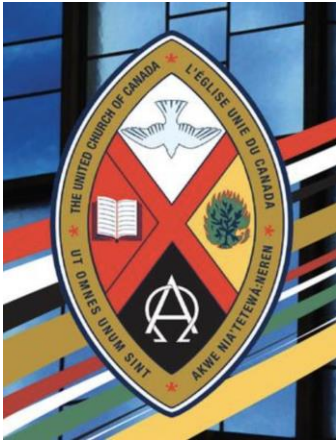


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, June 19, 2022

Indigenous Day of Prayer



Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Readers: Doreen Gunson, Gabriela Dell

Singers: Jean & Jim Strathdee, Philip Hart, Cornerstone Methodist musicians, Tim McNabb

Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Rick & Gabriela Dell, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS /CALL TO THE GATHERED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND FIRST NATIONS CANDLES

SUNG RESPONSE: "Open Our Hearts" sung by Jean and Jim Strathdee



Open our hearts. Open our minds. Open our lives to you O loving God. Open our hearts.

(The Meeting of the Eagle and the Dove by Mervin Meekis, an artist from Sandy Lake Reserve who died in 2000, was presented to the 31st General Council 1986 during the consideration of the Apology to Indigenous Peoples)

OPENING PRAYER: Read by Doreen Gunson (Metropolitan United Church, Toronto June 16/19)

Holy One, we gather in your name, in your house to offer praise and wonder. We gather on this Sabbath to seek wholeness in mind, body and spirit. We come to give thanks, to love and to be loved, and to be a church in the world that is an instrument of healing and justice and reconciliation. As we come once again to dedicate ourselves to the You who creates, calls and guides, may your Spirit be present to guide us. As we come to worship you, our God we ask that you will be us. Amen

HYMN: VU#600 "When I Needed a Neighbour" words and music by Sydney Carter, 1962 music video from Cornerstone Methodist Church.

1. When I needed a neighbour,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

Refrain:

**And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?**

2. I was hungry and thirsty,
were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

Refrain:

3. I was cold, I was naked,
were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

Refrain:

4. When I needed a healer,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?

Refrain:

5. Wherever you travel
I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel I'll be there.

Refrain:

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39, read by Gabriela Dell

SERMON:

SPECIAL MUSIC: There is a Time for Silence (video),
words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020, music: Philip Hart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER: Read by Doreen Gunson - used with permission from All God's Beloved Children Worship Service for Indigenous Day of Prayer 2022, The United Church of Canada

CLOSING HYMN: VU#598 "When pain of the World Surrounds Us"
Words and music by Jim Strathdee 1976, sung by Tim McNabb, Halifax Lutheran Church.

1. When pain of the world surrounds us with darkness and despair,
when searching just confounds us with false hopes everywhere,
when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,
we are called to follow Jesus and let God's healing flow through us.
2. We see with fear and trembling our aching world in need,
confessing to each other our wastefulness and greed.
May we with steadfast caring the hungry children feed.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's justice flow through us.
3. The church is a holy vessel the living waters fill
to nourish all its people, God's purpose to fulfill.
May we with humble courage be open to God's will.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's spirit flow through us.
4. We praise you for our journey and your abundant grace,
your saving word that guided a struggling human race.
O God, with all creation, your future we embrace.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's changes flow through us.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

**We are, all of us, Treaty People:
original inhabitants
and those who came later—
inheritors of a diverse history,
dwellers in a common land,
travellers toward a better day.**

**We have known
friendship and animosity,
cooperation and oppression,
blessing and pain.**

**And now we embrace
the sacred covenant
that heralds a new beginning:
that softens the heart
and dismantles the prisons of
the present and the past.**

**We joyfully claim
our rights and responsibilities
as Treaty People.
Amen.**

—Treaty People's Creed (2011), The All My Relations Network of Saskatchewan Conference

POSTLUDE

In 1998, in the Apology to Former Students of United Church Indian Residential Schools, and to Their Families and Communities, Moderator Bill Phipps said, in part:

I wish to speak the words that many people have wanted to hear for a very long time. On behalf of The United Church of Canada, I apologize for the pain and suffering that our church's involvement in the Indian Residential School system has caused. We are aware of some of the damage that this cruel and ill-conceived system of assimilation has perpetrated on Canada's First Nations peoples. For this we are truly and most humbly sorry.

1986 Apology to Indigenous Peoples

Long before my people journeyed to this land your people were here, and you received from your Elders an understanding of creation and of the Mystery that surrounds us all that was deep, and rich, and to be treasured.

We did not hear you when you shared your vision. In our zeal to tell you of the good news of Jesus Christ we were closed to the value of your spirituality.

We confused Western ways and culture with the depth and breadth and length and height of the gospel of Christ.

We imposed our civilization as a condition of accepting the gospel.

We tried to make you be like us and in so doing we helped to destroy the vision that made you what you were. As a result, you, and we, are poorer and the image of the Creator in us is twisted, blurred, and we are not what we are meant by God to be.

We ask you to forgive us and to walk together with us in the Spirit of Christ so that our peoples may be blessed and God's creation healed.

The Right Rev. Bob Smith General Council 1986 The United Church of Canada

The 1988 Response

In 1988, at the 32nd General Council, the Indigenous church acknowledged the apology, expressing its hope that the church would live into its words. Mrs. Edith Memnook, a representative of the All Native Circle Conference, said:

The Apology made to the Native People of Canada by The United Church of Canada in Sudbury in August 1986 has been a very important step forward. It is heartening to see that The United Church of Canada is a forerunner in making this Apology to Native People. The All Native Circle Conference has now acknowledged your Apology. Our people have continued to affirm the teachings of the Native way of life. Our spiritual teachings and values have taught us to uphold the Sacred Fire; to be guardians of Mother Earth and strive to maintain harmony and peaceful coexistence with all peoples.

We only ask of you to respect our Sacred Fire, the Creation, and to live in peaceful coexistence with us. We recognize the hurts and feelings will continue amongst our people, but through partnership and walking hand in hand, the Indian spirit will eventually heal. Through our love, understanding, and sincerity the brotherhood and sisterhood of unity, strength, and respect can be achieved.

The Native People of The All Native Circle Conference hope and pray that the Apology is not symbolic but that these are the words of action and sincerity. We appreciate the freedom for culture and religious expression. In the new spirit this Apology has created, let us unite our hearts and minds in the wholeness of life that the Great Spirit has given us.

1988 Record of Proceedings, p. 79