

**Sunday Worship Service – June 12, 2022
Trinity Sunday – Pride Sunday**

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Reflection

Lighting of the Altar Candles and Christ Candle

Introduction to Pride Sunday

Prayer of Confession**

Creating God—God of Mercy,

As we have acknowledged the diversity in this amazing world, created in atoms and molecules but with an underlying spirit of mystery, we must also admit that, at times, we have forgotten the wonders of that diversity. We have longed for things to be familiar and as they have always been. We know that the great religious traditions have caused harm in the past and continue to cause harm and pain to those who express their being in ways different than the majority.

We know, too, that we individually, both intentionally and unintentionally, have rejected and shunned those who are not like us. For this we are truly sorry and ask your patience as we learn and strive for ways to be more inclusive and celebrate all in this wondrous world. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance¹

**Our God is light and in God is real life.
Our God has brightened our days with real hope
and exposed every dark corner of our life with true forgiveness.
The Light of life is Christ Jesus, God's Son.
Through Jesus, we can live in daily relationship with our Creator
and know the joy of hope for eternity.
Praise God for light and life!**

¹ *Worship Supplement*, Holy Communion Setting 3.

We are forgiven in the name of the + Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter.
Amen.

Opening Hymn “All Are Welcome” #641

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.**
2. **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.**
3. **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.**
4. **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.**
5. **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.**

Call to Worship²

All you who delight in the sacred, come and worship the Creator.

² Written by Rev Lynn Robertson inspired by *Stories from the Heart: Worship Service for Pride Sunday* © 2019 The United Church of Canada/L’Eglise Unie du Canada.

Thanks be to God who blesses us and rejoices in the uniqueness of every body and being.

We light the red candle, representing life and passion in all its richness.

Come let us worship, learn, and celebrate life together.

We light the orange candle, representing healing, fun, and celebration.

We give thanks for the healing that God offers all people.

We give thanks for the ways we experience healing through fun and celebration.

We light the yellow candle, representing sunlight, and new thoughts and ideas.

We give thanks to God for sending us the light of the world, Jesus Christ whose light shines brightly in all of us and through whom we are open to new thoughts and ideas.

We light the green candle representing nature and growth.

We give thanks for all the diversity that God has created in nature and all creation and for the growth we experience through our faith in God.

We light the blue candle, representing harmony and serenity.

We give thanks to God for the harmony and peace we have through our Creator.

We light the purple candle, representing Spirit.

We give thanks for the comforting Spirit who is our Advocate.

We give thanks for God's rainbow of colours and for the beauty and diversity of all whom God has created.

The Sacred is with us. Let us worship and be transformed.

Prayer of the Day**

Inclusive and welcoming God, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works. You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation. In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from narrow thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us and others. Amen.

First Reading: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

In the reading from the book of Proverbs in the Bible, wisdom is portrayed in terms sometimes human and sometimes divine. Often, wisdom is

personified as feminine. In this passage, Woman Wisdom is depicted not only as the first creation of God, but also as God's helper, rejoicing in God's creation, especially in human beings.

A reading from Proverbs, chapter 8:

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she
cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

God gave birth to me at the beginning, before the first acts of creation.
Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no
springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—before God had created the earth and
its fields, or even the world's first bits of soil.

I was there when the Almighty established the heavens, and set the horizon
just above the ocean, set the clouds in the sky, and established the
fountains of the deep, and gave the seas their boundaries and set their
limits at the shoreline. When the foundation of the earth was laid out,
I was the skilled artisan standing next to the Almighty. I was God's delight
day after day, rejoicing at being in God's presence continually, rejoicing in
the whole world and delighting in humankind."

Here ends the reading. **Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-5

In the letter to the Romans, Paul describes the life of faith with reference to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Even now, we have peace with God through Jesus, and our hope for the future is grounded in the love of God that we experience through Christ's Holy Spirit.

A reading from Romans, chapter 5:

Now, since we have been made right in God's sight by our faith, we are at peace with God through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us to the grace in which we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to the day on which we will become all that God has intended. ³ But not only that - we even rejoice in our afflictions! We know that affliction produces perseverance; perseverance produces character, and character produces hope. And such a hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Here ends the reading. **Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

Gospel Acclamation "Blest be the Tie that Binds" #656 (v.1,4)

1. **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**
4. **From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

Gospel Reading: John 16:12-15

In the gospel from John, Jesus' ongoing presence with the disciples will be made known through the coming Spirit who will guide them and communicate to them Jesus' will and glory.

The holy gospel according to John the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, she will guide you in all truth. She won't speak on her own, but will say whatever she hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. She will glorify me, because she will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. Everything that God has belongs to me. That's why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *“Come, Join the Dance of the Trinity”* #412

1. Come, join the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun –
the interweaving of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.
The universe of space and time did not arise by chance,
but as the Three in love and hope, made room within their dance.
2. Come, see the face of Trinity, newborn in Bethlehem;
then bloodied by a crown of thorns outside Jerusalem.
The dance of Trinity is meant for human flesh and bone;
when fear confines the dance in death, God rolls away the stone.
3. Come, speak aloud of Trinity, as wind and tongues of flame
set people free at Pentecost to tell the Savior’s name.
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!
4. Within the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun,
we sing the praises of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son.
Let voices rise and interweave, by love and hope set free,
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trinity.

Affirmation of Faith³

That we worship one God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
in whose image we are made, to whose service we are summoned,
by whose energy we are renewed: **This we believe.**

That it is central to the mission of Christ to respect the earth as God’s
possession, to rejoice in the diversity of human culture,
to preserve human life in all its beauty and frailty, to witness to the love of
God for all people and all places and to invite others to share that
converting experience: **This we believe.**

That through the power of the Holy Spirit the persecuted shall be lifted up
and the wicked shall stumble, the hesitant prayers and hidden actions
of God’s people shall change the course of human history, the ancient
words of scripture shall startle us with fresh insight: **This we believe.**

That God has called the church into being to be the servant of the kingdom,

³ CLC *Worship Supplement*, p.68-9.

to be a sign of God's new order, to offer a foretaste on earth of the magnificence of heaven: **This we believe.**

That Christ, fully aware of our differences, prays that we may be one so that the world might believe:

This we believe, and to this we are committed for the love of God, in the way of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayers of Intercession*

Trusting in the One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need...

We give thanks for morning and night, for dawn and dusk, and for every moment in between. We praise you for the vibrant, loud, and serene colors of creation. For the infinite and as-of-yet undiscovered diversity of your creatures, and galaxies beyond our imagining. Make us bold in our proclamation that the lives, loves, and gifts of Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (2SLGBTQIA+) people matter to you, and so they matter to all of us – manifest in both word and deed. Teach us to see and celebrate the stunning beauty in all you have made. God of grace, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who need hope. For those who feel excluded. For those who are experiencing gender dysphoria⁴. For all to know they are beloved by God, and worthy of love. We pray for people in our lives and those unknown to us who need healing, care, and compassion, the hungry, those without homes, the refugee, and the stranger. Shield those places in danger, and inspire us to be stewards of the earth and all your creation by making choices that lead to a greater future in our world, for all who inhabit it after us. God of grace, hear our prayer.

We cry out for change. For the dismantling of systems rooted in oppression and discrimination. Change in policies and practices that exclude and “other” your beloveds. As people of faith, our role in caring for our

⁴ Gender dysphoria is the psychological distress that results from an incongruence between one's sex assigned at birth and one's gender identity. Though gender dysphoria often begins in childhood, some people may not experience it until after puberty or much later.

<https://psychiatry.org/patients-families/gender-dysphoria/what-is-gender-dysphoria>

neighbors lives beyond these walls; the freedom that comes with our faith should be used to lift up those in your Kin-dom, not be used to harm. Bless our lips as we speak words of affirmation and liberation, and give us the strength needed to extend welcome and hospitality through our actions and practices. God of grace, hear our prayer.

We seek guidance for our leaders in the church and larger world. Teach them to lead humbly and rooted in your grace and compassion. Let them look to those who have gone before us, on whose shoulders we stand. Keep them wrapped in your abundant love and draw them closer to the communities in which they serve; as they meet their people and hear their needs, they will better know your hope for the future. We thank you for their gifts of wisdom, their advocacy, and for the promise of abundant life with you and all the saints. God of grace, hear our prayer.

We bring you the names and places of your people in need, speaking them aloud or in the silence of our hearts. We pray for those in hospital...We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, (especially those who mourn the loss of...) God of grace, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray; trusting in your unlimited capacity for love and mercy, and in your grace. Amen.

Offering⁵

Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts; receive this offering as a sign of our desire to live our lives inspired by your Spirit. We dedicate our lives, and all that we have, to the work of your kingdom — the work of life, of love, of peace. Use our gifts, and lead us in wisdom and courage. As we seek to serve surround us with your mercy. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving**

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts to the One who is love.

We open our hearts to you, O God.

⁵ *Worship Supplement*, Holy Communion Setting 4.

Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.

For the courage of the Holy Spirit that lives in us, we give thanks.

Bold and Beloved One, throughout history
you have revealed yourself to us in ways that surprise and disrupt.
You shocked the world when you came to be with us as a vulnerable baby
born into a family fleeing political persecution.

Though the scandal of your embodiment in Jesus led to crucifixion,
still your Spirit of New Life is birthed anew among the marginalized.

You live among us today...

At times, we are offended by your self-expression.

You take on flesh in people, places, and ideas

That we may have been taught to fear or despise.

And so we struggle. Our hearts harden. Our hospitality recoils.

But still, your love persists.

Through beauty, compassion, and truth,

you lure us into laying down our need to control.

You move us. Free us. Embrace us.

By your grace,

we are brought into the sacred labours of justice and transformation.

We become free in Christ to reject all evil and oppression.

Like those who gathered with Jesus on the night of his arrest,
we come in need of grace.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,

Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the covenant in my blood,

Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In remembering the life of Jesus, we remember what he showed us:

The love of God is creating and creative.

The love of Christ is inclusive.

The love of the Holy Spirit comforts.

And so we pray, pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, O God. Through these gifts, open our hearts to encounters with Christ in the different and the ordinary. May the bread of life and the cup of blessing strengthen us in our courage to live as Jesus lived. Amen.

Alternate Lord's Prayer⁶

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 hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the 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 the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Communion Distribution

Communion Hymn "I Come with Joy" #482

1. **I come with joy a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**
2. **I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**
3. **As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,**

⁶ *A New Zealand Prayer Book*: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia © 1989 William Collins Publishers Ltd.

and strangers now are friends.

4. **The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,
alive among us here.**
5. **Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

Communion Blessing

Prayer after communion**

Nourishing One, your gifts renew us in body, spirit, and mind.
Through this taste of love, may the Spirit send us with a faith that is brave.
Make us people who boldly pursue collective justice and tend gently to the
world's pain. Amen.

Closing Hymn “*The Canticle of the Turning*” #723

1. **My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain:

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

2. **Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might,
put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

Refrain

3. **From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.**

**Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**

Refrain

4. **Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**

Refrain

Commission**

This morning we have lit candles:
Red for life in all its forms,
Orange for healing,
Yellow for sunlight and new ideas,
Green for prosperity and nature in all her diversity
Blue for serenity and harmony, and
Purple for the Spirit who guides us all.

We are called to practice this rainbow of colours in our lives—
in the conversations and interactions in our lives at home, at work,
and at play—as we go out into our community and the world
to share the message that God's love is for everyone!

Blessing*

Children of God, may we go into the world in peace
May we love boldly,
May we proclaim loudly,
May we welcome, include, and celebrate all,
And return here knowing that all are welcome here, in this place.
May this community of faith be a place of care and renewal.
In the name of the Holy Trinity, + Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter.

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen

Sources:

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*.

*Reconciling Works, Pride 2022 & 2021 Worship Resource

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