

May 18, Asian History Month¹
HUB Worship with
Knox United Church (Sutton)
Queensville Holland Landing United Church

Prelude

Welcome and Greetings to KUC and QHLUC

Acknowledgement of the Land and Commitment to Reconciliation:

Ahniin, We acknowledge that the land on which St. Paul's United Church is located is the traditional land of the Wendat and Anishinaabe First Nations. We wish to acknowledge also the land on which Knox United Church is situated. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Chippewas. Queensville Holland Landing United Church meets on land governed by the Williams Treaties.

Today, our meeting places are still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, including the Metis, our neighbours on Christian Island, Beausoleil First Nation, and the Chippewas of Georgina Island. We are grateful to have the opportunity to worship and work on this land. We are all Treaty People.

This week, we hold in thanksgiving all of those who will be working hard over the summer fire season to save lives in many small and isolated communities across Canada.

We commit ourselves to walking in a new way together: a path of healing and hope. Chi-Meegwetch

Acknowledgement of Asian Heritage

Canada's cultural richness owes much to its vibrant Asian heritages, woven with tradition, resilience, and innovation. Asian Canadians have significantly shaped the nation's history and identity. Celebrating this heritage acknowledges countless contributions, perseverance, and ongoing impact on Canadian society. From cuisine to literature, art to technology, Asian Canadians have left indelible marks on every aspect of Canadian life, enriching the nation. As we commemorate Asian Heritage Month, let us reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and envision a future of inclusivity and equity, where every voice is heard and valued.

Call to Worship

Come!

¹ Prayers and readings have been adapted from, "A Step Nearer to Harmony Worship Service for Asian Heritage Month," written by Rev. MiYeon Kim and 2024 Asian Heritage Month Worship: Deep Spirituality • Bold Discipleship • Daring Justice Contributed by Collaborating Asian Networks in The United Church of Canada: Hong Kong, Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Global Partnership Team in General Council in The United Church of Canada, and more people of God who live in blessings of Asian heritages in faith, love, justice, and hope

We are here in a place where God listens!

Come as you are!

We are here: broken, whole, sick, well.

Come!

We are here. Here to sing! To cry!

To hear! To see! To meet God to be a new creation!

God is here.

We are here.

We are here to worship in this space that God is creating,
where all are embraced.

Together we become beloved community.

Song of Praise: VU602 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Opening Prayer

Reader: Sharon Penrose

God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you.

We come as individuals, we come as families, we come as neighbours and friends.

We come here, where we are known by name,
welcomed with all our fragilities and strengths.

We gather with kindred spirits who long to live faithful to your calling.

Guide us, inspire us, challenge us, comfort us, strengthen us, and nurture us in this
time of worship so that we might be enabled to return to our daily lives ready to
engage fully with all of your creation. We pray. Amen.

Lighting of Christ Candle

Prayer:

As we light this Christ Candle, may it be a reminder
that Christ is in us and in our world.

Sung Response

There is Room for All MV62

Peace of Christ

Theme Conversation: Harmony

Children's Song: MV48 I Can Feel You Near Me God vs1 and chorus

The Story: Acts 15:1-18

Reader: QHLUC

The Council at Jerusalem

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the gentiles and brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us, and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

The whole assembly kept silence and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

'After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,
so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the gentiles over whom my name has been called.
Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.'

Song for Reflection: MV154 Deep In Our Hearts

Sermon: Holding Space

Life and Work of the Church

Offering of Thanksgiving

Invitation

O God of love,
Let us live in the love you have planted in our hearts.
O God of justice,
Let us act in the justice you have enacted with our bodies.
O God of care,
Let us care for the creation you have created and cared for.
Let us be, live, and follow as the Way of the Risen Christ in the Holy Spirit for
caring for God's creation.
We offer our lives to be disciples here and now in this worship.
Bless this offering of our hearts and minds and bodies.
We pray in peace and joy, Amen.

Offertory Music: (St. Paul's Choir)

Offertory Response: Loving God vs 3

Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Reader: Don Penrose

O Living God,

We give you thanks to celebrate this month as Asian Heritage Month, to remember the contribution of Asian people to the mosaic of your world.

You blessed the continent with glorious civilizations in their long history, the birthplace of agriculture, built up by its fertile lands and life-giving waters: the Tigris and Euphrates, the Indus and Ganges, the Yangtze and Mekong, the Han and the Jordan, in which your child Jesus was baptized.

From the northern steppes to the mighty Himalayas, from the Mediterranean to the Pacific Ocean,

Asia is a land rich with diversity.

We think of our own heritage, and the ways it has shaped us in becoming the people we are today. We give thanks that all of us may offer that part of ourselves to one another, and to see one another as God does, as one human family.

We pray for those who have come to our country from Asia as immigrants, seeking new opportunities for a better life.

We give thanks for the entrepreneurial spirit many Asians bring with them to Canada. As they grow and flourish along with us, we pray that Asian-Canadians born in Canada would remember the struggles of the generations who came before them and that they would value their Asian heritage, as we also value each of our own forebears and the cultural heritage we inherited from them.

May the hostilities of our former nations be forgotten. Open us to one another to create harmony between us, whether we are Indigenous, White, Black, or Asian.

We pray for those who serve in ministry in the United Church who are Asian.

May they breathe new vitality into the United Church from their various experiences and cultures. Give them wisdom when they serve both Canadian and Asian immigrant congregations.

O God, we pray for those who have come to Canada as Temporary Foreign Workers.

We pray also for those who are migrant workers in Asia who face even more brutal exploitation.

We pray for women and children in Asia and around the world, who work in oppressive conditions to produce the goods we enjoy in Canada.

We pray for anyone who is held back from reaching their fullest potential.

In its recent history, many of Asia's nations have experienced war and dictatorship.

O God, you were present with the oppressed and became their hope.

They joined together in solidarity and shouted for justice and peace.

We pray for those who still struggle to achieve justice and peace in their land.

We pray, O God, for those we know who are sick, those who are in need of the healing touch of your Holy Spirit. We remember those battling depression or addictions.

We pray for our own selves, our own hidden hurts that only you know. Give peace to our troubled hearts and strength to face the coming week. We gather these and all our prayers as one in the words Jesus taught us.

You are invited to join in whatever language you choose:

Lord's Prayer in many Asian languages

<https://youtu.be/tiMKbqJ2Ook>

Song for the Journey: VU606 In Christ There is No East or West

Extinguishing of the Candles

Blessing

Closing: Halle Halle Halle

Postlude

Beyond Sunday: In Harmony

Throughout the year there are many months or days that have a special dedication. This week we are celebrating Asian Heritage Month. These special days invite us to be intentional about learning new things, noticing and celebrating unique groups of people. Personally, I really enjoy the preparation for these days. It always gives me a new idea or perspective. And that is really the point. There is always more to know about one another. Since we have this opportunity, I invite you to notice how many wonderful hymns are part of Voices United because of churches and people bringing them to Canada from all over Asia and the Pacific Islands.

China

- 85 "Midnight Stars Make Bright the Sky"
- 414 "God, Be Praised at Early Morn"

Fiji

- 412 "This Is the Day"

India

- 252 "Jaya Ho"
- 784 Psalm 66: "Refrain 1"

Japan

- 52 "Sheep Fast Asleep"
- 154 "Why Has God Forsaken Me" (Japan & New Zealand)
- 243 "Praise to God"
- 309 "Para, Para, Pitter Pat"
- 354 "In Old Galilee, When Sweet Breezes Blew"
- 362 "Here, O God, Your Servants Gather"

Korea

- 34 "O-So-So/Come Now, O God of Peace"
- 94 "Lovely Star in the Sky"
- 698 "With the Wings of Our Mind"

Philippines

- 568 "Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day"

Taiwan

- 251 "God Created Heaven and Earth"

Blessings of Beautiful Harmony to All, Rev Kirsty