



Second Sunday of Easter - B
April 11, 2021
Farming Sunday

Key Scripture - Acts 4: 34, 35

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Theme - Giving All to Others



Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Special requests may be made through Facebook
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † **A Stay at Home Order has been issued. We will not meet in person for worship unless and until the COVID Response Level is reduced and the Lockdown is suspended.**
- † Services will be posted to Facebook. You will find a window to our Facebook Page on our Website. You will also find a link to our Bulletin Page. Services are rebroadcast on COGECO (Your TV) the following Sunday 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.
- † Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 2 May 2021.

- † **Stewardship Update**
 - May - Annual Geranium Sale
 - Purchase Orders will be taken in April for delivery scheduled for Saturday, May 29. We will follow health

- regulations and have the pick up in the parking lot.
- May 15, Compost sale at REAL
 - A Fundraiser is planned for the sale of compost from the parking lot at REAL on **Saturday, May 15**. That weekend precedes the May long weekend which all gardeners prepare to plant. **SAVE THE DATE** and plan to pick up a bag or two of compost.
 - **30 litre bags for \$10.00**

Introduction to the Service

Each year at this time, Trinity United Church acknowledges, celebrates and Blesses Farmers, Farm Families and the work of their hands. This year we remember what it means to give everything in Service to Others.

Elements of the service are taken from “So That All May Flourish - A worship resource for World Food Day” Canadian Foodgrains Bank

We are grateful for Arlene Hunter who guides us each year in the preparation of this service.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Introit MV 174 "Soil of God, You and I" vs 1 and 3

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
Seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...
Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth,
Joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found.
All stand together, this is...
Holy ground.

Call to Worship

Shout out to God, all the earth!
Break into joyful songs to the one true God!
Sing of the glory due His name,
and offer the most magnificent praises!

All Your works are wonderful!
The entire earth bows down to worship You,
singing songs of praise and glory to Your name.

Come, let's bless God together!
Let's praise the One who gives us life
who watches over us,
and keeps our feet from stumbling.

Opening Prayer

The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,
Thank you!
The hills and valleys are filled with colour, and we say,

Thank you!
The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say,
Thank you!
Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,
Thank you!
Our life is filled with love of family and friends, and we say,
Thank you!
We fill this house of God with our voices, saying,
Thank you!
May the words of our mouths and
the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable to you, O God,
as we enter into this service of thanksgiving and praise

— *Written by Carol Penner, and posted on Leading in
Worship.*

Hymn MV 126 "Are You A Shepherd"

Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us
safely through danger, while calming our fears?
Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best?

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
 lead all your children in paths that are right.
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.
 We want to love you and bring you delight.

Time With Children

Do you have chores?

You already know how I like to vacuum and Mop. I also love loading the DishWasher. Oh, Yes! Mowing the Lawn is a favourite. I like painting. Snow blowing is so much fun ... Laundry ... who does not like doing laundry?

Hmmm ... I wonder if these are even chores. They might qualify as chores because they are work but for me they are pretty easy ... and fun. The quiet chores like painting and mopping are measurable, you can really see where you started and where you finished ... This is very satisfying. Loading the dishwasher is easy too ... it is like a puzzle, where do things best fit? What direction does the water flow? What are the obstructions for the moving and swirling parts?

Your mind can be free to wander while you mop, you can listen to the radio or a book ... Just wonderful and relaxing ...

My noisy chores are fun too ... We have a dog and wood floors ... Dust Bunnies run toward the nozzle ... it is like the machine does all the work ... easy-peasy. The snow blower is awesome ... Every man on my street with a drive way longer than 12 feet has one ... I do my neighbour's driveway too ... he thinks I am a good neighbour ... I think I am pretending to be retired and working for the Town clearing sidewalks.

All these things are fun, so they are not really chores. They are kind of like play ... unless ... unless, somebody tells me that I have to do them or rushes me ... or I have no choice ... Then, they are chores. Then, I do not like them as much.

When I was a boy, I lived in a farming area and in the summers, I would help hay. \$0.50 an hour humping hay. I loved it. The Farm Family fed us too ... It was wonderful.

Sometimes we imagine other people's work like play. We even have such a thing as Dude Ranches where you can pretend to be a Cowboy and do things that Cowboys do - Ride Horses, Sing, Dance and have Campfires - But that is not what Cowboys do. Cowboys are like Farmers. They may like what they do and it may be important but it is hard work.

Today we Bless farmers and Farm Families. Folk who work hard all the time. Folk who cannot decide to do what they want only when they want. Folk who provide us with what we would most worry about if we did not have it. Because of farmers I can day dream while I blow snow because I do not have to worry about what I am going to eat. So we Bless farmers and Farm families today.

Children's Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for Farmers and Farm Families today. Bless them in all they do. Amen.

Prayer of Reconciliation

O God,

So often we take you for granted.

We take for granted that you will answer our prayers,
that you will heal us and make us whole.

We take for granted that you love us.

Forgive us for not appreciating
your grace and presence in our lives.

Help us to be more thankful.

Give us faith to see you in everything
and everyone around us,
so that we may be truly grateful.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

— *Posted on Waiting for Water: Liturgy for The
Easter Journey 2013*

Assurance of Blessing (Psalm 66, 2 Timothy 2, Luke 17)

Give praise to God,
who accompanies us on our journey,
who hears our cries and anguish,
and who remains faithful and answers our prayers.

Give glory to God,
who brings life out of death
and joy out of sorrow!

Scripture Acts 4: 32–35;
Psalm 133;
John 20: 19–31;

Acts 4: 32–35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

John 20: 19–31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side.

Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Meditation "Turn, Turn, Turn." (Seeger) played by Wendy

To Everything (Turn, Turn, Turn)

There is a season (Turn, Turn, Turn)
And a time for every purpose, under Heaven

A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep

To Everything (Turn, Turn, Turn)
There is a season (Turn, Turn, Turn)
And a time for every purpose, under Heaven

A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together

To Everything (Turn, Turn, Turn)
There is a season (Turn, Turn, Turn)
And a time for every purpose, under Heaven

A time of love, a time of hate
A time of war, a time of peace
A time you may embrace, a time to refrain from embracing

To Everything (Turn, Turn, Turn)
There is a season (Turn, Turn, Turn)
And a time for every purpose, under Heaven

A time to gain, a time to lose
A time to rend, a time to sew
A time to love, a time to hate
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late

Reflection Who Gives Everything Anymore?

I remember bits and pieces of the interview I had with the search committee before I came to Smiths Falls. Three questions stand out in my memory. One was about Affirm and how I would manage its exploration. Another question was how long my services were. The other question was asked timidly or almost apologetically. Was Lorraine going to come to Trinity. The questions were easy to answer and the Search Committee seemed to be satisfied.

I was surprised by the third question. Actually, it may not have even been direct. It might have been a little sideways, like, “Will Lorraine be staying with St Paul’s.” My surprise was with how careful the question was posed. “Of course, Lorraine will be coming to Trinity.” I was not surprised because I was offended but because it never occurred to me that she would not come to Trinity or that we would have to be asked. I was surprised that the question was posed so gracefully. There was no expectation that she would come to Trinity but there was a tone that suggested hope. “How times have changed,” I thought.

The possibility of your family not coming with you was not always the case. It used to be assumed ... When and where I started Ministry, it

certainly was. No question. The fact that there is a question today or a few years ago when I was asked; is a sign that our world and church has become quite comfortable with boundaries between Work and Family.

We live in an age in which folk seem to be growing comfortable saying, “This much I will do. This much I will bring. I will fulfill the agreed upon responsibility in the agreed amount of time, if and when resources permit, then I will stop.” Or to be honest and say this I cannot do or will not do or this is not a part of my job. My employment begins and ends here. A significant part of that is the separation between our work life and personal life. Our workplace and our home. This was not always the case.

When I was in the Military, we were aware, of course, that Military life affects Families. Sailors, Soldiers and Air Personnel often have Families that experience some of the stresses of a military environment so there are Family Resource Centres, parks, playgrounds and Recreation Centres. Family days are hosted in June. I took Adrienne when she was in grade one. Family day in the dockyard in Halifax was a very fun day. A chaplain colleague of mine who found himself in the doghouse was volunteered to be a giant Pikachu, a species of Pokémon, fictional creatures ... which was fitting because his nickname was a Muppet Character. If he is watching today, “Good Morning Fozzy. I remember the day”

Adrienne went on a little tea-cup ferris wheel with my Chaplain Supervisor at the time, there was much squealing with fear and delight ... Adrienne, of course, was silent. Adrienne went on a RHIB ride around the harbour, Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat. It was wonderful. Family day in the Dockyard was tremendous fun. Family day was not work. There was a boundary around what Sailors did and their families. They might go to the Dockyard on Family Day or Bring your Child to Work Day, but they did not deploy. They went because it was fun to pretend. Like going to a Dude Ranch does not make you a CoyBoy and humping hay for a day does not make you a farmer.

Today, we celebrate and Bless Farmers and Farm Families because Every day is Family Day on the Farm. But ... There are no tea-cup ferris wheels or giant Pikachus.

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Scripture from Acts this morning describes a church community in which the members are all in. There was no, "I will serve this much and stop." There was no, "You can have this much, but not that." It was a full on, communal experience and if you were in it, you were in it with everything. To be sure, this was not the case in all communities everywhere, but it was the case here. To be sure, it is not an expectation we normally place on anybody anymore. If we say we do, we are likely pretending or fooling ourselves. ... Unless you are a farmer. We are grateful for and bless farmers and farm families today because the separations most of us make between Work and Personal life, Work and Family are luxuries you may not find on a Farm.

Humping hay once a year was fun for me because I lived near a farm. The Bent Boys and the Lewis Boys (and they were all boys) lived on a farm. Humping Hay was every day and it was not a hobby. I confirmed with Arlene that the Hunter Family all Farms - "We usually start regular chores around age 8. Chores like cleaning out calf and heifer pens are some of the first. Helping to feed calves is another one. Maryn started some tractor work at 14. Cutting grass with the riding mower at 12-13 is good training. This time of year rock picking is something we can all do together, Foster included and he's 6."

Farm Families are Farmers. Hugh Hunter is a Farmer. Arlene Hunter is a Farmer. Maryn Hunter is a farmer. Duncan Hunter is a Farmer. Connal Hunter is a Farmer. Foster Hunter is a Farmer. Farmers and Farm Families are "All in."

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Scripture today tells us one way to give everything and it is rare in our age ... Unless you are a Farmer or Farm family. And so, we Bless them today -

For Farm Families

God our creator,
We ask you to bless the lives of our Farm Families.

We pray for all who live on the land,
**for all who till the soil,
for all tend livestock,
for all who stand between our communities and the
twins of destruction - famine and pestilence.**

May your blessing rest upon our Farm Families they live together in your peace.

Bless houses and farms and farming communities.

Give

**good health,
purity of spirit,
strength and humility,
hospitality,
a spirit of forgiveness and firm knowledge of
our need to seek you in all things.**

We pray in the name of Jesus our Redeemer, Healer and Hope.
Amen.

Hymn 306 "God of the Farmlands" vs. 1,2, & 6 (tune 650)

God of the farmlands, hear our prayer,
God of the growing seed,
O bless the fields, for to your care
we look in all our need.

God of the rivers in their course,
God of the swelling sea,
where we must strive with nature's force,
our guardian ever be.

God of the nations, women, men,
God of each humble soul,
we seek your gracious aid again:
O come and make us whole.

Invitation to the Offering

In this season of Easter, we celebrate God's most precious gift to us in Christ's dying and rising. As we present our gifts to God, may our generosity reflect God's goodness to us and the hope we have found in Christ Jesus.

Offering Prayer

We bless you, God of Seed and Harvest,
and we bless each other,
that the beauty of this world,
and the love that created it,

might be expressed through our lives,
and be a blessing to others, now and always.

Amen.

— *Offering Prayer from the Third Space website*

Hymn 307 "Touch The Earth Lightly" vs. 1,3 and 4

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

A Farmer's Creed - Hugh Hunter

I believe a person's greatest possession is their dignity and that
no calling bestows this more abundantly than farming.

I believe hard work and honest sweat are the building blocks of a person's character.

I believe that farming, despite its hardships and disappointments, is the most honest and honourable way a person can spend their days on this earth.

I believe farming nurtures the close family ties that make life rich in ways money can't buy.

I believe my children are learning values that will last a lifetime and can be learned in no other way.

I believe farming provides education for life and that no other occupation teaches so much about birth, growth and maturity in such a variety of ways.

I believe many of the best things in life are indeed free; the splendour of a sunrise, the rapture of wide-open spaces, the exhilarating sight of your land greening each spring.

I believe true happiness comes from watching your crops ripen in the field, your children growing tall in the sun, your whole family feeling the pride that springs from their shared experience.

I believe that by my toil I am giving more to the world than I am taking from it, an honour that does not come to all.

I believe my life will be measured ultimately by what I have done for others, and by this standard I fear no judgment.

I believe when a person grows old and sums up their days, they should be able to stand tall and feel pride in the life they've lived.

I believe in farming because it makes all this possible.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected
all over the world, that their cries for daily bread may inspire
works of compassion and mercy among those to whom
much has been given.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the farmers with limited or marginal land
throughout the world,
for those who lack access to water and other resources,
and for the light of research and support services to shine in
the lives of all God's people.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease
throughout the world, particularly those exacerbated
by lack of nutritious food and outright hunger; that plagues
of death may no longer fuel poverty,
destabilize nations, and inhibit reconciliation and
restoration throughout the world.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for an end to the waste and
desecration of God's creation,

for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally
Among all people,
and for communities and nations to find sustenance
in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all nations and people
who already enjoy the abundance of creation
and the blessings of prosperity,
that their hearts may be lifted up
to the needs of the poor and afflicted,
and partnerships between rich and poor
for the reconciliation of the world may flourish and grow.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

— *Excerpted from a longer prayer on the National
Catholic Rural Life*

A Harvest Prayer - God of the Bountiful

We thank you for your harvest which feeds us
so many times each day
We are nourished with your
forgiveness and hope
We are sustained with
your strength and patience
We are filled with your grace and compassion

We thank you for feeding us with a harvest of plenty
We are restored through your generosity and healing
We are replenished with your abundance and joy
We are reminded of your selfless abandon

We thank you for feeding us with the bread of heaven

Your gift of Christ sustains our lives

His presence restores the promise of your love

His life fills our hearts with your everlasting light

We thank you for filling us with the water of life

May we drink deeply that our thirst may be quenched

May your river continue to flow

over us, in us, through us and

out into the world you love.

— *God of the Bountiful* written by Christine Sine,
and posted on her website *Godspace*

With hopeful hearts we offer the prayer that he taught us -

Prayers conclude with:

We experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength,
courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;
Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn 520 "We Plough the Fields"

We plough the fields and scatter

the good seed on the land,

but it is fed and watered

by your almighty hand;

you send the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain -

***All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.***

You only are the maker
of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star;
the wind and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give us daily bread.

Refrain -

***All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.***

We thank you then, O Maker,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food;
accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts,
and, what from us you long for,
our humble, thankful hearts.

Refrain -

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.*

Benediction

God, the Holy Spirit,

You are the restless wind of love that
sweeps through the world.

You blow where you will, breaking down barriers,
Stirring hearts to change, making all things possible.

As we go out from here,
tend within us restless desire for change
— even change that seems impossible.

Come, Spirit of God,
Sweep through our world bringing great change.

May the harvest of your goodness bring justice and hope.
And, for us, transformation in our praying and living,

So all may share in the harvest of your blessings.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

— *Posted on the Third Space website.*

Choral Amen

Postlude "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" (Lutkin)
Played by Arlene.