

Covenant

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

August 9, 2020
10TH after Pentecost

WELCOME

ENTRY INTO THE CELEBRATION

We gather here today in the name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

The Christ Candle is lit

We light this candle
to remind us of the presence of Christ.

**The light from this one candle
shines equally for each of us.**

We light this candle
to remind us of the love of Christ.

**The light from this one candle
shines equally for the world.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

We need this kind of hope.

Come; worship the Holy One who meets you where you are.

Come; open yourselves to the God who lifts us up.

We are here to worship; we are here to surrender to God.

GATHERING PRAYER

God of Presence,
as you walked upon the water to meet the disciples,
meet us in the midst of the storms in our lives.
God of Renewal,
as you lifted Peter from the water,
lift us from despair to hope,
from distraction to focus,
from death to life.
God of the Journey,
direct us in your way,
work out your purpose in and through our lives.
We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN: "I AM A CHILD OF GOD"

MV 157

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Take heart, do not be afraid.
Every one who calls upon God's name will be saved.
We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

CENTERING

Silence and Music for Reflection



MINUTES FOR MISSION

Indigenous Elders reconnect youth with traditional teachings.

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the work of The Healing Fund as we walk together in a path of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

We have learned that intergenerational trauma runs deep. The legacy of Indian Residential Schools continues to affect every generation as Indigenous parents struggle to educate their children in the ways of their people.

In spring 2018, six youth travelled from Winnipeg to Sagkeeng First Nation in Fort Alexander, Manitoba, to attend a Zam-mi-nan aki ("Touch the Earth") cultural retreat at the world-renowned Turtle Lodge. At the three-day retreat, Elders taught the youth some of their traditional teachings to reconnect them with their culture.

Educating young people about their history, culture, and land and having them participate in a sweat lodge, ceremonies, and activities under the guidance of Elders is an incredible way to help youth gain confidence and leadership skills. They also helped to produce a documentary video about the retreat, and talk about their experiences with community members and children.

Josephine Kakegumick writes, "I learned so much—it really opened my eyes. I want to change myself for the better. I want to know who I am, I want to learn my language, I want to start dancing more, and I really want to connect with my culture more. I've never realized how much I need to heal and have some time to myself."

We are thankful that through our gifts we can offer opportunities for healing to young people experiencing intergenerational trauma.

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.

HYMN: "AND WHEN YOU CALL FOR ME"

MV 96

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28 Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers.

Romans 10:5–15 The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.

Matthew 14:22–33 Jesus walks across stormy waters.

SERMON

HYMN: "WE TURN TO YOU"

VU 685

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In these troubling times our hearts and minds are flooded with fears of the unknown.

Sometimes we are paralyzed by this fear and we feel unable to go on.

These fears are overwhelming, they remain with us day and night.

Yet we hold onto your Truth.

You have told us not to fear just as you told Peter before he walked with you on the water, for you have overcome the world.

So we cling to you, as Jacob did when you wrestled, we trust in your promises, that you will never fail us and never forsake us.

In moments of such crippling fear, we choose to hold your hand. We know you have experienced the most fearful places, we know that you have risen again. In you all promises meet and new life begins.

You are our Saviour, you live within us, we are protected by your love, And sheltered by your grace.

Lord's Prayer

OFFERING “WE GIVE YOU BUT YOUR OWN”

VU 542

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, we believe that you have saved us, you are saving us, and you will save us. We offer to you our whole lives as a living sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Use us; multiply us and the gifts we offer, in person, by mail, or online, to extend the invitation of life, to our community and to everyone we meet.

HYMN: “I HAVE CALLED YOU BY YOUR NAME” MV 161

PARTING WORDS & BLESSINGS

Community Candle is Extinguished

You have been raised with Christ.
Do the work of Christ in the world:
extend a hand to those in need,
speak up for those others would cast aside,
build bridges of reconciliation,<
strengthen bonds of community,
and extend the invitation of life,
community and purpose to others knowing that
the God who created you,
the Christ who redeems you
and the Spirit who empowers you
will be with you this day and ever more. **Amen.**

GO NOW IN PEACE

Portions of the liturgy for this bulletin came from ucc.org and united-church.ca

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