

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [June 13 Worship Service Video](#)

- Join **HeBrews eCafé on Zoom** Sunday at 10am:  
<https://zoom.us/j/4639675160?pwd=V090UmV0VFpMVGJLTWhueGpSekkwZz09>  
Meeting ID: 463 967 5160  
Passcode: 4F7iE2  
Phone option: 1 204 272 7920
- St. Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry's major fundraising project, the Urban Garden Tours, is coming soon. For more information on this year's virtual event please visit: [2021 Urban Retreats Virtual Garden Tour](#)
- The Healing Farm, our farming partnership with Operation Ezra and the Yazidi Refugee Community, held a planting day this past Tuesday. A wonderful gallery of last year's project and a link to the Produce Store is available here: <https://canadianyazidiassociation.com/gallery>
- **Offering Information at:** [www.charleswoodunited.org/donate](http://www.charleswoodunited.org/donate) Thank you for your generous support.

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, June 13, 2021.

*I call you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through water, I shall be with you;  
When you pass through rivers they will not overwhelm you;  
Through flames, and they will not burn you...  
Have no fear, for I am with you.  
Isaiah 43 vss*

Here's the funny thing about the human condition. Hurt often comes in an instant while healing invariably takes time. There have been several occasions through the years when I have hurt my back. One moment you don't feel a thing in your back and then, all of a sudden, it's hard to think about anything else. I had sciatica once. It arrived in a split second and it took several months, and some professional help, to go away.

The same thing applies to heartbreak. Devastating, difficult news arrives swiftly and then stays with you for an indefinite period of time. The heart keeps its own time. I never presume that when we as a Christian community turn our care and attention to someone, when we reach out or pray, that healing is accomplished by that action. Healing is a long, slow, deliberate process. And necessarily so.

This seems abundantly evident this week. It is not time to forget about the heartache we discussed last week following the revelation of unmarked graves at the former Residential School in Kamloops. We continue to hold all those affected by this discovery in prayer and our commitment to right relations and reconciliation remains steadfast. This is a process that will a great amount of time, perhaps measured in generations. We won't forget nor should we rush.

However, this week a new horror has been brought to our consciousness. Once again we have found that Canada is not immune from unspeakable acts of violence motivated by religious and racial hatred. The murder of the Afzaal family in London, Ontario by a hateful (and cowardly) truck driver breaks our hearts while they are still in pieces within us.

Islamophobia is the word given to describe the motivation of the driver just as it described the gunman who entered a Quebec City mosque in 2017. The word literally means 'fear of Islam' but is better understood as 'hatred of Muslims'. At its core is an evil that dehumanizes an entire category of people in order to justify violence. Not that there is any reason to suspect that the driver understood what it means to be Muslim, or what it means to be human for that matter.

And so it is we come to worship this week. Still mourning one discovery while perhaps in shock from this more recent event. But how else might we move through the experience of heartbreak, sorrow, and disappointment? At one level worship is the opportunity to be in the presence of one who is, as songwriter Steve Bell has put it, "high above the fray". At the very same time we say Christ is incarnate (*in the flesh*), the One whose heart breaks first, the One who weeps while we are weeping.

Hurt comes quickly but healing takes time. Worship is not meant to be offered only when all is well. In fact, I would argue the opposite. Worship is most potent when it is offered in the midst of the pain of the world that God so loves, by a hurting people. Worship is part of the healing process itself. In our prayers and praise and teaching and song we re-discover who we are.

And to whom we belong.

Grace and peace

Michael

- Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is: <https://youtu.be/nUQpsgF5mJk>
- For news and events please have a look at **Life & Work**: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/life-work/>
- Read the scripture lesson for today by clicking here: [Mark 4:26-34](#)