

# Covenant

*The United Church of Canada*  
a safe place for all people to worship  
Minister: Rev. Bill Jones

**July 05, 2020**

Fifth after Pentecost a

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF LAND

### WELCOME

### ENTRY INTO CELEBRATION

Now is the time to dance heaven's dance,  
Time to discern eternity's face,  
Moment of knowing beyond all sight,  
Day of God's smile and tender embrace. *(William L Wallace)*  
**Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.**

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The Christ Candle is lit*  
Let the light we kindle go before us,  
strong in hope,  
wide in good will,  
inviting the day to come.

### OPENING SENTENCES

We are called to celebrate, not just by words spoken,  
but also by miracles recalled:

**A baby's first cry, the petals of a rose,  
mist-covered hills, the restless tides of the seas,  
human love, human hope.**

We respond with gratitude:  
**With joy, with wonder,  
at life's boundless possibilities.**

*(Adapted. Gordon B McKeeman)*

### ACT OF AWARENESS

We have been placed within the interwoven fabric of nature...  
May we appreciate its beauty:  
mountains and valleys, rivers and plains,  
sea and sky, and all of the earth with its  
vast array of plant and animal life which it sustains.  
*The Rex Hunt Website July 5, 2020*

### GATHERING PRAYER

We come before you today, O Lord aware that this is right at the beginning of the summer season. We thank you for the beauty of the land around us and for all of the many blessings that you shower upon us. Many times, we don't recognize those blessings because we are caught up in our own concerns. We pray that you will open our eyes so that we can see beyond our own world and see the way in which our world is filled with the good things of life. We ask however, that you keep us aware of the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves as we strive to be your people here on earth. AMEN

### HYMN: A SONG MUST RISE

MV 142

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the ages, God of all nations, we humbly approach your throne being fully aware of our sinful nature. In the areas we fail to be wise stewards, we ask your forgiveness. We confess that we have neglected to:

Love our neighbors as ourselves.  
Share generously, especially with those who are needy.  
Observe all your commandments  
Exercise self-control  
Follow your call to be workers in your harvest

Forgive us, we pray, and allow us to go forward in Jesus' name so that your kingdom be firmly established among us. Amen.

*The Desperate Preacher's Website July 5, 2020*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Be assured of God's forgiveness for all of those things that we can't forgive ourselves for. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ

## **HYMN: DEEP IN OUR HEARTS**

MV 153

### **CENTERING**

## **MINUTE FOR MISSION**

### **Awesome and Awe-Filled: Camp Bimini**

Put friends first to make friends last—  
On this you can depend.  
Through thin or thick, you'll be my pick—  
You'll always be my friend.

Bimini friends are always friends,  
Who always will be near.  
Through Jesus Christ we're a family  
To last all through the years.

Since 1947, Camp Bimini has been offering memorable camping experiences for all ages. Adventures in nature, sports, crafts, music, swimming, campfires and more encourage staff, campers, and volunteers to play, laugh, learn, love, sing, grow, teach, create, and simply be.

The well-being of children and adults is linked to the amount of time spent in nature: The more time spent outdoors, the better off people are. At Bimini, God's creation is vibrant and dynamic, an awesome and awe-filled place and space.

The camp is energized for the upcoming season and all that it will be offering. They are energized, too, for what our campers, staff, and volunteers will be sharing with one another. Friends are always nearby, and times of discovery and opportunities to do both familiar and new things are always there. Everyone looks forward to all the adventure, discovery, fun, and friendship. When you are at Bimini, you are repeatedly reminded that you are indeed a precious child of God. The camp hopes everyone experiences that "Bimini friends are always friends."

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

## **SCRIPTURES**

**Zechariah 9: 9-12** God's Dominion shall be from sea to sea

**Psalms 145: 8-14** God's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom

**Romans 7:15-25a** I do not do the good I want to do.

**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30** My yoke is easy; my burden is light.

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN: THOUGH ANCIENT WALLS**

VU 691

## **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O Lord God, Creator of all, we give praise to you because you do not hesitate to take our burdens upon yourself. We know because of that that your love for us is all consuming. In thanks for that, we offer to you our talents, our offerings, and our promise to be your presence here on earth. AMEN

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **HYMN: CHRIST HAS NO BODY NOW BUT YOURS**

MV 171

## **PARTING WORDS**

Let us embrace the wonder of this week with expectation and imagination...

*The Christ Candle is extinguished*

There is a season for everything in creation

**A time for dying and a time for rebirth.**

A time for laughter and a time for tears.

**A time for courage and a time for fear.**

A time to talk and a time to be still.

**A time alone. A time for romance.**

A time to welcome and to send away.

**time to break rules. A time to behave.**

A time to search and a time to find.

**A time to begin...**

and a time to end. *(Miriam T Winter-adapt/wpws)*

There is a season for everything in creation.

### **WORDS OF BLESSNG**

With wisdom and understanding,

with justice and compassion,

with courage and hope,

may we be blessed this day and every day,

by Creativity God, source of our and all life.

**Amen. May it be so.**

### **GO NOW IN PEACE**

Portions of the liturgy for this bulletin came from Gathering, The Rex Hunt Website  
and The Desperate Preacher's Website

#### **Covenant United Church**

230 Eighth Ave Timmins, ON

(705) 264-5518

[covenanttimmins@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:covenanttimmins@ntl.sympatico.ca)