**ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH**

**June 7, 2020 Anniversary of Church Union**

**The 95th Birthday of The United Church of Canada**

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, June 7

Email absolute\_solutions@live.com to get the Zoom link.

**Prelude PPT Welcome Slide: Sanctuary**

**Welcome PPT: Focus fully on Jill**

**(Greeter – Jill)**

Welcome to the worship service of St. Andrew’s United Church,

In Sudbury Ontario.

In this challenging time of social distancing,

we ***can*** stay connected;

joined by God’s Spirit, we are One, as the Body of Christ.

Please join us also for Virtual Fellowship Time at 11:30 this Sunday morning – to get your Zoom link to that event, please contact Leslie Cassidy. Her contact information is published in our weekly NEWS emailed on Thursdays, and on Facebook page.

Now let us prepare for worship together.

**Candle-Lighting Focus on Dave**

**(Dave)**

**Candle for Diane’s 50th, Candle for our World today in turmoil:**

This is a high moment in our collective life –

It is the 50th anniversary of Diaconal Ministry for Diane Trollope

who is a special part of our St Andrew’s Community.

**Light Candle** We light a candle to celebrate the rich ministry of Diane.

It is also the 95th birthday of our United Church of Canada.

Today we will celebrate – singing and praying

and sharing a sacred meal together….

But we have come through a week that makes us think

about the power of words, the pain of violence,

as well as carrying in our hearts the longing for God’s dream to be real. So, maybe that is the way we come to any anniversary

– we remember good times and celebrate,

but we also recognize and speak of the pain and sadness

and disappointments are part of the story as well….

We do not dismiss or deny the pain, in fact,

even in this auspicious day, we will accompany in our prayers

sisters and brothers of colour in the United States, right here at home,

and around the world who are struggling for justice.

**Light Candle**

As we light this candle, holding vigil for all who are speaking out for justice,let us will commit once again to the shared vision of a world where we stand together.

**Acknowledging Traditional Territory** **PPT: Graphic**

For thousands of years, long before settlers came to this land,

First Peoples lived on and cared for the land.

We are thankful to the Creator for this land,

but we also recognize Canada’s colonial history

and the harm we have caused to indigenous peoples.

We acknowledge that St Andrew’s worships on the traditional territories

of the Atikemekshing Anishnawbek and the Wahnapitae First Nation.

We give thanks for their stewardship of this land,

and pray for, and will work towards just sharing of this land

and true reconciliation.

**Lighting the Christ Candle PPT: Photo of Inaugural Meeting UCC**

Last week was the Birthday of Christ’s Church.

This week marks the coming together of

3 major Canadian Denominations into one United Church of Canada.

Birth, that is a wonderful image, in all its forms,

including the birth of new things in each of us – a new outlook on life,

a new relationship, a new job, a new chapter in retirement.

I invite you to think about the aspects of your life needing transformation.

 **Focus on Dave**

The Bible often offers stories of how, in the most fearful moments,

new birth, new possibility came. Nothing is impossible for God.

We light this Christ Candle to celebrate a birth 95 years ago,

But also birth of something new in you, perhaps today.

As we light the candle, pray for Holy Possibility to be conceived today

And to be born anew in you and me…**[light candle and silence]**

**Call to Worship PPT: Text**

**(Bob plays and sings Hymn 396, verse 1)**

Jesus, stand among us in your risen power;

let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.

Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;

bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.

**Opening Prayer PPT: Graphic**

**(Jill)**

Let us pray, and these words are adapted from the opening prayer of the inaugural service of the United Church of Canada on June 10th,1925:

O God, who gave at Pentecost the gift of the Holy Spirit

to an expectant and united church 95 years ago, and brought

into one-fold that day three denominations:

grant us the hope of that same Pentecost Spirit in all our

life and worship, that we might aspire to great things for you, God.

Unite us in your love, may we shine with Christ’s love

so that glory may yours, world without end. We pray this along

with the prayer that Jesus taught…

**The Prayer Jesus Taught PPT: “Our Father...”**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn:** VU 315 ***Holy, Holy, Holy*** - verses 1,2,4 **PPT: Text**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,

casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

which were, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**Introducing the Crest Graphic: UCC Crest**

**(Dave)**

The newest version of The United Church of Canada crest on the screen.

This insignia is a spiritual and historic reminder to the members of the United Church across Canada. But how much do ***we*** know about it? How it was created, what the symbols mean.

This crest is the official signature of The United Church of Canada.

It is on all legal documents, and was ultimately designed by the Rev. Dr. Victor T. Mooney, who was Treasurer of the United Church at the time. In his own words:

“Shortly after the 1925 Union, the Executive had ordered that a seal be designed for the United Church…[but] no report was ever made to the Executive. The committee had appointed an expert in seals for documents, several designs were made, but they had not appealed to the committee.”

As Mooney himself put it:

***Because I was always doodling in the meetings, the then Moderator said, ‘Let’s appoint Mooney the chair of a new committee; he’s always doodling.’”***

In 1944 Mooney’s design was approved by the 11th General Council.

**All My Relations PPT: Graphic (Latin words)**

**(Catherine)**

The Latin words (“ut omnes unum sint,”) found on the lower left side mean “That all may be one” and are taken from John 17:21: “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.”

 **PPT: Graphic (Mohawk words)**

On the lower right side, we find the Mohawk phrase (*perhaps don’t try to pronounce* “Akwe Nia’Tetewá:neren,”) which means “all my relations.” This phrase connects with Jesus’ prayer and reflects the spirituality of Aboriginal peoples that acknowledges our interrelationship with all of creation.

 **Focus on Catherine**

With these words, we are reminded that we are both a united and uniting church. Our United Church of Canada was the first union of churches in the world to cross historical interdenominational lines.

We are also reminded by these words and from the those who offered them to us, that as a denomination we seek right relationship among all people and with creation itself.

**Bible Reading – John 20:19–22** [New Revised Standard Version] **PPT: Graphic**

**(Jill)**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

**Response to the Bible Reading**

Come, Holy Spirit, come, breathe into our hearts this day.

Bless our celebration, but also grant us wisdom as a church called to speak peace and justice within the crucible of racism and inequity.

Spirit grant us courage and compassion. Amen.

**Message Focus on Dave**

***(Dave to write.)***

**Offering Moment PPT: Graphic (Stewardship)**

*(Offering basket handy)*

This is a day of celebration of a legacy we inherit

in this United Church of Canada of ours.

Ponder your gifts that you bring today, that you bring to this world.

I invite you to connect with gratitude for your blessings,

and a recognition that this time more than ever

the church, the world needs you and me.

…Let us offer ourselves, our gifts to God. Now

if you already support St Andrew’s, thank you so much.

If you haven’t, yet, prayerfully consider. We love having partners,

and would be happy to answer questions you might have

Send us an email, **PPT: email address**

or go to our Facebook page,

or subscribe to our weekly email Newsletter, creatively called the NEWS

to find out what we are up to.

Thank you for all that you do out of love, my friends.

**Communion Hymn:** VU 480 ***Let Us Break Bread*** - all verses **PPT: Text**

Let us break bread together on our knees,

let us break bread together on our knees,

When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,

let us drink wine together on our knees,

When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,

let us praise God together on our knees,

When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

**Communion PPT: Text**

May God be with us.

**God is with us.**

Let us open our hearts to God.

**We open them to God and to one another.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

 **Focus on Dave, graphic on screen**

O Holy Wisdom of God,

we praise you and give you thanks,

and enter our struggle.

You opened wide your arms for us upon the cross,

becoming scandal for our sake,

that even the grave could become a bed of hope to your people.

Therefore, with those who are made refugees in their own land,

abandoned or betrayed by friends;

with those who have died alone

without dignity, comfort or hope;

and with all the company of saints

who have carried you in their wounds.

With those who are dehumanized because of the colour of their skins,

their cries for justice largely unheard.

May the spirit of the living Christ call our United Church,

Coming of age, to speak out for justice,

reaching out to offer healing.

Our voices join to praise you, saying:

 **PPT: Text**

Holy, holy, holy, vulnerable God.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna in the highest.

 **Focus on Dave, graphic on screen**

Blessed is our brother, Jesus,

who, before his suffering, earnestly desired

to eat with his companions the Passover of liberation.

**David breaks into 5 pieces.**

On the night that he was betrayed,

took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

“This is my body, which is for you.

Do this to remember me.”

**David drinks from cup.**

In the same way, after supper, he passed the cup, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this whenever you drink it,

to remember me.”

 **PPT: Text**

Remembering the death and celebrating the resurrection,

we await with hope the coming again

of compassion and justice to the earth.

**Prayers of the Community PPT: Graphic**

**(Catherine** stands up goes to corner/back of Communion Table, Dave on opposite side**)**

Holy God,

We are deeply disturbed, shocked and grieved.

We struggle with the world that just seems to get worse and worse and worse.

But we come to You in prayer, knowing You are with us, as we

Pray for our city.

Pray for the child who was maced.

Pray for the grieving and the broken-hearted.

Pray for justice.

Pray for Black Lives to really matter.

Pray for no more death.

Pray that we listen.

Pray that we learn.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Set our hearts on fire.

Purify us, cleanse us from sin, and restore us on the path of justice, mercy, love, and peace.

For You are our God.

You made us in Your image.

You sent Your son Jesus to us so that we might have life, now and always.

You sent Your Spirit to be with us forever, so that we might build Your reign on earth as it is in heaven, that we might fulfill the vision when all people of every nation and tribe and language come together, and know You are God, and know Your love and peace.

We pray for that day, and we pray for our hearts to turn to You, to do justice, to love mercy, and to go humbly in Your ways.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Amen.

 **Focus on Catherine and Dave, graphic on screen**

Therefore, as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we are proclaiming Christ’s death until he comes.

In this communion,

we restore to memory and hope

the broken and unremembered victims

of tyranny and sin;

and we long for the bread of tomorrow,

and the wine of the age to come.

Come then, life-giving Spirit of our God,

brood over these bodily things,

and make us one body with Christ,

that we may labour with creation

to be delivered from its bondage to decay,

into the glorious liberty

of all the children of God. Amen.

**(Dave)**

I invite you to take your bread, or muffin or rice cake

and either dip it in your juice or tea or coffee or eat and drink YOUR sacred elements separately – The Bread of Life… The Cup of Blessing in Christ.

***(Dave introduces final hymn)***

**Closing Hymn:** VU 313 ***“God, Whose Almighty Word”*** **PPT: Text**

God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard,

and took their flight,

hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day

sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.

Jesus, who came to bring on your redeeming wing,

healing and sight,

health to the troubled mind, sight to the Spirit-blind,

O now to humankind let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love, life-giving holy dove,

speed forth your flight;

move on the water’s face, bearing the lamp of grace,

and in earth’s darkest place let there be light.

Blessed and holy three, glorious trinity,

wisdom, love, might,

boundless as ocean’s tide rolling in fullest pride,

through the world far and wide, let there be light.

**Blessing PPT: Text**

Created and called to be faithful stewards,
we are sent forth by our God.
**We will take all that is good to places of brokenness,**
**all that is beautiful to those who live in despair.**

Called and commissioned to be faithful disciples,
we are sent forth by Jesus, Word of hope.
**We follow Jesus to every place he would lead us,**
**to every person who will bless us.**

Called and filled with the very breath of peace,
we are sent forth by the Spirit, God’s grace.
**We will join the Spirit in bring life where there is fear,**
**in offering love where hate seeks to take hold.**
 **Focus on Dave, graphic on screen**

And now, may the peace of creation’s Imagination,
the peace of grace’s Word,
the peace of hope’s Spirit,
and the deep, deep peace
of God in Community, Holy in One,
be with you this day and for always.  Amen.

Please help me to pray our regular blessing prayer given to us

by our United Church Moderator, Richard Bott:

 **PPT: Text**

**Creator God: help us to reach out with our hearts**

**when we can't touch with our hands;**

**help us to be socially connected,**

**when we have to be socially distant;**

**help us to love as perfectly as we can,**

**knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear." Alleluia! Amen.**

**Postlude PPT: Several slides, 10-15 seconds each**

**Call to Worship:** William Pennefather, 1873, found in “Voices United: The Hymn and Worship Book of The United Church of Canada.” © 1996 The United Church Publishing House.

**Opening Prayer:** From “Celebrate God’s Presence: from Celebrate God’s Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada.” Copyright © 2000 The United Church Publishing House. Words adapted from the opening prayer of the inaugural service of The United Church of Canada, June 10th, 1925.

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**Response to the Bible Reading:** Rev. Rex A.E. Hunt. https://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/

**Communion Setting:** From “Celebrate God’s Presence: from Celebrate God’s Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada.” Copyright © 2000 The United Church Publishing House. This was used by the General Council Executive of the United Church during a service of repentance in1998. The service took place soon after making the official apology to First Nations peoples for the church’s role in the abuses stemming from the residential school system.

**Prayers of the Community:** Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, written May 30, 2020. http://rev-o-lution.org/2020/05/30/for-the-holy-spirit-and-for-justice-come-a-prayer/

**Blessing:** Thom M. Shuman http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/ © 2020.

**Closing Words:** Written by our Moderator, The Rev. Dr. Richard Bott.

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