

One: In faith, let us turn to our God, whose love is sure.
As we celebrate Canada Day, we offer thanks to God for our
ancestors and all of the generations that have gone before us.
We thank God for all the people who came to this land to build
a new life and a new home for their descendants.
We also thank God for all the countless men, women and
children, the First Nations People who have already lived on
this land; people with a spirituality, a direct connection to the
land and the sea, to one another and to God our creator.

***GATHERING PRAYER:** *(responsively)*
Following Aboriginal tradition, praying in The Directions

Facing east (narthex)

One: From the East, the direction of the rising sun,
we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

Facing south (front door)

One: From the South comes warmth, guidance,
and the beginning and the end of life.

All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

Facing west (pulpit)

One: From the West comes the rain,
purifying waters, to sustain all living things.

All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

Facing north (back door)

One: From the North comes the cold and mighty wind,
the white snows, giving us strength and endurance.

All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

(Facing upward)

One: From the heavens we receive darkness and light,
the air of your breath,
and messages from your winged creatures.

All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

(Facing downward)

One: From the earth we come and to the earth we will return.

**All: We are grateful for your creation, Mother Earth,
O God.**

One: May we walk good paths, O God,
living on this earth as brothers and sisters should.
We rejoice in one another's blessing,
sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together with you,
renewing the face of the earth. **Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN:**
"Called by Earth and Sky"

MV #135

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.
Called by earth and sky
Called by earth and sky.***

Precious these waters, endless seas,
Deep ocean's dreams, waters of healing,
Rivers of rain, the was of love again.

Refrain

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
Wind born and free. Breath of the spirit,
Blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace.

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

Refrain

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

PRAYER OF HUMILITY:

One: Jesus taught us not to be anxious about our lives or about tomorrow. Are there anxieties that cause us to feel separated from the peace which Christ promises?
Let us turn to God in prayer.

**All: O God, trusting you does not always come easy
when each day we are faced
with the ugliness of the world.
We do not believe that love conquers fear.
We are not convinced
that power comes through weakness.**

**We cannot conceive how You could heal us.
Forgive our lack of faith, O God,
and renew our trust in You,
for we would be disciples of Jesus
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

This is the Good News in Jesus Christ:
God loves us more than we love ourselves.
God sets us free to love others.
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "How Deep the Peace" MV #95

**How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed.**

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER:** *(responsively)*

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you.

Alleluia!

God's in us and we're in God.

Alleluia!

SHARING A STORY: *(with those of all ages)*

SINGING A SONG:

"Jesus, Friend of Little Children"

VU #340

Jesus, friend of little children,
let me be one too;
take my hand, and ever keep me
close to you.

Teach me how to grow in goodness,
daily as I grow.
You have been a child, and surely
you must know.

Never leave me, nor forsake me;
ever be my friend;
for I need you, from life's dawning
to its end.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

**O God, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear what you are saying to us today.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Brenda Parrott

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalms 130 *(responsively)*

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

REFLECTION: "National Indigenous Peoples Day & Canada Day -
Living together in harmony"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:

GIFT OF MUSIC

John & Isabel Clouston

"Spirit Open My Heart"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

***OFFERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**God of the hungry, make us hunger and thirst for the right,
till our thirst for justice has been satisfied,
and hunger has gone from the earth. Amen.**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS:

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU #400

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send you Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

**O Great Spirit,
whose voice we hear in the winds,
and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us.
We come before you as your children.
We are small and weak; we need your strength and wisdom.**

**Let us walk in beauty,
and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.
May our hands respect the things you have made,
May our ears be sharp to hear your voice.**

**Make us wise, that we may know the things
you have taught your people,
the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.**

**We seek strength, not to be superior to our brothers and
sisters, but to live in harmony with ourselves
and all your creation.**

**Help us to be ever ready to come to you,
so when life fades as a fading sunset,
our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.**

Traditional First Nations Prayer

Response to Prayer:

To wake from sleep into this day
is gift enough for thanks.

To hear a child's delight in laughter
is gift enough for thanks.

To sip a glass of clean, cold water
is gift enough for thanks.

To watch the sunset paint the sky
is gift enough for thanks.

To share a moment with a friend
is gift enough for thanks.

To smell the fragrance of moist soil
is gift enough for thanks.

To feel the comfort of clean clothing
is gift enough for thanks.

To form the words that make a prayer
is gift enough for thanks.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: – VU #921 (in unison)

**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, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

***CLOSING HYMN:**

MV #144

"Like a Healing Stream"

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need...
like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
Calling for an end to hate and war...
like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow;
God will always challenge and provide!

Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.



BLESSING:

May the grace of God,
deeper than our imagination;
the strength of Christ,
stronger than our need;
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
richer than our togetherness;
guide and sustain us today
and in all our tomorrows.

CHORAL CLOSING:

"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light" MV #211

**Go now in peace,
guided by the life of Christ,
so you may be nourished
by the Word of Life.**

POSTLUDE:

Church News

Summer Hours - the church office will be closed on Fridays. The hours are now Monday to Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM Closed 12 to 12:30

The Upper Room for July and August are in the Narthex as well as on the table under the office window. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

Peanut Butter Update - As of June 24, 2021, 314 jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center.

This total does not include the monetary donations nor the jars dropped off directly at Volunteer Center which totalled close to 150 additional jars at the end of May.

Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during office hours; cheques can be delivered or mailed to the Bathurst Volunteer Center at 464 King Ave., Bathurst NB E2A 1P5. Please indicate on your cheque that it is for the purchase of Peanut Butter for the First United contribution.

Reminder – As the in-person worship services have resumed, if you plan to attend the service, please call the church office at 546-3532 by **Thursday** morning, and give Margaret the name(s) and phone number(s) for yourself and anyone in your bubble who will be sitting with you. A seating plan will be pre-arranged based on the required physical distancing rules. *As seating capacity will be much less than usual, please call the office if your plans change and you are unable to attend.* On-line services will continue, on a delayed basis, as the in-person service will be recorded and then uploaded to the church website and Facebook page in due course.

Psalm 130

Refrain

*Out of the depths. I cry to you,
My hope is in your promise true.*

Out of the depths have I called to you.
O God, hear my cry!

**Let your ears be attentive to my
plea for mercy**

If you should keep account of what is done amiss,
O God, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you,
Therefore we will honour you.**

Refrain

*Out of the depths. I cry to you,
My hope is in your promise true.*

I wait for you God;
my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for God more than the watchers long
for morning, more than the watchers long for morning.**

O Israel, wait in hope,
for with God there is love unfailing.

**With God is great power to redeem,
To redeem you, Israel, from all your sins.**

Refrain

*Out of the depths. I cry to you,
My hope is in your promise true.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS - NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-33

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

26 It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

27 It is good for one to bear
the yoke in youth,

28 to sit alone in silence
when the Lord has imposed it,

29 to put one's mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),

30 to give one's cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults.

31 For the Lord will not
reject forever.

32 Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

33 for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7-15

7 Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge,
in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to
excel also in this generous undertaking.

8 I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness
of your love against the earnestness of others.

9 For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that
though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his
poverty you might become rich.

10 And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you
who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to
do something—

11 now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by
completing it according to your means.

12 For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to
what one has—not according to what one does not have.

13 I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure
on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between

14 your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance
may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance.

15 As it is written,

"The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little."