

Blessings to you for Good Friday from Charleswood United Church

View the CUC Good Friday Service here: [Good Friday 2021 Video Service](#)

To read the scripture lesson click: [John 18 - 19](#)

To share the service with others use the following link: https://youtu.be/XkZ2Zpbq_V4

Join us for Worship and Communion in celebration of Easter on YouTube, Facebook, or at www.charleswoodunited.org

A separate email with links will follow.

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [Easter Sunday Video Service](#)

** This is a communion service. All are welcome to have elements ready and partake as you choose**

- Our Cool School Children's Easter Video is available here: https://youtu.be/INyeKgeA_44
- Join the **HeBrews eCafé on Zoom** Sunday at 10am for an hour of informal fellowship.
<https://zoom.us/j/98193600858?pwd=K0lIOWM0ZWdsRmhUTkNWcmFvbkM5Zz09>
Phone: 204 272 7920
Meeting ID: 981 9360 0858
Passcode: 438120
- **Lenten Study - Faith On The Move** – Final gathering - Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.
<https://zoom.us/j/96227374307?pwd=Q0xkRFpkemdtVDBZdHZlVWFwODU4QT09>
Phone: 204 272 7920 Canada
Meeting ID: 962 2737 4307
Passcode: 677320
- Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is:
<https://youtu.be/hlI8K6HAeu0>

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Recently I watched the movie “Soul”, an animated feature from the brilliant people at Disney and Pixar. “Soul” is about a jazz/soul pianist named Joe who despite great talent, never really caught his big break. On the same day that he has an opportunity for a full time teaching job and some stability that doesn’t usually come to starving artists, he auditions for a renowned jazz musician and is offered the ‘gig’ that night.

But rather than simply being a movie about choice, about following your dreams verses settling into the more predictable, “Soul” takes an eternal turn when Joe falls into an open sewer and dies. His ‘soul’ is removed from his body and is headed for ‘The Great Beyond’. Joe thinks this is terribly unfair and runs in the opposite direction. His soul finds itself in the so called ‘Great Before’, the place where new souls are formed and Joe is assigned to mentor a particularly difficult one. Can I just say that all kinds of hijinks ensue as Joe tries desperately to get back to his body and resume the pursuit of his dreams before it’s too late.

There are lots of spiritual themes in “Soul”. Some are familiar such as the idea that doing the thing you love transports you to the realm between this world and the next, and that there are pressures in life that can drain the soul from us. One of the most important is to appreciate all that surrounds us and to live life every day whether all our dreams have been fulfilled or not.

The thing that “Soul” misses out on though (not surprisingly) is in our relationship to the life that is to come. The next life is presented as something matter-of-fact, almost natural and inevitable. What it doesn’t show is the intervention of a greater love than our own. And that is a terrible thing to miss.

No one who followed Jesus thought, believed, or expected that there was anything more powerful than death. They didn’t act as though he would live on in the Great Beyond or otherwise. They didn’t plan for him to live on in his teaching, or to start a movement in his name so that Jesus would have a lasting legacy. What they experienced was that he was risen, that he lived on in such a way that they could share his risen life. They became the body of Christ but he was no less alive because of their efforts.

Easter proclaims that there is One who intervenes. There is One who is victorious over death. There is One who is Love at all times, in all things, in all circumstances.

‘Soul’ is the part of our being that recognizes and acknowledges this presence.

Happy Easter,
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
Thank you for your generous support.
- Read the scripture lesson for today by clicking here: [Mark 16:1-8](#)