

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [March 21 Worship Service Video](#)

- The **2020 Annual Report and Financial Statement** is now posted on our website: [CUC 2020 Annual Report](#). The **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00** and will be held on Zoom. Information on joining in will come in a separate email.
- Join the **HeBrews eCafé on Zoom** Sunday at 10am for an hour of informal fellowship.  
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98193600858?pwd=K0lIOWM0ZWdsRmhUTkNWcmFvbkm5Zz09>  
Meeting ID: 981 9360 0858      Passcode: 438120      Phone in: 1 204 272 7920
- **Lenten Study - Faith On The Move** - Thursday at 7:00.  
Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/96227374307?pwd=Q0xkRFpkemdtVDBZdHZlVWFwODU4QT09>  
Meeting ID: 962 2737 4307      Passcode: 677320      Phone in option: 204 272 7920

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, March 21, 2021.

Something is going to happen on Sunday that has not happened since last summer. There is going to be a small congregation of people worshipping in the sanctuary of Charleswood United Church. It's not what you think. You haven't missed any announcement about the return of worship. BUT, a handful of people are going to be in the church on Sunday morning and they will be worshipping. This is good news.

When worship was suspended last March we were preparing to celebrate the confirmation of a class that Laura Rousseau had been working with since the previous Fall. That was to take place on a Sunday last April. As you know, the suspension continued and kept on extending itself, against our hopes and wishes. All the while this group of confirmands (candidates for confirmation) were waiting patiently.

We thought about and considered doing a virtual confirmation but it was the wish of the class to wait until such time as this could take place with the congregation present. Clearly, they had been well taught by Laura. Confirmation means the confirming of your infant baptism. It is an act of joining the church and claiming the vows your parents took as your own. For those who were not baptized as infants, adult baptism and confirmation are one and the same thing. Whether you were baptized as a child or not, everyone in our confirmation class is making a commitment to be part of the Body of Christ. Our job is to welcome them and celebrate their presence among us. It is the type of event that is best done in person.

So what has changed? Why are we waiting no longer? For some very important community reasons. A confirmation class is a community within a community. It is a journey that a group of people take together. In the case of this year's class, their teacher and leader, Laura, is part of that community, an integral part. Laura's practicum with us is going to come to a close next month and by waiting we were faced with the prospect that the confirmation could take place without the person who led them through this process. We all wanted Laura to be there.

Secondly it doesn't look like we will be resuming in person worship by the end of April and no one was excited by the prospect of conducting confirmation by Zoom. But, by the grace of God, a window opened. Public health orders said that places of worship could open at 10% capacity provided masks and social distancing remained in place. It has since been increased to 25%.

That condition will allow us to bring the confirmation class and their immediate families, along with Laura and myself, into the sanctuary on Sunday morning to conduct this important ceremony, the first worship event in the church since a funeral last August.

And you will be there too! While we cannot welcome others into the church to be part of this we will be recording it and using it as part of our online worship service next week. Prior to that, you can think of these newest members of our church on Sunday at 11:00 and offer a prayer of thanks and support in your own way.

Indeed, we have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for those who have chosen to make a public profession of their faith. We are thankful for their extraordinary patience and kindness in leaving this process open ended for a year and yet remaining committed to it. We are thankful for the leadership they received from Laura and for her significant contribution to the church by this ministry.

And we are thankful for the glimmer of light that this action shines upon us all.

Grace and peace,

Michael

- For news and events please have a look at **Life & Work**: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/life-work/>
- You can **donate to the ministry of Charleswood United Church** by visiting: [www.charleswoodunited.org/donate](http://www.charleswoodunited.org/donate)  
Thank you for your generous support.
- Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is:  
[https://youtu.be/-fP7tfW\\_e40](https://youtu.be/-fP7tfW_e40)