

**Russeltown Flatts Church  
190th Anniversary  
July 31, 2016 2:30 p.m.**

**Organ Prelude, Solo: *In the Garden***

**Introduction**

We gather together the strands of our hectic lives  
and offer each other, this day, a breathing space...

We come in our 21st century lives  
to retell stories from the past  
to glean the meaning of Jesus' life  
to be the Christ—the 'god bearers'—of our day.

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

**Hymn:** *All Creatures of Our God and King*

**Opening Sentences**

We are moved to awe and wonder at the grandeur,  
the poetry, the richness of natural beauty.

**All: It fills us with joy and thanksgiving.**

And then all that has divided us will merge  
and compassion will be wedded to power,

**All: Softness and wonder will come to a world that is  
harsh and unkind**

And then both men and women will be gentle;

**All: both women and men will be strong.**

And then no person will be subject to another's will  
All will be rich and free and varied

**All: And then the greed of some will give way to the  
needs of many**

All will share equally in Earth's abundance

**All: And then all will care for the sick and the weak and  
the old**

All will nourish the young

**All: And then all will cherish life's creatures**

All will live in harmony with each other and the Earth

**All: And then everywhere will be called Eden once  
again.**

Let us pray:

God of the important and the common place,  
you reach into our lives through story.

Open our hearts to be attentive:

that seeing, we may perceive,  
and hearing, we may understand,  
and understanding, we may act.

**All: May it be so.**

**Hymn:** *Love Divine All Love's Excelling*

**Reading from our Religious Tradition**

Reader: May we open ourselves to the seeds of wisdom that lies dormant in this reading.

**All: And may our minds be fertile soil in which it may  
grow strong and true.**

**Luke 12:13-21 (Inclusive Text)**

A man in the crowd said to Jesus,

'Teacher, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.'

'My friend,' Jesus replied 'who appointed me your judge,  
or the arbitrator of your claims?'

Then Jesus said to them,

'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind,  
for people's lives are not made secure by what they own,  
even when they have more than they need.'

Then Jesus told them a parable:

'There was once a rich man who,

having a good harvest from his land, thought to himself,

"What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops."

Then that man said,

"This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns

and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them,  
and I will say to my soul:

My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come;  
take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time."

But God said to him,

"Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul;  
and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?"

So it is when people store up treasure for themselves  
in place of making themselves rich in the sight of God.

**Homily by Rev'd Karla Holmes**

**Solo: "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing" – by John Wyeth**

**A Celebration of Faith**

In response to the word reflected on, let us stand and share together a celebration of faith.

*The people stand as they are able*

In God, Source of Life

**All: our deaths are not the final word,  
our moments of crisis are part of eternal possibility,  
and our weakness is taken up into the courage of God.**

As followers of Jesus of the Way,

**All: our humanness is touched with divine life,  
our tears are mingled with longing love,  
and our solidarity with those who suffer  
is joined by divine presence.**

In the Spirit of Creativity,

**All: there are no boundaries on the dream,  
there is no end to hope,  
and we will never live beyond the cherishing of God.**

**Offering & Offering Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*  
Announcements & Maintenance Committee Report**

**Reflections and Prayers**

Let us pray:

Let each of us find a window

**All: To see beyond our own enclosures.**

Let each of us find a door

**All: To open ourselves into new being.**

Let us pray for ourselves, for those named or remembered, and in solidarity with those

who have not the freedom to express their concern or celebration for fear of discrimination or condemnation.

In all our joys and in all our concerns, may we be ever mindful of the presentness of the sacred among us, and to see the new possibilities of the now.

**All: God - heart of the world:  
revealed through every aspect of creation:  
understood through our awareness.  
May we honour the holiness of creation and act accordingly  
so that your love is reflected in the way we live.**

**May we always be thankful for the food we eat  
and the friends we have.**

**May we forgive those who transgress against us  
and be forgiven for our own.**

**In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat  
and not be compromised by hesitation.**

**Through our freedom, may your justice  
be seen and heard and experienced  
forever and ever. - Sherri J Weinberg**

**Parting Words**

Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.

As we do, may we embrace the challenges of our lives and our world...

As we leave this place of worship and celebration:

may we remember that each day offers more things than we can do.

**All: May we do what needs to be done,  
postpone what does not,  
and be at peace with what we can be and do.**

**Words of Blessing**

And now may the blessings of life be upon us, and upon this congregation.

May the memories we gather here give us hope for the future.

May the love that we share bring strength and joy to our hearts, and the peace of this community be with us until we meet again.

**All: Amen! May it be so!**

*This service of praise and worship had been adapted from  
a liturgy developed by Rex E Hunt for Pentecost 11C.*

**Hymn: *Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise***

**Postlude**



Greeters at the door today were Donald and Ron Yull.

The Offering was collected by Emma, Sarah and Matthew Werenchuk.

Nos sincères remerciements à Marcel Lavallée et Catherine Pycock pour la musique.

Please join us after the service for light refreshments provided through the efforts of kind volunteers.



**The Russeltown Church & Cemetery Trust Fund Committee held its annual meeting in June. As a non-profit we are able to provide tax receipts and sincerely appreciate any financial support received.**

**Donations may be sent to the:**

**Russeltown Church & Cemetery Fund  
c/o J. Pycock  
648 Rang Cowan  
Havelock, Quebec J0S 2C0**

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**Gordon Gilmore**

It is with great sadness that we announce Gordon Gilmore's passing on February 23, 2016. Gordon grew up on the Gilmore homestead on St. Charles Road. While living in Ontario, Gordon maintained his connection to the area and in particular with this church throughout his life. Our sincere condolences to his wife Patricia, his daughters and their families.

Gordon was baptized in this church, August 28, 1938.

*Baptism*  
*Gilmore*  
Gordon Herbert, son of Lawrence Herbert Gilmore, Farmer, and his wife Henrietta Pettis, of Russeltown, County of Huntington was born at Salabery de Valleyfield, province of Quebec on the sixteenth day of June in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty eight and was baptized by me in Russeltown United Church, County of Chateauguay on the twenty - eight day of August of the same year in the presence of the following witnesses.

*Witnesses* { Lawrence Herbert Gilmore  
Henrietta Pettis Gilmore

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**Rev. Karla Holmes  
Marcel Lavallée (organist)  
Catherine Pycock (soloist)**