

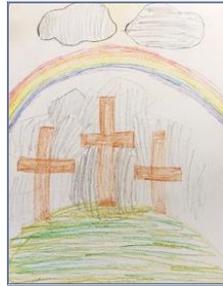
# ST. CATHARINES UNITED MENNONITE CHURCH



Message by Pastor Nick

*"Seeds That Will Not Spoil"*

April 26, 2020



*We invite you to use this "order of service" today.*

*You might consider reading the texts and prayers aloud.*

*Words of songs might or sung, either acapella, or with the tracks that have been provided, by means of links. Simply click on the song titles.*

## Call to Worship:

O God,  
We sit in Your presence with expectation,  
hungry for an encounter with You,  
eager to hear Your Word.  
Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit.  
May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us fall on fertile soil.  
May they take root in our hearts and lives,  
and produce an abundant harvest  
of good words and deeds.  
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our teacher and our Lord.

Amen.

*- Adapted from a prayer written by Christine Longhurst*

## Song: [View the Present Through the Promise](#)

View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.  
Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again.  
Lift the world above its grieving with your watching and believing  
In the hope past hope's conceiving, Christ will come again.

Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again.  
Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.  
Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving  
Be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.

Match the present to the promise: Christ will come again.  
Make this hope your guiding premise: Christ will come again.  
Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating  
To the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.

VIEW THE PRESENT THROUGH THE PROMISE - Carol Doran | Thomas H. Troeger © Words: 1994  
Oxford University Press, Music: 1985 Oxford University Press CCLI License # 855711

## Prayer:

Lord, may we grow with you  
New shoots reaching out  
Hands stretched upward  
Like leaves newly formed  
Soaking up your light and warmth  
Lord, may we grow with you

Lord, may we grow with you  
In sunshine and rain  
In darkness and light  
In cold days and summer days  
From Springtime to Winter  
Lord, may we grow with you

Lord, may we grow with you  
And bring forth fruit  
That is pleasing to you  
Fed by your living water  
Giving sustenance to others  
Lord, may we grow with you  
Amen

*- Adapted from a Contemporary Welsh Prayer*

## Invitation for Personal Prayers:

We invite you to offer up your own prayers in this time.

Whether silently or spoken out loud, praying for yourselves, our community, country and world in this time.

### Song: Like a Rock

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.  
Like the starry night sky God is over our head.  
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.  
Like the river runs to ocean,  
our home is in God evermore.

LIKE A ROCK -

### Text: 1 Peter 1:17-25

*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.*

## Meditation: *"Seeds That Will Not Spoil"*

### Song: I'm Pressing on the Upward Way

I'm pressing on the upward way,  
New heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I onward bound,  
"Lord plant my feet on higher ground."

*Lord, lift me up and let me stand,  
By faith on heaven's table land.  
A higher plane than I have found;  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground.*

My heart has no desire to stay  
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Tho' some may dwell where these abound,  
My prayer, my aim is higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height,  
And catch a gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,  
"Lord lead me on to higher ground."

## Benediction

God, take me down to the spring of my life, and tell me my nature and my name. Give me freedom to grow, so that I may become that self, the seed of which You planted in me at my making. Amen.

- Prayer by George Appelton