



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022, 10:30am

Gathering Online

The service live stream will begin shortly before 10:30. However, there will be no sound until the service begins. You can find the stream on the FBCH Facebook page or from our website: fbchalifax.ca (click "Join us Online"). Services are also posted to the FBCH YouTube page on Sunday afternoon.

Prelude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Six Interludes -Bédard

Lighting of the Christ Candle

In the shadows of life, Jesus proclaims himself our guiding light. No matter where we are or what circumstances we find ourselves in, Jesus is with us.

We light this candle to remind us of the Light that never goes out.

Welcome

Rhonda Schofield

If joining on Facebook Live, we invite you to say hello to everyone by posting a comment to the live stream.

Call to Worship - Litany of Freedom

Kathy Schwartzentruber

Today we gather in celebration of one of the primary gifts of our Baptist heritage—freedom. Our congregation was born from the quest for freedom in 1827 and led our Province toward a greater religious freedom for all people. We continue to uphold the freedom of the individual and the congregation of First Baptist Church Halifax.

We celebrate Bible Freedom:

Every follower of Jesus has the freedom and right to interpret and apply Scripture under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

We celebrate Soul Freedom:

We are each accountable to God individually without the imposition of creed or the control of clergy or government.

We celebrate Church Freedom:

Baptist churches are free, under the Lordship of Christ, to determine their membership, leadership, doctrine and practice. No other church or group of churches can determine the practice of any other church.

We celebrate Religious Freedom:

Everyone should be able to worship (or not) as they feel led without unnecessary interference by the government.

Prayer of Approach

God, today we give you thanks for the freedoms of our faith tradition. Help us recognize also the responsibilities that come with our freedoms—that we each seek to follow in the Way of Jesus and contribute to the faith journeys of others and that we work to ensure all people have these rights that we cherish. Amen.

Hymn: Free to Worship, Free to Know

HENDON

Text by David Burroughs

Hymn Tune: HENDON is a familiar tune, best known as the tune for
Take My Life and Let It Be

Free to worship, free to know,
Bound by Spirit wind that flows,
Free to dream, to think and live
In the freedom Jesus gives.
In the freedom Jesus gives.

Free to worship, free to know,
Freedom's gift to all bestowed
Free to speak a dissenting voice
Trusting each to make the choice.
Trusting each to make the choice.

Free to worship, free to know,
Truth that stings but makes us grow
Free to lay old dogmas down
Choose a path to common ground.
Choose a path to common ground.

Responsive Psalm 23

Kathy Schwartzenruber

The Inclusive Bible Translation

O LORD, you are my shepherd—I want nothing more. You let me lie down in green meadows; you lead me beside restful waters: you refresh my soul. You guide me to lush pastures for the sake of your Name.

Even if I am surrounded by shadows of Death, I fear no danger, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff—they give me courage.

You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies, and you anoint my head with oil—my cup overflows!

Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house, O LORD, for days without end.

Children's Story

Rhonda Schofield

Children going into Primary-Grade 6 are invited to go to Godly Play following the Children's Story.

Today's Godly Play Story:

Knowing Jesus in a New Way - Known in the Morning

Doxology - OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Spoken Reflection & Scripture Readings

Marlene Knowles

Free to Be Free

Anthem

Sr. Choir

A Ukrainian Prayer -Rutter

translation: "Good Lord, protect Ukraine.

Give her strength, courage, faith, hope. Amen"

Prayers of the People

Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

FORGIVENESS

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) for each system. The lyrics are placed between the staves. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

Benediction

Marlene Knowles

Amen

Postlude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Piano

The Gift of Love -Hobson



Offerings

All contributions to FBCH support our mission and ministry and are greatly appreciated. Many choose to give by setting-up recurring contributions. You may also give to FBCH by making an e-transfer or by giving on-line through a link on our website. You can go to our website www.fbchalifax.ca and click on the Ways to Give link on our homepage for instructions on how to give.

Truth & Reconciliation

Each Sunday, we list one of the Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. These Calls to Action remind us of Jesus' calling to love God and love our neighbours. May they guide us to put loving justice into action.

Legacy: Justice

32. We call upon the federal government to amend the Criminal Code to allow trial judges, upon giving reasons, to depart from mandatory minimum sentences and restrictions on the use of conditional sentences.



Thank you to our live stream worship leaders

Marlene Knowles, President, Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms
Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, Past President, Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms
Kathy Schwartzenruber, Deacon Chair
Jean Ferguson, Coordinator of Congregational and Community Engagement
Rhonda Schofield, Interim Minister of Faith Development
Lynette Wahlstrom, Director of Music
Rusty Edwards, Senior Minister

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HALIFAX

Breaking Stereotypes Since 1827

The story of the early church in the New Testament is a story of the ever-expanding circle of those included in the community of Jesus. We believe that circle expands to include all people.

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances.

We really do want you to join us. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

Learn more about First Baptist Church Halifax at www.fbchalifax.ca or find us on FaceBook.