

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

June 27, 2021

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Email sketchingalong4@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Hymn: MV 161 *I Have Called You by Your Name, vv. 1-3*

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.
2. I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.
3. I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to St. Andrew's United Church, a community of faith in Sudbury, Ontario. In this photo you see a very proud Mohammad Qarqouz who is graduating from high school along with very special friends from St Andrew's, Jane and Joyce. Mohammad also received a very special bursary, an award for students who overcome significant obstacles in order to complete their high school diploma. Congratulations Mohammad and to the Qarqouz family!

If you are joining us for the first time today, thank you and welcome. At the end of the service, there will be information about how to contact us – via email, facebook, and even by phone.

Special invitation to our Virtual St Andrew's Picnic on Zoom, live at 11:30 today, Sunday June 27. We also have a Virtual Fellowship time tonight at 7 p.m. hosted by Bev and Diane. Information on how to join this evening's fellowship time is included at the end of the service.

As we prepare to worship, let us take a quiet moment ... [silence]

Inviting Holy Light

The light is all around us – a sign of the season for us as northern people.

[Light candle in silence]

The flame of this Christ candle reminds us of the beauty and presence of the light that paints the sky, bathes the land, and brightens our path. Thanks be to Creator for fire and sun, for flame and symbol.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Here we are worshipping on the traditional land to the First Peoples. Across Turtle Island, Treaties were made between colonizers and those who had lived on the land for millennia. Here at St. Andrew's we give thanks to the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikemeksheng Anishnabek who call this territory home. We have a responsibility implied by those ancient and sacred Treaties to share the caretaking of this land with Indigenous neighbours. We give thanks for the current and historic contributions that First Nations and Metis peoples have made. May we journey and act together towards Reconciliation.

Call to Worship

We come with all our hopes and longings;

We gather in worship, God. We open our hearts to you.

We come to find rest for our souls;

We gather in worship, God – we seek your Grace.

We come with all our disappointments and dreams;

We gather in worship, God – we seek your Spirit that enlivens dreams.

We come to gain strength for our lives.

We gather here to worship you, God.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray: God of all our longings, you are the fire that kindles our hearts with hope and possibility. You fill us with desire for life, and you hear our voices whether we shout for joy or cry out with sorrow. We trust in you and give thanks for your presence in all the stages of our lives. Help us to be open to the movement of your Holy Spirit in your world.

The Prayer Jesus Taught

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: MV 157 *I am a Child of God, vs. 1*

1. I am a child of God,

I am a glimpse of God's new creation.

I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

Time Up Front

Have you ever felt desperation? What I mean is that something happens that you might lose something very special to you, you are willing to do anything, risk everything to save it.

Have you ever felt that way? We know that there are many people in our world who feel that way every day – they are desperate because they don't have enough food, or they are in danger.

Well today's story tells us that a woman, the storyteller doesn't give her a name, I think she deserves a name so I'll call her Grace. Grace has a condition where she is losing blood all the time, you need blood to live. And because she is sick, the way things worked long, long ago, when you are sick, people don't bother with you. They actually avoid you. She would have been very lonely, tired, and desperate.

She heard about Jesus coming, word was out that he was a healer. She took a big risk going up to him and touching his clothes. People could have done terrible things to Grace for what she did, touching a person, a special person.

But what startles all of us is how Jesus reacted. He knew that someone touched him and he wanted to know who. Now the people around him might have thought that Jesus was mad, but when the woman spoke to him, he saw her. He loved her, he used a special name "daughter" and admired her.

Sometimes we have to risk everything for faith, for love. It might be your mom or dad who drop their smart phone into the pool – watch them jump into the pool clothes and all to get it!

What about you, what will you risk everything for? Love? Someone you love is very sick, you hold their hand, and pray like it is the only hope that they will get better. That is a beautiful kind of risk, out of love and care. Jesus sees us.

Hymn: MV 157 I am a Child of God, vs. 1

1. I am a child of God,
I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

Scripture Reading (Betty McFarlane & Suzanne Nykilchyk)

Mark 5: 25-34

Betty:

Today's Gospel story by the writer Mark, chapter 5, verses 25 through 34. This is a story celebrating God's healing spirit that reconnects the most vulnerable with community.

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."

Action (Suzanne): sits up on knees and reach out hand.

Betty:

Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.

Action: bows head down to ground and stretches arms in front, as if bowing in prayer, or before a sovereign.

Betty:

He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Action: comes up from the floor and stands up proudly.

Let us pray: God of fresh starts and new beginnings, God of hope and promise, flesh and spirit entwined to become one with you in Christ. Increase our depth of understanding as we receive the words of scripture this day. God of eternal life, teach us to walk in the footsteps and spirit of Jesus, which so many ancestors have travelled before us. Amen.

Message: Jesus saw her, do you? (Suzanne Nikylchyk)

Message not available at time of printing.

Rev. Dave:

So many who are, or at least feel, unseen in our world today. This certainly was the case for the outcasts, the sick of Jesus' time. Suzanne and I felt that this previously unnamed woman Deserved a name, a story and her story being told.

How many heroes are there in our world today. Women, children, people who don't have pulpit or pedestal to speak from and to be seen? This week's worship is about bravery, and faith. In desperation, nothing to lose, a woman who took great risk. And God, enfleshed in Jesus, a very annoying high-profile person. His handlers, otherwise known as the disciples, they wanted to hustle him to his next commitment. Jesus, feet firmly planted in the present moment, says "No." Someone touched me, I want to find that person.

I invite you this week to "see" – by that I mean, to notice, to intentionally look for – the people who typically you might not pay attention to. Driving down the street, notice the alleyways, people on

the ground. Notice on television the people that the camera skims past. Pray that we might see with our Creator's eyes. Amen.

Hymn: MV 12 *Come Touch our Hearts, vv. 1-3*

1. Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice;
to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.

2. Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.

3. Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom,
come touch and bless our minds.

Minute for Right Relations (Betty McFarlane)

Indigenous Day of Prayer, the Sunday before National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21), this past week, was an opportunity to celebrate First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples' values, customs, languages, and culture. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. In 1971, the observance of June 21 as a National Indigenous Day of Prayer was formally recognized by The United Church of Canada at the 24th General Council. This date was chosen because it is near or on the date of the summer solstice, part of many First Nations' spiritual and cultural celebrations.

This day is an opportunity to learn about the People who were here thousands of years before any settlers came and to act in supporting the rights and sovereignty of all Indigenous Peoples. Joining in the celebrations across Canada is a wonderful way to learn more about Indigenous Peoples and culture in your area.

This past Monday, I and some dear friends from St. Andrew's met at the Apology Cairn. We read the story of that apology and we prayed together at the Cairn; it was an emotional time for me.

You still can celebrate Indigenous culture in many ways:

1. Prepare a traditional Indigenous recipe with your children or grandchildren.
2. Share music with your family by indigenous musicians and singers.
3. Read a book (child's or adult's) by an indigenous author. The Right Relations Team Summer Reading List was sent with the NEWS in May, and can be found on the St. Andrew's website.
4. Read The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the framework for reconciliation across all sectors of Canadian society.
5. Read about the 94 calls to action on the Truth and Reconciliation Report that addresses the tragedy of Residential Schools.
6. Acknowledge that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples are the original peoples of this country. They have Treaty, constitutional, and human rights that must be recognized and respected.
7. Research the impact of colonialism on Indigenous peoples' education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, administration of justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity.

8. Read about the progress in addressing the unsafe drinking water on reserves and how far we have yet to go. Think of your own clean water.
9. The Manitou Intentional Learning Community (MILC) and the Canadian Shield Right Relations Resource Team (RRRT) have created a resource called A Pilgrimage for Reconciliation – a resource that shares the history of The Apology to First Nation Peoples, the Apology Cairn, Calls to Action, and much more. A “Pilgrimage for Reconciliation” is posted on our St. Andrew’s website and was sent with the NEWS last week.
10. The Indigenous Solidarity Team of the North Bay and Area United Church Mission Cluster created a Service of Worship inspired by water. Email solidarityteamnorthbay@gmail.com if you would like a copy.

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer

Thank you for your generosity to God’s Church, locally and globally, and for all you will do this week to make this world kinder, and more generous in spirit and love. If you would like to join me, as you think about what you plan to give, to church, of yourself to God this coming week, we can hold our hands out, offering...

Let us pray: Loving God, accept these gifts we bring. May they be a symbol of our desire and commitment to play our part in your unfolding story of love. Amen.

Dedication Hymn: MV 182 *Grateful, vs. 1*

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,
 joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.
 Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,
 joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

1. You are more than we imagine, Ancient, Holy, Living Lord.
 Even when we doubt your presence you are faithful to your Word.

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,
 joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.
 Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,
 joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

Prayers of Community

*Lift hands in the air each time Rev. Dave says “O God, hear our prayers.”
 When Rev. Dave says “Hear our cry” lower your hands and relax.
 It is as if we are gently holding up our prayers to God.*

Loving God, we give you thanks for the beauty of life, Creation, we within it, the canvas on which you paint with rainbow colours. Thank you for every goodness in our lives. We are truly grateful for your presence within and around us, for the freedoms we share, and for the opportunities that lie before us. We offer first our prayers for ourselves and for our world. God, hear our prayers... hear our cry.

We pray for an end to violence in homes, our own homes perhaps, in our communities, and between the nations of beloved Earth. In this moment of silence I invite you to remember out loud or quietly those in the world where there is violence... silence... God, hear our prayer... hear our cry.

We pray for all those who are struggling to resist evil and promote justice – those whom we know about and those who struggle on silently without our knowledge. Let us remember in this silent moment for those whose faith and conviction compel them to struggle, often at great risk... silence ... God, hear our prayers ... hear our cry.

We pray for those suffering in mind, body, or spirit; for those who mourn, and those who are facing death. Let us remember as the Spirit might move us, for those who suffer, wherever they may be... silence ... O God, hear our prayers... hear our cry.

We pray for our Mother Earth and for all those who are acting on her behalf. May their actions be fruitful, bringing healing and wholeness to all of your creation. In silence we remember all who are brave, committed, many heroes whose names most do not know... silence ... God, hear our prayers ... hear our cry.

We offer to you all the prayers from the depth and sincerity of our hearts, O God. Amen

Closing Hymn: VU 510 *We Have this Ministry, vv. 1 & 2*

1. We have this ministry and we are not discouraged;
it is by God's own power that we may live and serve.
Openly we share God's word, speaking truth as we believe,
praying that the shadowed world may healing light receive.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.

2. O Christ, the tree of life, our end and our beginning,
we grow to fullest flower when rooted in your love.
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay, called to service by your grace,
different cultures, different gifts, the young and old a place.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.

Blessing

Go now to where you find friends and neighbors,
as well as family and strangers.

We will share that never-ending love of the Healer of all.

Go now, with that faith which dares to touch the outcast,
with hearts that break for the pain of others.

We will share the compassion of the Friend of the broken.

Go now, carrying word and wonder to a weary world,
waiting in silence for the songs of hope to sing to all creation.

We will follow the Dryer of tears wherever we are led. Amen.

Benediction Hymn: MV 214 *May God's Sheltering Wings*

May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.

Postlude

Inviting Holy Light written by Peter Chynoweth. *Gathering* Pentecost 1, page 38. Used with permission.

Call to Worship and **Opening Prayer** from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Pentecost 1.

Time up Front Thanks to Rev. John Stevens and Dollar Store Children's Sermons for this idea (<https://dskidsermons.com/>)

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Minute for Right Relations provided by Canadian Shield Regional Council.

Offering Prayer from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Pentecost 1.

Blessing by Thom M. Shuman © 2021, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

Thank you to Ralph McIntosh for providing musical leadership. Thank you to Betty McFarlane, Suzanne Nykilchyk, and Jen Bruneau for the dramatic presentation of the scripture. Thank you to Sue Nykilchyk for providing the Message. Thank you to Betty McFarlane for reading the Minute for Right Relations.
