-town/1044281/>

(as an aside, if you like purchasing independent music or streaming online, consider doing so via Bandcamp, as they give artists far more than platforms like Spotify)

May you find reassurance, renewal, and resilience in faith and in springtime this weekend.

A reminder that you can send support to those offering humanitarian relief in and around Ukraine: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/ukraine-crisis> We also can visit within ourselves why and how we may be reacting differently to news of this conflict than to other warzones around the world, and offer our words and work for peace in other places, too.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Reopening the church for in-person gatherings at 10am! All Welcome

We are reopening for in-person worship. We will continue to mask social distance. We will have a couple of sanctuary windows open during services and will use the ventilation system in the Hall. We will not be having refreshments inside yet or congregational singing. The choir members will still sing behind the barriers but they may decide whether or not they will remove their masks for singing. Rod Holmes will be our Music Director this Sunday.

WE ALSO CONTINUE ON LINE - LIVESTREAM SUNDAYS

HERE IS THE LINK TO VIEW THE KUC YOUTUBE CHANNEL ON SUNDAYS

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwATU1rozB1PIIaRmr2teVA>

OUTREACH

KUC AND THE PARKDALE FOOD CENTRE

Let's get back into the first Sunday of every month being Food Bank Sunday! The PFC has its outdoor fridge running again, in a shelter beside 30 Rosemount Ave. Food donations are also accepted at their new Grocery Program, Mino'Weesini, at 5 Hamilton Ave N. near the Parkdale Market. So on April 3 please bring either fresh produce or non perishables for our boxes in the narthex. Meanwhile they are in need of toiletries; these can be brought in any Sunday and we'll deliver. (e.g. tooth paste, tooth brushes, soap and shampoo, feminine hygiene products, etc)

REFUGEE / OUTREACH INQUIRY

KUC is awaiting news on when our Burundian family will travel to Ottawa. Not having this information makes securing rental accommodation before arrival almost impossible. For our Syrian family in 2016 we were so fortunate to have a "soft landing" place, accommodation loaned to the family for a week or two before a rental. If anyone knows of or has available space for a family of 4 for a short period, please notify Norah Patriquin or the church office.

Easter Plant Sale 2022 Update from the Ottawa Y Service Club

Our potted flowering plants for Easter will be delivered on April 11th and available for pick up after that.

We are taking orders now to guarantee you will get what you want. An updated order form is attached, since there was a problem with the first one we sent. There is also a page with photos and prices for each plant.



Just fill it out the form and return to ysevice@primus.ca

You will get a confirmation email. Payment can be made by Interac e-transfer to our club email or by sending a cheque to Ottawa Y Service Club at 5 Hillhurst Place, Ottawa. K2E 5R5.

Proceeds from our various sales support community groups such as the Carlington Community Chaplaincy, High Jinx Outreach and the Shelter program of the Taggart Family Y. In addition we have several international projects, including the Kibera YMCA Primary School in Nairobi and support for flood victims in Bujumbura, Burundi.

Thank you for your support.
David Hall,
Chair of the Fundraising Committee, Ottawa Y Service Club.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

UPCOMING

Lenten Reflection series at RPUC: Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, join us on Zoom for a time of reflection and prayer on themes from the Lord's Prayer:

Rideau Park United Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lenten Reflections

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5583434610>

ONGOING

Broadview Reading Club - Tuesdays from 1 - 3pm The articles for March 22 are on p14 and p43-50 in the March issue. Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89093844185>

NO MORE Coffee Time Zoom now that we can meet in person on Sunday mornings.

Mens Group (online) - Gentlemen of KUC and the wider community meet **Thursday mornings from 9:30am to 11:00.** Discussions are wide ranging, as we attempt to solve all the world's problems, every week. If you want to join the Men's Group discussion please contact Doug Patriquin patriquinfam@sympatico.ca or Clayton Porteous at porteousclayton@outlook.com for the Zoom link.

Rideau Park United Church Meditation Group Online: Thursdays at 10am

Twenty minutes of quiet, peace, and mindfulness, shared Meditation is not difficult. And group meditation is a deepening experience. To join in the live group, please email Rev. Steve Clifton for the Zoom link sclifton@rideaupark.ca

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 2022

Kitchissippi United Church will be holding its Annual Congregation meeting on **Sunday, March 27, 2022** via Zoom. The time and a Zoom link will be sent our prior to the meeting.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU - PLEASE REACH OUT

Kitchissippi United Church

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**THE CHURCH OFFICE IS STILL
NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**All office emails and phone
messages will be
checked through the
holiday.**

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