**ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH**

**June 21, 2020, 3rd After Pentecost**

**National Indigenous Peoples Day**

Welcome to Worship, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, June 21

Email [absolute\_solutions@live.com](mailto:absolute_solutions@live.com) to get the Zoom link.

**Prelude PPT: Welcome Slide**

**Welcome PPT: Graphic**

**(Greeter – Brennan)**

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

In Sudbury Ontario.

In this challenging time where we must maintain physical distancing,

it is more important than ever to stay connected,

to experience the Spirit’s connecting work within us,

around us, and connecting our world when our world,

more than ever, needs God’s unifying, justice-bringing work.

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 our Facebook page.

Now let us prepare for worship together.

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

We lovingly acknowledge the land and territory that we pray on

as a community of faith.

We acknowledge and pray for the peoples, ancestors, and presence of the Indigenous peoples

of the Atikemekshing Anishnawbek and the Wahnapitae First Nation.

What First Nation traditional territory are you on this morning?

We also acknowledge all of the Indigenous, Métis, and Inuit of this great land of Turtle Island and their ancestors, and all seven generations before and after us as individuals, as a church community

and as a country of Canada. We have great work to do

to bring Healing and Reconciliation – God grant us the courage and integrity to be about that work now and in the days, months and years to come.

**Lighting the Christ Candle PPT: Graphic**

As we prepare for this worship,

I want to share with you a very sacred moment

in the history of our United Church of Canada.

When our Moderator apologized to our Indigenous sisters and brothers

for the enormous damage our denomination caused

by our active administration of Residential Schools for decades, he said:

*We as a United Church confused Western ways and culture*

*with the depth and breadth and length and height of the gospel of Christ.*

Ponder that image – the enormity of the Gospel of Christ,

given to us to love all people, without condition.

We unlearn the colonial ways that imposed European ways

on the people who were on this land long before settlers.

We learn to be channels of God’s healing and peace.

Learning… growing… let us bring that spirit of openness in us today.

Seeking healing & forgiveness, offering love and forgiveness.

Like breath flows: in and out, so the Spirit flows, in and out.

Experiencing love … Sharing love. Breathing, in and out.

You and I are children of a Gentle, Creative, Loving Creator…

Let love flow in and through you as Spirit does …

**[light candle and silence]**

**Call to Worship PPT: Text**

**(Brennan)**

One: We call upon the light, God’s light.

The light shall shine upon and within us.

**All: The light is God and it is great.**

One: It shall encourage us, strengthen us, guide us,

protect us, shield us, love us, empower us, ground us, give us wisdom and the actions of God’s Holy Spirit.

**All: The light is calm. The light is never rushed.**

**The light knows no time. The light is the Holy Spirit.**

One: We sense the light; we know, feel, and smell the light.

It is like pure joy. Jesus was created by the light, truly God’s light.

**All: It shall never leave us.**

One: With all you have given and taught us, forgive us, loving God,

for the times when we have rejected your light.

*(pause for a 20 seconds for silent reflection)*

Allow us to accept the light and creation of the lives we each lead.

**All: We love you, God. We love you, Holy Spirit.**

**We love you, Jesus.**

**Opening Prayer PPT: Graphic**

**(Brennan)**

Let us pray:

God-Who-Made-Us, you made us to be connected by Spirit and as one body in Christ, but right now, we are often fractured and disconnected. Some of us feeling lonely, maybe forgotten, but God, you see us and know us, and weave us together even when we cannot be together in person. Nudge our hearts to remember that we each have purpose, each with gifts to share with each other and the world. Spirit of God, descend upon us in our physically separate spaces, knit us together into the tapestry, colourful, even strange at first glance, but wonderful in your eyes. This we pray 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.**

**STOP**

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**Hymn:** VU 117 ***Jesus Christ is Waiting v. 1, 4, 5*** **PPT: Text**

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;

no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.

Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,

where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.

On suspicion’s graveyard let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,

“Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.”

Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.

Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

**Bible Reading: Matthew 10:24-27, 34-39 PPT: Graphic**

**(Brennan)**

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

**Response**

Spirit, speak to us that we might listen with hearts and minds.

Christ, inspire us to act daily in loving and healing ways. Amen

**Message: *Unsettling Truthfulness* PPT: Message Title**

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**Hymn:** VU 612 ***There is a Balm in Gilead v. 1,2* PPT: Text**

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work’s in vain,

but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,

you can tell the love of Jesus and say, “He died for all.”

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

**PPT: Graphic**

**Minute for Mission Camera: Focus on Speaker**

**(\*CATHERINE) “Forward into Reconciliation”**

Reconciliation requires not only remembering and atoning for the past but also working actively to change present structures so that no more Indigenous children are harmed by Canadian policies. As survivor and Elder Donna Kennedy says, “I am not here for me. I am here for my children, my grandchildren, and the children to come.”

Survivor and Elder Lorna Standingready reminds us that for all the loneliness, hunger, and fear that children in residential schools endured, “We are resilient and strong; we are survivors. We haven’t lost our laughter.” And she says, “We are waiting for the good words of 2015 to be fulfilled.”

We must acknowledge not just hardship but also resilience. Please commit to doing your part to fulfill the Calls to Action, and help bring forward a transformed relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Let us now reflect and engage in the prayer by Carolyn Wilson Wynne from one of the services prepared for Indigenous Day of Prayer 2020:

*Creator God, Great Spirit, whose compassion has been known in our lives more times than we can count, we open our hearts and souls to the needs of this world. On this Indigenous Day of Prayer, we acknowledge the great injustices perpetrated against those who lived on and cared for this land long before our ancestors arrived. We pray that with compassion and determination we will continue to make ourselves aware of the impact of Residential Schools, the Sixties Scoop, and the suppression of Indigenous culture and tradition so that the legacy of colonization is acknowledged by each of us.*

*Creator God, Great Spirit, you call us to relationships rooted in equality and respect. This day we covenant to be more aware of the racism that the Indigenous, Métis, and Inuit people of this country experience. We commit ourselves to raise our voices when we hear prejudiced comments, to guide others in the sacred direction of celebrating diversity that is your gift to humanity.*

*Creator God, Great Spirit, in the quiet of our hearts and through the witness of our beings we pray thanks for Your accompaniment on the journey toward individual and communal wisdom and understanding. Let us who are the Church stand in solidarity and true to Jesus’ call to reconcile with sisters and brothers. Creator God, Great Spirit, hear our prayers and guide our actions from this moment on.*

May our gifts to the Mission & Service of the United Church of Canada be given with a reconciling spirit. And our living be a living example of right relations. If you are already giving to M&S, thank you so much. Loving our neighbour is how we are to live with each other, and is the heart of our faith.

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

*(Offering basket handy)*

We are gifted first with all that we are, all that we have.

Gifts flow first from our Creator, then through us to community, world.

As Christians, today, celebrating our Indigenous neighbours,

we give with humility knowing how truly human we are.

In that spirit of humility, love and repentance,

consider today how you might be generous

in a spirit of healing, bringing reconciliation to those around you.

If you already contribute towards St Andrew’s

and thereby are a partner in all the great work we do, thank you!

Know that in the work towards Reconciliation with First Nations sisters and brothers, your contributions to Mission and Service

are used in many different ways to bring healing.

If you are not yet contributing either your money or volunteer time,

consider that possibility prayerfully.

If you have any questions about how you can become involved,

visit our Facebook page, or send us an email,

**PPT: email address**

and ask to subscribe to our weekly email Newsletter.

Thank you for all that you do out of love.

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**Offering Hymn:** VU 540 ***Grant Us, God, the Grace* PPT: Text**

Grant us, God, the grace of living, with a spirit large and free,

that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.

**Prayers of the Community PPT: Graphic**

**(Catherine)**

Our service today has offered an invitation to continue the work of dreaming, imagining, and opening ourselves to the kaleidoscope of ways God is inviting us to be builders of reconciliation. This work is done with gentleness; it is patient; it speaks truth; but it takes courage and it takes bravery to walk this path.

So, I invite you to consider your own relationships.  Picture the people you need to reach out to this week, so that you might begin the work of reconciliation. Picture those people held in the palm of Creator’s hand.  Pray for wisdom and direction to take a breath, to breath in God’s spirit of new beginnings, and try again.

Of all the famous and timely prayers offered for reconciliation, the one that offers the best roadmap for me is from St. Francis of Assisi:

Let us pray….

God, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon,

Where there is doubt, faith,

Where there is despair, hope,

Where there is darkness, light,

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much be seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Dear God, make this dream known in our living.  Open our hearts and souls to your leading, your guiding, your prompting.  Give us new ways of being, chances to see unique opportunities rather than old paradigms.  Give us the courage to walk the path of peace with creation, peace with our neighbours, peace in our community, and be at peace, with you, God.

Thank you for nudges that enable us to try again. Thank you for dreams and wisdom to guide us. Today, help us to stand with all of our sisters and brothers. Amen.

**STOP**

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**Closing Hymn:** VU 652 ***Be Still My Soul v. 1, 3*** **PPT: Text**

Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;

bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,

who through all changes faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend

through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on

when we shall be forever in God’s peace;

when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,

love’s joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.

Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,

all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

**Treaty People’s Creed & Blessing PPT: Text**

**(Dave)**

Will you join me in this Treaty People’s Creed

as a blessing we share, you and I,

but hopefully also seeking healing with the First Peoples of this land:

**We are, all of us, Treaty People:**

**original inhabitants and those who came later—**

**inheritors of a diverse history,**

**dwellers in a common land,**

**travellers toward a better day.**

**We have known friendship and animosity,**

**cooperation and oppression, blessing and pain.**

**And now we embrace the sacred covenant**

**that heralds a new beginning:**

**that softens the heart and dismantles**

**the prisons of the present and the past.**

**We joyfully claim our rights and responsibilities**

**as Treaty People.**

And the blessing from our United Church Moderator, Richard Bott:

**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:** “Nîpin, Summer Is Here” worship service for the Indigenous Day of Prayer. © 2019 The United Church of Canada/L’Église Unie du Canada.

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**Prayers of the Community:** From *Pastoral Prayers to Share: Year A* by David Sparks. Copyright © 2010 David Sparks, Wood Lake Publishing Inc. Used by permission.

**Treaty People’s Creed:** “Treaty People’s Creed” (2011), The All My Relations Network of Saskatchewan Conference.

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