
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

**Maker, in whom we live,
In whom we are and move,
the glory, power, and praise receive
for your creating love.**

**Let all the angel throng
give thanks to God on high,
while earth repeats the joyful song
and echoes to the sky.**

**Incarnate Deity,
let all the ransomed race
render in thanks their lives to thee
for your redeeming grace.**

**The grace to sinners showed
you heavenly choirs proclaim,
and cry, "Salvation to our God,
salvation to the Lamb!"**

**Spirit of Holiness,
let all your saints adore
your sacred energy, and bless
your heart-renewing power.**

**No angel tongues can tell
your love's ecstatic height,
the glorious joy unspeakable,
the beatific sight.**

**Eternal, Triune God,
let all the hosts above,
let all on earth below record
and dwell upon your love.
When heaven and earth are fled
before your glorious face,
may all the saints your love has made
your everlasting praise.**

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

**R Sing a new song unto God
who has done such marvellous things.**

Sing to God a new song;

sing your praise, all the earth.

Sing and bless God's holy name,

tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

**Declare God's glory among the nations,
among all the peoples God's wonderful works.**

For great is God and greatly to be praised,
to be revered above all the gods.

**For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but you, O God, made the heavens.**

Honour and majesty attend you,

strength and beauty are in your sanctuary. R

Ascribe to God, you families of peoples,
ascribe to God glory and strength.

**Ascribe glory to God's name,
bring an offering and enter God's courts.**

Worship God in the beauty of holiness,
and let the whole earth stand in awe.

Say among the nations: It is God who reigns!
The world is made firm and cannot be shaken.

God judges the peoples in equity. R

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the fields exult, and all that is in them.

Then let all the trees of the forest sing for joy,
for you come, O God, to judge the earth.

You shall judge the earth in righteousness,
its peoples with your truth. R

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
**Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God’s own jubilee!**

**Live into hope the blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.**

**Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.**

**Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

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

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Gospel: Matthew 7:7-20

Ask, Search, Knock

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? ¹⁰ Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

The Golden Rule

¹² “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

The Narrow Gate

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy^[a] that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

A Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will know them by their fruits.

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

*Responding to G*d’s Grace*

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

R 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. R**

**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. R**

**May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of
sister, brother.**

**In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one
another. R**

Courtesies

Prayers of the People

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

Eternal Spirit,

**Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all
that is and that shall be. Father and Mother of us
all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hollowing of your name echo through the
universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace
and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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

**Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?**

Will you go where you don't know

and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown?

**Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?**

**Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?**

**Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?**

**Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?**

**Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the “you” you hide
if I but call your name?**

Will you quell the fear inside

and never be the same?

**Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?**

**Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.**

**Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.**

**In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.**

**Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.**

◆ 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

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