
St. Andrew's By-The-Lake United Church

March 18, 2018 – 5th in Lent Sunday

As you sit to prepare for worship, you are invited to take a moment to acknowledge the land on which our church stands and the spirit of those First Peoples who named this area

Katorokwi – the meeting place on the flat rocks.

We also acknowledge the enduring presence of First Peoples who remind us to honour the places where our feet stand.

◆ the congregation is invited to stand, as you are able.

Congregational responses and hymn titles appear in **bold** type

Gathering in Community

Welcome & Greetings / Life & Work / Mission & Service

Prelude: *Interlude*

Charles Callahan

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on March 21. On that day in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid “pass laws.” Proclaiming the day in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination (resolution 2142 (XXI)). The worship suggestions below are compiled from United Church resources.

Call to Worship:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

We come bearing treasures—some hidden, some apparent.

We come with our own life histories, our ethnic and linguistic histories, our spiritual and religious histories.

We come hungry for racial justice—in all its intersections of gender identity, class, ability and language, in ways not yet articulated.

We come with a hunger for life budding along the margins and for right relationships among us.

People of God come, let us worship together in the name in which we are all made one.

The Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole; adapted from a service at the General Council Office on October 5, 2009

The Christ Candle is lit in reverent silence.

◆ **Hymn:**

Maker, in Whom We Live

VU #321

Morning Prayer: Creator, Lover, Friend, Source of life and Ground of our being, we pray with Christians and others of faith and good will around the world, on this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. We pray that the beauty and diversity of all your children, O God, is valued. That your image reflected in the varied hues of skin throughout the human race is recognized. May we rejoice in the diverse images we meet today and every day, so that the face of Christ in the world is real to us. May you continue to do “new things” in the world and in us, Holy One, that we may overturn the stones of racial oppression and injustice as manifested in many subtle ways around us. Guide us in your path of love and justice, respect and care for each person, and for the living out of your realm of love and inclusion for all your people. Amen.

The Rev. Jennifer Janzen-Ball

Sharing Our Faith

Responsive Invocation: Psalm 96

VU #816

Anthem: *Jesu, Lamb of God, Redeemer*

Edward Elgar

Conversation Time

Prayer of Sorrow: O God of the Exodus, of liberation and new life, We come to you in prayer naming the “old things” to which we cling: stereotypes based on race; unearned privileges that are ours because of gender or skin colour; unwillingness to speak out against racism and all that diminishes other human beings; internalized racism that keeps us from acknowledging our cultural and ethnic gifts.

O God, we confess our complicity in racism, whether we participate intentionally or not. We live in societies, institutions and churches built on structures that privilege one group over the others. The word “racism” is difficult for us to hear and to speak. Open our eyes so we may understand that this is not your desire or vision for us.

We come with contrite hearts, longing to have new hearts created within us, seeking the waters of righteousness that will overturn injustice and create anew ways of living faithfully together that honour the dignity of each person.

We long for right relationships, O God, for abundance of life within you. In your grace, heal and transform us and our

**institutions that the rainbow of humanity may be fully reflected,
gloriously alive in you. Amen.** *The Rev. Jennifer Janzen-Ball*

Words of Hope

◆ Hymn: *Live into Hope* VU #699

Readings and Reflections: read by Patti McLeod

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives. **Blessed be God forever.**

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21

Gospel: Matthew 7:7-20

Reflection Time: “*What Are We Looking For?*”

*Responding to G*d's Grace*

◆ Hymn: *Spirit, Open My Heart* MV #79

Courtesies

Prayers of the People

Ending with The Lord's Prayer (Back inside cover of *Voices United*)

Mission Minute: Linda Harrison

◆ **Offertory Prayer & Sung Response:** (MV #187 Alt)

We give our thanks to God, we give our thanks to God,
we give our thanks to God... who gives us everything.

◆ **Prayer of Dedication**

◆ Hymn: *Will You Come and Follow Me* VU #567

◆ **Blessing & Going Forth:** ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

Peace Be with You MV #215

Peace be with you, peace forever, peace be with you, my friends.

Till we meet again, may God be with you. Peace, peace, peace.

Postlude: *Fugue in G* J.S. Bach

The original idea of Christianity as a faithful way of life has begun to displace the enforced system of creeds that has defined the church for fifteen hundred years. As we gather to worship you are invited to seek the more-than-literal meaning of the stories and teachings that shape our lives together.

We thank Ruth Wood, DLM-R, for leading worship this Sunday.