



“MY GOD IS A ROCK: MY ROCK AND MY REDEEMER”
October 9, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

I Love to Tell the Story

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Sung Praise Response

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

Choir

***Call to Worship and Opening Prayer (Adapted from Psalm 119)**

Carolyn Masters

Come into this sacred space to worship God

whose teaching is perfect;

whose directions are sure.

Come into this holy place to worship God

whose standards are right;

whose commandment is clear;

whose judgements are true.

Come with holy fear –

to be given life, and made wise,

to have your heart stirred and your eyes opened wide.

Come — let us worship God.

Let the words of our mouths and the whispering of our hearts

be according to your will, O God. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

Oh, Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

See last page for words

Confession and Assurance

All Praying

Pastor Debra

With hearts of sorrow, we come before you, O God, to confess what you already know—we have failed to keep your laws. Again and again, we have followed our own selfish will, rather than your holy and life-giving will for our lives. We have twisted your decrees and institutions to suit our preconceptions and interests rather than

your own. Forgive us, O God, and cleanse us from hidden faults, that the words of our mouths, and the meditations of all our hearts, may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

The Peace of Christ

Pastor Debra

The Lord continues to bring God's people from slavery into freedom. Through the power of the cross of Christ, we are being saved.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share signs of peace with one another.

Ministry of Music

Jesus is the Living Stone

Choir

See last page for words

Introduction to Psalm 61

Carolyn Masters

The title of Psalm 19 tells us both the author and the audience of the psalm: To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. Some believe that the Chief Musician is the Lord GOD, and others suppose him to be a leader of choirs or musicians in David's time, such as Heman the singer or Asaph, a musician and one of three Levites commissioned by David to be in charge of singing in the house of Yahweh. (1 Chronicles 6:33, 16:5-7, and 25:6).

C.S. Lewis wrote, "This Psalm reflects, more than any other, the beauty and splendor of the Hebrew poetry found in the Psalters. I take this to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world." (Willem VanGemeren)

Psalm 19

Carolyn Masters

¹The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

²Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

³They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

⁴Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵ It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

⁶It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sung Response

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land (Refrain)

*Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.*

Sermon

My Rock and My Redeemer

Pastor Debra

Affirmation of Faith

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

UMH 883

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Preparation for Prayer

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

FWS 2193

See words on last page

Prayer of Intercession

Pastor Debra

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory and Doxology

Here in Thy Temple

Carolyn Masters

We worship a God of abundance, from whose hands flow all the blessings of our lives. May we be spared the sin of using these blessings simply for our own pleasure and purposes. Give us right and generous hearts, O God, that your blessings may flow from our hands to those in need.

Doxology is Sung

Prayer of Dedication for the Offering

Carolyn Masters

The wisdom of the world tells us to hoard what we own, O God, while you invite us to share what we have with those in need. Accept these gifts for your purposes, that we may be your servants in the world.

Closing Hymn

Shine, Jesus, Shine

FWS 2173

See words on last page

You are invited to come to the altar rail for prayer during the singing of this hymn.

Benediction

Pastor Debra

Go now, with God's foolishness and weakness
as your only wisdom and strength.
Proclaim Christ crucified,
and seek riches only in the love of God's Word
and in zeal for God's house.

And may God's just demands be your nourishment & delight.
May Christ be the power and wisdom of God to you.
And may the Holy Spirit keep you, with thought and word,
in God's good grace.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Sung Response

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land (Refrain)

*Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.*

Postlude

Victory Through Christ

OH LORD, MY ROCK AND MY REDEEMER

*O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
greatest treasure of my longing soul,
My God, like You there is no other.
True delight is found in You alone.
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom,
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach;
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom,
My highest good, and my unending need.*

*O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Strong defender of my weary heart,
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver,
And my shield against his hateful darts,
My song when enemies surround me,
My hope when tides of sorrow rise,
My joy when trials are abounding,
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night.*

*O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Gracious Savior of my ruined life;
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders,
In my place You suffered, bled, and died.*

*You rose, the grave and death are conquered.
You broke my bonds of sin and shame.
You rose, the grave and death are conquered.
You broke my bonds of sin and shame.*

*O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
May all my days bring glory to Your Name.
May all my days bring glory to Your Name.*

JESUS IS THE LIVING STONE

*He is Jesus, Rock of Ages;
Our Messiah, the Prince of Peace;
Lord, our refuge, strength and power,
And His love will never cease.
He is Alpha and Omega;*

*The beginning and the end!
Our Redeemer, Master, Savior,
Jesus, Comforter and Friend.
Jesus is the firm foundation,
For our sins His blood atones.
He's the Rock, the mighty fortress,
Jesus is the Living Stone.*

*The foundation never wavered,
Like an anchor through every storm;
He's the Rock of our salvation;
He calms the raging storm.
Yesterday, today, forever,
His love reaches every man;
From His birth to heaven's glory,
Jesus Christ, the Great "I Am!"
Jesus is the firm foundation,
For our sins His blood atones.
He's the Rock, the mighty fortress,
Jesus is the Living Stone.
He's the Rock, the mighty fortress,
He is our God, the Living Stone,
He is the Living Stone!*

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

SHINE, JESUS SHINE

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory,
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire;
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy,
Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.*

*Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory,
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire;
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy,
Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.*

*Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory,
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire;
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy,
Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.*

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory,
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire;
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy,*

*Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.*