

# Covenant

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

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**  
**THE 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## ***ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF LAND***

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ENTRY INTO CELEBRATION**

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*The Christ Candle is lit*

In the glow of the candle's light,  
Let us feel the power of the Spirit as it fills the room

### **ACT OF AWARENESS**

It's time for us.

**This time is for us.**

We step inside the sacred circle.

**Here, with courage, we see our lives as part of  
the continually astonishing mystery of life.**

Here, with reflection, we know our lives  
are always lived connected with other people,  
wider communities, the eternal humanity.

**Here, with faith, we reach beyond ourselves,  
to find that good spirit that strengthens our spirit;**

to hear that word that changes us;  
and to come closer to the sacred...

**This time is for us.** *(Adapted. Francis Macnab/h)*

*(The Rex Hunt Website September 13, 2020 yr A)*

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

**Creator God, we come to be with you this morning feeling that we are entering a new season. The days are getting shorter and the air is getting cooler. In no time at all, the leaves will begin to change colour and we will know that you are sharing with us the beauty of this earth, your creation. Help us O Lord, to see the love that you have for all of us though these gifts of beauty and of change. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and our Saviour. AMEN**

**HYMN: FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH**

VU 226

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Creator God, we come to you today, knowing that we have not been as purposeful as you would have us be. We have not always, been as forthcoming as we should be. We have not always treated the strangers who we meet with the love and kindness that you expect of us. It is for these reasons that we come before you today with penitent hearts that seek your forgiveness and seek a stronger will to truly do your work to the best of our abilities. AMEN**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

My friends in Christ, let me assure you that if you come before the Lord our God with a truly repentant heart and love for your neighbour that God will forgive your transgressions and be your strength as you go forth doing God's will.

**HYMN: I HAVE CALLED YOU BY YOUR NAME**

MV 161

## **CENTERING**

### **MINUTE FOR MISSION**

#### **National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering 2019**

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the important work of reconciliation with Indigenous members of The United Church of Canada. One of the programs Mission & Service supports is the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering. Many Indigenous members met on the territory of the Chippewas of Rama near Orillia, Ontario, in August 2019 to discern and decide on the structure and priorities for the self-determining Indigenous church within the United Church.

This fourth National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering provided opportunities for listening to and discerning the Creator's plan, visioning, spiritual nurture, mutual accountability, inspiration, education, youth development, and expressing the voice of the Indigenous community on spirituality and ministry.

Using the Biidaabin\* ("first light of a new day") process of education, reflection and discussion, discernment, and decision-making, participants created and named a new national Indigenous church organization, elected a new National Indigenous Council, appointed a National Elders Council, and set priorities for the next triennium. The National Indigenous Council is an intergenerational group that includes two youth leaders.

As the planning team declared in its vision statement, the gathering would "inform, transform, and manifest healing and vitality. This is our act of decolonizing." This vision and the decisions made at the gathering will help the Indigenous church to speak with a strong voice as its members continue to live into right relations.

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

**JEREMIAH: 8:18-9:1** Jeremiah's lament for God's people  
**PSALM: 113** Praise the Lord for God's Grace  
**1 TIMOTHY: 2:1-7** Christ's Saving Love  
**LUKE: 16:1-13** The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

## SERMON

**HYMN: THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD**

VU 612

## OFFERING

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of love, O Jesus our Lord and friend, today we offer you the best we have. Please guide us to use these gifts in your name, so that with grace and hope, your Spirit will be known to all. AMEN**

(Gathering Pentecost 2 Yr A p43)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**HYMN: MAY THE GOD OF HOPE GO WITH US**

VU 424

## PARTING WORDS

The presence of God reaches beyond this place...

*The Christ Candle is extinguished*

(The Rex Hunt Website September 13, 2020 yr. A alt.)

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Go as one to bring the love of God to those we come in contact with each and every day. Let the love of God shine through you as you serve the Lord.

We ask this in the name of God the Creator, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit our glorious Three in One **AMEN**

## GO NOW IN PEACE

*A portion of the liturgy was taken from The Rex Hunt Website and from Gathering*

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