

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [August 8 Worship Service Video](#)

- Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is: <https://youtu.be/1fqCt8-KDlo>
- 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: [Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2](#)
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Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, August 8, 2021.

As told in the book of Deuteronomy, towards the end of Moses' life, the people of Israel have come to the east bank of the Jordan River forty years after leaving Egypt. God leads Moses up to the top of Mount Nebo so he can see with his own eyes, across the river, the Promised Land, the land flowing with milk and honey, the destination which has been the destiny of most of Moses' life.

It has taken a long time to get to that view. There is still some work to go. And as Joshua, Moses's successor, will discover, the Promised Land isn't without its challenges. BUT, for that moment, it appears that the thing they have been waiting for such a long time has finally come.

The announcement concerning the easing of restrictions this week makes it seem as though we have finally arrived. Or at least we are getting close. It will be a short time now before we resume much of the in-person connectivity that is the hallmark of our life together as a Christian community. I wouldn't exactly call it a Promised Land but the staff, Council, and committees of Charleswood United Church are about to put plans together for our re-opening. Like Moses, we are standing on the far bank and can see what has been promised with our own eyes.

Knowing that, we are not without immense gratitude for what has been, the journey that has brought us to this perch. You, the congregation, have been remarkable in your steadfast commitment and generosity towards the church. You have made the effort to stay connected and so it is that when we return we will not be a disparate body experiencing re-introduction but a united one experiencing reunion. We will keep you informed of dates and decisions as they arise.

When we return we will be without the gifts of someone who has played an 'instrumental' role in our worship life for the last seven years. Carla Plosz has made the decision to take leave of her position as our staff organist/pianist. Carla has actually been on staff for eight years as she was our Children's Ministry Director for one year before switching to the music team. You know her as an excellent musician and what I have described as an intuitive worship leader. She is a creative person who has been behind some of our most memorable services, altering music genres and incorporating guest musicians as a basis for praise. She also has an infectious laugh and is great fun to work with. We wish Carla joy and blessing in the future professional and personal efforts she pursues.

A relatively new event that we hope will become annual is fast approaching. On Sunday, August 22 our friends from the Yazidi community who volunteer at The Healing Farm will be here in the parking lot from 9:00 -12 noon for a Farmer's Market. It is likely we will have some other Manitoba agricultural products available as well. Details will come next week but please mark your calendars and come for a visit (and carrots and onions, etc.) in two weeks' time.

As with Moses on Mt. Nebo, we can see promise in the distance. Crossing into that new reality is something we do together. A consequence of the hope that has brought us through this difficult journey.

Grace and peace

Michael