

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking here: [Video for April 26 Worship](#)

Newspaper - Michael Wilson has had an article published on Faith and the Pandemic. Read it here: "[Rehearsed Gratitude](#)" [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

Audio - This week's reflection is on the church website: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/sermons/>

Church School – Rosalie Finch and Laura Rousseau are holding weekly live Cool School on Zoom each Sunday at 10:00 am. If you would like to join or are not receiving our children and youth emails please contact Laura at lrousseau@charleswood.org to be added.

Dear Friends

One of the blessings this past year at Charleswood has been that we have been a learning site for a student minister from Atlantic School of Theology. Laura Rousseau has been with us for 8 months and if we were together in person this coming Sunday we would be celebrating the successful end of this practicum. There would be speeches and cake and much rejoicing. But just because we are not together in person doesn't mean we are not together in spirit.

April 26th was also scheduled to be Confirmation Sunday. Confirmation is the celebration of people choosing to become full members of the church following a series of classes on the foundations of Christian faith. The scheduling was not a coincidence for Laura has provided leadership to the confirmation class this year. Needless to say, another good reason to have cake after church.

But do not fret. We can't do justice to confirmation in a virtual space so our six candidates will most definitely be confirmed when we are able to be together again. And Laura will certainly be there. Something to look forward to.

In the meantime we can still be reminded that the church is a place of learning. It is a school for the ever-expanding, ever-increasing, ever-including love of God. We are thankful to be learners-on-the-way together.

Prelude

Enjoy a musical greeting from Carla and Brendan by clicking here: [This Is The Day](#)

Bible Reading

The Gospel Lesson for April 26th is Luke 24:13-32: You can read it here: [Luke 24:13-32](#)

Anthem

We have a musical offering from Faith Based which you can hear by clicking: [10,000 Reasons](#)

Reflection

“Are you the only one who hasn’t heard?”

That is the question posed by a disciple named Cleopas as he walks the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus in Luke 24. He asks the question of a risen Jesus who has joined Cleopas and his friend on the road, but a risen Jesus they do not recognize. “Are you the only one who hasn’t heard?” As they were travelling down the road they were talking about the extraordinary events that unfolded the three days prior. Jesus appears to them and ask they what they are discussing. “Are you the only one who hasn’t heard?” they ask incredulously, as if it were possible for anyone there not to have heard about Jesus, his goodness, his grace, his arrest, his suffering, his death. And how a few women of their company had made the claim that they had seen him, risen to life. Are you the only one who hasn’t heard this?

Jesus, still not recognized by the two disciples instructs them, teaches them everything there is in scripture that would help them understand just what it is they have been witnesses to. They continue to travel together, still not recognizing with whom they walk. They come to the end of the day and the stranger is invited to stay with them. They gather themselves. They settle in. They prepare a meal and are together at the table. Jesus takes breads and blesses it. And Luke says that then their eyes were opened and they saw that it was Jesus. Immediately Jesus disappears from their company.

Faith is not simply a result of good education. You can’t just learn your way into your heart being strangely warmed. And neither is faith only a consequence of a revelation or an epiphany or a conversion. Education and revelation go hand in hand in a mature and developing faith. And that is essential for understanding how faith is going to help us through these difficult days. For were it not enough that we are coping with the fear and anxiety, the uncertainty, and for some the illness of the pandemic in which we are living, our dear friends, our sisters and brothers in Nova Scotia have, all of a sudden, had to deal with an even greater pain, an even deeper anguish as they face the consequences and the after effects of the terrible violent tragedy that has befallen them.

There is nothing that can prepare you for a time such as that. There is no amount of education that could have allowed you to see that coming. There is no amount of revelation that would have allowed you to know how to react in that very moment or how to move through the grief. But if I come back to the story of Jesus encountering those disciples on the road to Emmaus who do not recognize him, who wonder how it is someone could not have heard of what had happened, Jesus patiently teaches them, instructs and interprets scripture for them. Jesus also gathers with them, walks with them, sits at table with them. Indeed, it is in the breaking of the bread that he is made known to them. Companion comes from two root words, ‘with’ and ‘bread’ (think of the French word ‘pain’). Jesus is the one who is our companion. Revelation and education go hand in hand and help us develop a mature faith that helps us see there is no crisis that we go through in which we are alone.

We have One who walks with us. And that com-pan-ionship assures us that all will be well.

Hymn

Watch a video of the Easter Hymn “Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks” by clicking here: [Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks](#)

Prayers for Nova Scotia

Prince of Peace, Holy and Healing Spirit, God who is Love at all times and in all things, we come before you today, sadly as we have come before, with our spirits broken and our hearts in pieces. For evil has come to our country this week and has dealt a mighty blow with the perceived power of violence and fear and terror.

We come before you today, in the company of a great company of witnesses, to hold up those who have fallen in the visit of evil and violence in Nova Scotia.

We lift up those whose lives have been senselessly lost.

We lift up those closest to the victims, now cast into the depths of sorrow.

We lift up those who are surrounding these Canadian communities with comfort, and compassion, and care.

We lift up people across this land who share the sadness in order to ease the pain of others.

God of Grace and Mercy, we come before you today for there is nowhere else to turn with such heartache. You alone restore hope where there is despair. You alone provide comfort where there is pain. You alone are the source of love which conquers death, and overcomes fear, and shines brightly in a dark and shadowed world.

As you caused the hearts of disciples to burn within them on the road to Emmaus, set our hearts afire with such spirit that we may rise above this moment and be guarded by the peace which passes understanding, walking in the path you have shown, where evil fears to tread. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior, our companion on the way, who taught us to pray together by saying...OUR FATHER...

Parting Song - [Be Thou My Vision](#)

Be well, safe, and hopeful.

Michael