

SUNDAY, February 13, 2022
Blessing of the Prayer Shawls
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH



Minister: The Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Readers: Ian Sutherland, Peggy Wallace
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED:

HYMN: "Called by Earth and Sky" sung by Christina Chicos and Brian Nixon

Refrain: Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

1. Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

Refrain:

2. Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

Refrain:

3. Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

Refrain:

4. Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

Refrain:

OPENING PRAYER: read by Peggy Wallace

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Gracious and loving God, we thank you for being a companion on our journey. In a world where there is a great deal of indifference, we thank you for welcoming all of us just as we are and making us feel at home.

We pray that you will transform us and make us the people you want us to be. We pray all this through Christ our Saviour. Amen.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

One: As we light this Christ candle may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS

VIGNETTE FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH: read by Ian Sutherland

The 1600s

Slavery existed in Canada, as it existed in colonies throughout the world. The first documented slave in Canada was named by their master Olivier Le Jeune in 1628. (However, there are reports of slave ships arriving in the early 1600s.)¹ Many of the documented slaves in Canada were "owned" by clergy. It was not until the late 1700s that talks of abolishing slavery started in Upper Canada.



The 1700s: During the late 1700s promises of freedom and land in exchange for British loyalty brought many freed Blacks to Nova Scotia. Although no longer slaves, the Black community was oppressed and denied basic civil and human rights. As a result, there was a mini exodus in the late 1700s when Black Loyalist and Black Refugees (the Maroons) took the offer to resettle in Sierra Leone. Although the church often attempted to preach a "thin" Bible to Black peoples, focusing on servitude and honouring your master, the power of the gospel shined through the hymns of Isaac Watts and the Wesleyans, offering hope and empowerment to an enslaved people.

SUNG RESPONSE: "My Lord, What a Morning" sung by University of Illinois' Varsity Men's Glee Club.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Luke 6:17-26 The Beatitudes upon the Plains read by Peggy Wallace

HYMN: VU#896 "Blest are They" sung by Deborah Just

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.

3. Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God!

Refrain:

4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.

5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.

Refrain:

SERMON:

REMINDER OF OUR OFFERING

HYMN: "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah", sung by Northallerton Methodist Church.

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but though art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside,
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee.
I will ever give to thee.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER: read by Ian Sutherland, written in 2011 by The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial No Derivatives Licence.

God, we come before your presence as your children.
We thank you for creating us in your image
and for making us very special to you and to one another.
We pray that you may help us to accept and love each other the way you want us to be.

We pray that we may look at ourselves as ambassadors of your peace and reconciliation
in the world in which we live.

We are called, like in the words of Paul when he said we are ambassadors of Christ in the
world (2 Corinthians 5:20). We ask that by your grace we may play this role faithfully
and that this should be seen in our day-to-day lives.

As we come before you, we realize that we are your children
and you have recreated us in Christ to be your children.
We are glad to be part of your people from all the four corners of the earth.
Help us to be vessels and instruments of your grace, love, and peace in the world.

We ask you to help us to fulfill the purpose for which you have created us. We pray all this
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. This is followed by the Lord's Prayer

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

