

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

September 27, 2020

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, September 27th

Email dave@st-andrews.ca to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Welcome

Welcome to worship. In this moment, we turn to God. We settle into stillness. We set aside the burdens of our daily lives. We ask for spaciousness, that we might listen deeply and touch the place of God's holiness that exists in each one of us.

Here we are -again- in the sanctuary at St. Andrew's United Church on Larch Street in Sudbury. Our church council made the decision to continue to meet virtually one more week, and then if the news about our community's well-being is good, next week, a small group of twenty people will join us for worship in the sanctuary. That service will be taped and posted to you tube, for those who are not feeling quite ready to return to in-person worship. We will keep you informed. Please continue to check emails, our Facebook page, the church website or call the church office for more information.

On Sunday at 11:30 a.m., you are warmly invited to join Coffee Hosts, Bev, Diane, and Rev. Dave for virtual coffee time. Links to coffee time are in the NEWS or contact Rev. Dave for further information.

Now, we begin – turning, settling, setting aside, asking, seeking the presence of God. Now, let us worship God.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

This is holy ground, very sacred to us. Sacred especially to the First Peoples on whose land we worship this morning. We, here at St. Andrew's United Church, worship on the traditional territories both of the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, land where the Robinson Huron Treaty was made in 1850, a Treaty that was never honoured by the colonizers of this land. Whose traditional territory are you worshipping on today?

We recognize the long history of our First Nations and Métis peoples, we give thanks for their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. Let us, all of us, Treaty people, commit ourselves anew to the work of healing, justice and reconciliation.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We take a deep cleansing breath as we prepare to worship. We light this Christ Candle Symbolizing our desire for wisdom for our journey, and the fire of hope we seek from our Creator.

Come, O Holy Spirit: come as Holy Fire and burn in us, come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within, come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance, come as Holy Power and enable our weakness, come as Holy Life and dwell in us. Convict us, convert us, consecrate us, until we are set free from the service of ourselves, to be your servants to the world. Amen. [Light Candle]

Call to Worship

One: In each breath this day,

All: may there be peace.

One: In each step this day,

All: may there be grace.

One: In each word this day,

All: may there be compassion.

One: Creator, Sustainer & Spirit be with us in our worship and in our faithful living that follows.
This we pray along with the prayer that Jesus taught...

VU 959 *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Hymn: MV 1 *Let Us Build a House*

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Bible Readings

Psalm 78:1-7 (VU p. 792, Part One)

Refrain: We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.

Give heed to my teaching, O my people,
turn your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will reveal the hidden meaning of things in the past.

What we have heard and known,
what our parents have told us,
we will not hide from their grandchildren,

**but declare to the next generation
the testimony that you gave to Jacob
and the law you appointed in Israel,
which you commanded them to teach their children,**

that the next generation might know them, children yet unborn,
and these in turn should arise, and tell their children,

**that they should put their trust in you,
and not forget your great deeds,
but keep all your commandments.**

Refrain: We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.

Matthew 21:28-32

This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew. It might be helpful for you to know that just before Jesus tells this story, the religious elite have been questioning what authority Jesus claims to have as he performs miracles and teaches.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Response to the Readings

Disrupt our comfortable attitudes and assumptions with your Living Word, Holy God. May your kind-dom vision usher into our world a spirit of reconciliation and radical love, and it begin with us. Amen.

Message:

Not available at time of printing.

Hymn: VU 595 We are Pilgrims (Servant Song)

1. We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
2. Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Minute for Right Relations

Phyllis was delighted with the bright orange shirt that her grandmother gave her to wear on her first day at St. Joseph's Mission residential school in British Columbia. But when Phyllis arrived at the school, her clothes were taken away and she was given a uniform. Phyllis never saw that orange shirt again. She was very hurt and left with a feeling of worthlessness.

A reunion of the school was held in 2013, with events designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the on-going process of reconciliation.

Phyllis (Jack) Webstad told the story of her orange shirt at that reunion. Since then, every year Orange Shirt Day is held on September 30, the time of year that children were taken from their homes to residential schools. It is an opportunity for children and adults to learn about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they left behind.

Show your commitment to reconciliation by wearing an orange shirt on September 30. For more information, go to www.orangeshirtday.org

Offering Moment

So here we are, preparing to go into a busy world where I'm the first to say that it is challenging to focus on spiritual things. Perhaps to focus our spiritual lens we begin all things, all our actions, all our decisions, on first focusing on how blessed we are. Big blessings, small blessings. All blessings come from God. Gratitude, humility, and even a sense of how fragile this is. We as humans, this Creation around us – all in fragile balance. How blessed we are to be woven into this universe – made from star dust, as our Moderator Richard Bott prays.

So may our generosity with our selves and our time, come out of that sense of gratitude for what we have. If you already contribute your time, your treasures towards the many ministries of St. Andrew's and to the United Church of Canada's Mission & Service – THANK YOU. If you are still thinking about being a part God's work here, may you be blessed in your prayerful pondering.

Visit our website and our Facebook pages – you will find the coordinates for those at the end of this worship service – you can even donate via the Canada Helps button by clicking on the Donate button on our website. If you have any questions about what we do at St. Andrew's or how you can get involved, please call or email us. You might also ask to be added to our weekly Newsletter email list so you can keep up to date on how we make a difference, you, all of us.

I invite you to hold out your hand, imagine the things you do and give to bless your church and world: God, transform us anew today to be ever more generous with our spirits, our time, our treasures, to care for ourselves, to radically love every neighbour we meet, and to love and care for your Creation. Amen.

Offering Hymn: Excerpt from *Loving and Forgiving* by Scott Soper

"Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord; slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving and forgiving are you."

Prayers of the Community

Today is Orange Shirt Day. We are called to remember the sad impact of the residential school system on our country; first and most central, the impact on Indigenous families, and also on the ways that education was taught in this land and how truth was glossed over; on settlers and newcomers, the impact of on-going decisions for families today. Every time, we learn to welcome someone as they are, we are helping to heal. Every time we show friendship, inclusion, and kindness, we are helping to heal. Every time we stand up for dignity, we are helping to heal.

Let us pray: God our Creator, you heal broken hearts with your love. Help us to be the living signs of your healing heart. Open us wide enough to risk the welcome, to choose inclusion, to stand up for another person's dignity, as we walk your healing path. We pray for healing.

God our Creator, give us compassion, that we might risk kindness and comfort to our neighbour who is in pain. Help us to walk together with our Indigenous sisters and brothers in better ways. Plant in our hearts the best intentions, that we might find the patience and the courage to live in good ways, to hear your word, to say and do what is right, to care for our neighbours. We pray for compassion.

God our Creator, give us your hope to trust in your promises, to work for justice, to follow your leading, to bring your light and healing to the world. We pray for hope.

God our Creator, we pray for families, for love and second chances, for care, for children and parents, and wide circles of aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents who help us know your love in a melody of different and unique ways. We pray for families.

God our Creator, we are facing many challenges at this time. We each need a reminder of your gentle and healing way. Teach us how to live respectfully, fully, generously with all people, and with all of creation. We pray for strength.

God our Creator, in silence we offer our prayers... especially we pray for Tracey and Mitch who will be married later today. Thank you for this blessed day. For the friends of Dorothy Johnson, who mourn her passing as they gathered to celebrate her life this week. Thank you for grace and healing.

May all glory, praise and thanksgiving be shown to you, God of all mercies and compassion, Jesus, guardian and keeper of our souls, and Spirit, our peace and our communion. Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU 580 *Faith of Our Fathers*

1. Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy, whene'er we hear that glorious word:
faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.
2. Faith of our mothers, daring faith, your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole, making love known and freedom real:
faith of our mothers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.
3. Faith of our sisters, brothers too, who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark, the cross of Christ still burning bright:
faith for today, O living faith, we will be true to you till death.
4. Faith born of God, O call us yet; bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith, we will be true to you till death.

Blessing

Let us have the same mind as God; may we see each person we meet as God's child. Amen?

Amen!

Let us have the same justice as Jesus; may we accompany, struggle with, every person we know who struggles. Amen?

Amen!

May the Spirit inflate our sense of hope in all we do; may we be inspired never give up on people because God never gives up on us. Amen?

Amen!

Postlude

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