

## **Stouffville United Church**

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

June 21, 2020

### **Indigenous Day of Prayer Father's Day**

Our Worship liturgy was written for the United Church of Canada by Rev. Carolyn Wilson Wynne. Rev. Wilson Wynne is a diaconal minister currently serving Valley-Greenfield United Church in Valley, NS. From 2008–2013 she served St. Clair United Church on Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Sarnia, ON.

### **Welcome**

#### **Acknowledgement of the Land**

Here we congregate on the treaty territory of the Huron Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people and their ancestors. Where we now gather, generations gathered long before Europeans landed on these shores. The original inhabitants of this land, known to some Indigenous peoples as Turtle Island, took seriously the Creator's call to be stewards of air, land, water, and creature. This morning we pray our thanks for their conservancy; we exist in this place because of the lessons they continue to teach. Let us come before the Creating One as we offer our prayers, hear holy story, and sing sacred songs.

### **Announcements**

#### **Lighting the Christ Candle:**

Christ, the light in the world;  
Christ, the light in our homes;  
Christ, the light in our hearts;  
Christ, the Light.

(Written by Fern Gibbard, for Penticton United Church, Penticton, B.C., Gathering Pentecost 1, 2017, page 27. Used with permission.)

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Creator God, Great Spirit, we pray our thanks for the opportunity to gather in this sacred space. Here we are most aware of the gift of wind:

**and the four directions from which it comes.**

Here we are most aware of the gift of sun:

**and the four directions on which it shines.**

Here we are most aware of the gift of humanity:

**and the four directions in which we exist.**

Here we are most aware of the gift of Creation:

**and the four directions which support our living,  
breathing, and being.**

This day we pray thanksgiving for the First Nations, Inuit, and  
Métis people of Canada;

**and we commit ourselves to be people of reconciliation in  
the tradition of our beloved Jesus. We pray in his name.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn:** Let Us Build a House

[MV 1]

**Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,**

**a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;**

**here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,**

**where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.**

**Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;**

**here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat;**

**a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.**

**Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;**

**as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

## **Music Ministry**

### **Minute for Mission**

### **Offering Invitation**

**Offering Hymn:** Grant Us, God, the Grace

[VU 540]

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.**

### **Offering Prayer:**

**It is our privilege, Creating One, to share from our  
individual bounties. These are our gifts to the world:  
money, commitment, and thanksgiving. We pray over  
these offerings in the name of the One who shared his all.  
Amen.**

### **Responsive Psalm 72**

[VU 790 Part 1]

*We need be reminded that justice is a cornerstone of God's love;  
therefore, this day as we reflect on the need for reconciliation  
between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people it is good to*

*hear the psalmist's words! It is all of our prayer that justice flourish and peace abound.*

Give the ruler your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal heir,  
**for judging your people rightly,  
and upholding the poor with justice;**  
that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,  
**and the hills, prosperity with justice.**

May your anointed defend the cause of the poor among the people,  
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.  
**may your anointed live as long as the sun endures,  
as long as the moon from age to age.**

May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,  
like showers that water the earth;  
**may your anointed be one in whose days  
justice shall flourish  
and peace abound till the moon is no more.**

#### **A Reading from Matthew 5:21-24**

*The NRSV translation of this passage uses a word that is relevant to our time together today. The author of Matthew's gospel speaks of reconciliation and the need for it before one makes an offering. In other words, before we give to God what is sacred to us, the gift needs be given with integrity. Let the ancient words wash over you and reside in your heart and spirit.*

**Hymn:** Spirit, Open My Heart

[MV 79]

#### **Chorus:**

**Spirit, open my heart  
to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.**

#### **Chorus**

**Write your love upon my heart**

**as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.  
*Chorus***

**May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.  
*Chorus***

## **Reflection**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **Prayer of Creation:**

**Creator God, Great Spirit, whose compassion has been known in our lives more times than we can count, we open our hearts and souls to the needs of this world. On this Indigenous Day of Prayer, we acknowledge the great injustices perpetrated against those who lived on and cared for this land long before our ancestors arrived. We pray that with compassion and determination we will continue to make ourselves aware of the impact of Residential Schools, the Sixties Scoop, and the suppression of Indigenous culture and tradition so that the legacy of colonization is acknowledged by each of us.**

**Creator God, Great Spirit, you call us to relationships rooted in equality and respect. This day we covenant to be more aware of the racism that the Indigenous, Métis and Inuit people of this country experience. We commit ourselves to raise our voices when we hear prejudiced comments, to guide others in the sacred direction of celebrating diversity that is your gift to humanity.**

**Creator God, Great Spirit, in the quiet of our hearts and through the witness of our beings we pray thanks for your accompaniment on the journey toward individual and communal wisdom and understanding. Let us who are the Church stand in solidarity and true to Jesus' call to reconcile with sisters and brothers.**

**Creator God, Great Spirit, hear our prayers and guide our actions from this moment on. We pray using Jesus' words:**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: What Does the Lord Require of You** [VU 701]

**What does the Lord require of you?  
What does the Lord require of you?**

**Justice, kindness,  
walk humbly with your God.**

**To seek justice, and love kindness,  
and walk humbly with your God.**

### **Blessing**

Move from here a reconciled and reconciling people with assurance that Creator God, Great Spirit accompanies you this day and every day. Amen.

**Closing Song: God Be with You till We Meet Again** [VU 423]

**God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.**