Kirkkopulletiini

OF FINNISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

May - June 2025

Jo joutui armas aika!

Kevät on Suvivirren aikaa. On ihanaa laulaa pimeän ajan jalkeen auringon lämmösta ja kukkimaan heräävän luonnon suloisuudesta. Suomalaisessa virsikirjassa onkin useita kevääseen ja kesään sopivia virsiä. Näistä tunnetuin ja rakkain on tietenkin Suvivirsi, jota edelleen lauletaan koulujen kevätjuhlissa, ylioppilasjuhlissa ja muissa valmistujaisjuhlissa. Suvivirsi on myös suosittu virsi alkukesän häissä ja kastejuhlissa.

Itselleni rakkaaksi on tullut myös eräs toinen alkukesän virsi, nimittäin nro 574 *On kaunis synnyinmaamme*. Virren sävelmä on valoisa ja juhlallinen ja sen sanat kuvailevat hienosti ihmistuntoja ja kiitollisuutta kesän suloisuuden keskellä Jumalan hyviä, runsaita lahjoja katsellen. Mutta eräs merkittävä syy virren vaikuttavuuteen mielestäni on myös sen tekijoiden, säveltäjän ja runoilijan elämänkohtalot. Virsitutkija Tauno Väinölä kirjoittaa säveltäjä Toivo Kuulasta ja runoilija Wäinö Havaksesta seuraavaa:

”Sävelmä on Toivo Kuulan viimeisiä sävellyksiä. Se syntyi sodan varjossa, huhtikuussa 1918 lähellä Viipuria, missä Kuula toimi orkesterinjohtajana. -- Maassa käytiin sotaa. Huhtikuun lopulla valkoiset valtasivat Viipurin. Vapunpäivänä Toivo Kuula osallistui vapautusjuhlintaan. Juhlissa sattunut välikohtaus päättyi siihen, että Kuulaa ammuttiin kuolettavasti; hän kuoli vasta 35-vuotiaana.”

Virren runoilija Wäinö Havas (1898-1941) osallistui 19-vuotiaana nuorukaisena myös äsken mainittuihin Viipurin taisteluihin, joissa hän haavoittui. Havas kuitenkin toipui, toimi myöhemmin Kivijärven kirkkoherrana ja taisteli sekä talvi- että jatkosodassa komppanianpäällikkönä. Hän kaatui rintamalla elokuussa 1941.

Tutkija Tauno Väinölä jatkaa vielä: ”*On kaunis synnyinmaamme* on keskikesän virsi ("ei yötä ollenkaan!"). Runoilija ylistää isänmaansa luonnon kauneutta ja Luojan töitä. Elämä tässä kauniissa maassa ei kuitenkaan ole huolettoman ihanaa, vaan "tiellä vaikealla maan helle uuvuttaa". Niinpä kesän tunnelmat johtavat mietiskelemään taivaan suven autuutta. ”Soi siellä virret toisin kuin täällä milloinkaan…” - pastori Marita –

The sweetness of summer

Spring is a lovely time to sing about the warmth of the sun and the sweetness of nature waking up to bloom after dark winter. The Finnish hymnbook contains several hymns suitable for spring and summer. The most famous and beloved of these is, of course, Suvivirsi, which is still sung at school spring celebrations, graduation ceremonies and other graduation celebrations. This summer hymn is also a popular hymn at weddings and baptisms in early summer.

I have also become fond of another hymn for early summer, namely no. 574 *On kaunis synnyinmaamme*. The melody is bright and solemn, and its lyrics beautifully describe human feelings and gratitude in the midst of the sweetness of summer, looking at God's good gifts. In my opinion, one big reason for the impact of the hymn is also the fates of its authors, the composer and the poet.

Hymn scholar Tauno Väinölä writes the following about composer Toivo Kuula and poet Wäinö Havas: "The melody is one of Toivo Kuula's last compositions. It was written in the shadow of the war, in April 1918 near Vyborg, where Kuula worked as an orchestra leader. -- There was a war going on in the country. At the end of April, the Whites took over Vyborg. On May Day, Toivo Kuula took part in the liberation celebrations. The incident that took place at the celebration ended with Kuula being fatally shot; he died only at the age of 35."

The poet of the hymn, Wäinö Havas (1898-1941), as a 19-year-old young man, also took part in the aforementioned battles of Vyborg, in which he was wounded. However, Havas recovered, later served as the vicar of Kivijärvi and fought in both the Winter War and the Continuation War as a company commander. He was killed at the front in August 1941.

Researcher Tauno Väinölä continues: "*Our homeland is beautiful, On kaunis synnyinmaamme* is the hymn of midsummer ("no night at all!"). The poet praises the natural beauty of his homeland and the works of the Creator. However, life in this beautiful country is not carelessly wonderful, but "along the way, on a difficult road, the heat exhausts us". Thus, the moods of summer lead us to contemplate the bliss of the summer in Heaven. "The hymns are played there unlike they ever were here..." - Pastor Marita –

YOUR COUNCIL IN ACTION:

In the months of March and April 2025, the FLC Council has been engaged with the following activities.

- Hired a professional cleaning service to clean the FLC building. This is planned to be a regular monthly operation going forward.
- Started to work on planning remodeling work included in the 2025 budget.

++

Photos from the spring time 2025



We had a joy and a blessing to have the baptismal celebration of an adorable baby during the service in March. The church was full of family and old and new friends rejoicing a new member of this family and also the big family of God.

On Palm Sunday people were decorating traditional Finnish Easter blessing branches, virpomavitsat. They are a northern version of the palm braches, with which people greet Jesus on his arrival to Jerusalem.



May and June at FLC

MAY

4th 10 am **service**, Third Sunday of Easter with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

4th 12 pm a **practice of Yoga of Stillness** after service and coffee in Maki Hall. Practice will take about an hour. Pastor Marita will conduct it only in Finnish language, but the physical practice is light, streching and easy to follow also without knowing Finnish. Please, bring your own training platform or yoga matt with you and clothes that you will feel comfortable to wear and move.

11th 10 am **service**, Fourth Sunday of Easter, **Mother's Day** with Church Choir, Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

18th 1 pm **service**, Fifth Sunday of Easter
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2650 148th Ave SE, Bellevue WA 98007
with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

18th 7 pm **Taize evening prayer** on Zoom with Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

25th 10 am **Holy Communion service**, Ascension of Our Lord with Finlandia Duo (Yvonne and Peter Vollan), Marita Toivonen and Maria Männistö

25th 12 pm a **practice of Yoga of Stillness** after service and coffee in Maki Hall. Practice will take about an hour. Pastor Marita will conduct it only in Finnish language. Please, bring your own training platform or yoga matt and clothes that you'll feel comfortable to wear and move.

JUNE

1st 10 am Seventh Sunday of Easter, **Kansanlaulukirkko** with FLC Orchestra, Church Choir, Livakat Evergreen Kantele Ensemble and Maria Männistö

8th 10 am **service**, Day of Pentecost with Nina Tetri-Mustonen and Maria Männistö

15th 1 pm **service**, The Holy Trinity, **Father's Day**
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2650 148th Ave SE, Bellevue WA 98007
with Nina Tetri-Mustonen and Maria Männistö

22nd 10 am **service** with Nina Tetri-Mustonen and Yvonne Vollan

29th 10 am **Holy Communion service** with Marita Toivonen and Finlandia Duo (Yvonne and Peter Vollan)

Hiljaisuuden joogasta – about Yoga of Stillness

Yoga of Stillness® is a form of Christian yoga developed by hospital chaplain and yoga teacher Heli Harjunpää, which combines gentle bodily exercise, calming of the mind and spirituality.

The Yoga of Stillness is suitable for everyone. Mercy and the love of God are central to it. In the Yoga of Stillness, you move from the outer world to the experiential, from complexity to simplicity and from the hustle and bustle of the mind to inner silence.

In the Yoga of Stillness, we join the Christian tradition with prayers, Bible texts and hymn words, which are combined with exercises and bodily prayers. In this way, faith, hope and love can be strengthened through the body.

Yoga of Stillness is related to the theology of mysticism and listening prayer. Yoga of Stillness exercises are the cultivation of silence with the whole being – body, mind and spirit. They open up towards inner silence, which is a spiritual dimension where the mind quiets down and there is room for experiencing God's presence.

Yoga is a general term for a collection of practice methods that have been practiced for thousands of years as part of a wide range of worldviews. The physical basis of the Yoga of Stillness exercises lies in restful basic yoga. There are many different types of yoga today, and there are also different Christian yoga styles.

In Yoga of Stillness, you learn to relate to your body in a gentle and realistic way. The body is in itself an innocent and valuable creation of God. Our bodies can also be instruments for serving God's love.

Source: Mitä on Hiljaisuuden jooga? - Hiljaisuuden Ystävät ry

Pastor Marita will conduct two practices in May at FLC Maki Hall, on Sunday 4th and 25th at noon, 12 pm. She will use only Finnish language, but the physical practice is light and easy to follow also without knowing Finnish. Exercises are free of charge, just bring your own yoga matt.



Kristillinen retriitti elokuussa – The retreat in August 2025

FLC is organizing a retreat for the third time. This year the retreat is in August from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th. This time the weekend retreat will be in Gwinwood Retreat Center, because of the closure of Fort Warden. Gwinwood is located about 60 miles south of Seattle, address 6015 30th Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503. We'll have Westwood building to stay and enjoy for ourselves. More information and photos on website: www.gwinwood.org

Retreat starts on Friday at 5/5.30 with arrival and accommodation and 6 pm dinner. It ends on Sunday around 1 pm after lunch. We will have also buffet style breakfast, two hot meals and coffee table on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. We are going to stay in 10 rooms with double and twin beds and shared bathrooms. If we have more than 10 people to participate, then we will share some rooms. You can already save the date, plan to join us and with whom you would like to share the room, if necessary. Bring your own bedding, toiletries, and towels. The price for the weekend with accommodation, meals and programm is 220 USD in a single room and 190 USD for a shared room. If you find that it's too much for you to participate, please, contact pastor Marita also in that case.

Your can sign up to pastor Marita via e-mail. Please, tell also your allergies and food diet if you have any, when signing up, so we can inform the kitchen staff about our them. Latest date to sign up is in the end of July.

++

Offeice hours during summer

Pastor Marita will be at FLC for office hours every Tuesday from 4 pm to 6 pm
and every Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm until May 27.

No office hours on June and in July-August only Thursday office hours at 10 am to noon.

You can come to meet pastor at the church or if you would like to meet in some other place
or pastor Marita to visit you, please let her know pastor@finnishlutheranchurch.org
or call the church phone 206 789 0864.

Finnish Lutheran Church
8504 - 13th Ave NW
Seattle WA 98117
Office phone: 206-789 0864
web page
http://www.finnishlutheranchurch.org

Finnish Lutheran Church is located in Crown Hill, serving all the Finns in the Washington State area and people with any interest in Finnish language or culture. We have services both in **English** and in **Finnish** with Finnish Liturgy **every Sunday at 10 am,** everybody is welcome! Finnish music is presented with our numerous and gifted members and friends. You are welcome to stay for a coffee and refreshments after church and get to know new people!

Finnish Lutheran Church

8504 13th Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98117