



**Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge of the United Church At
Home Worship
Sunday June 21, 2020**



Minister: Rev. Tammy Allan

We gratefully acknowledge that we are on the ancient and traditional lands of The Blackfoot Nation, the people of the Treaty 7, and of Metis Region 3. May we cherish and care for the land and the people, as those who came before us did.

Your Worship Space

As you worship at home, try to create a space for that. It could be as simple as lighting a candle (either flame or battery); or placing a small cross or a symbol that has meaning for you in front of you. Now that the weather is more amenable, consider worshipping outdoors – especially since today is the day of the Summer Equinox, and National Indigenous People’s Day. Consider how you might honour the land on which we live.

If you are alone, perhaps start a journal, as you reflect on the worship experience. Or, perhaps call a friend and share this time with them over the phone. If you are with one or two others, enjoy the conversation that arises...as you practise safe distancing.

Prayers and readings for today’s worship come from “The Covenant of Reconciliation: Worship Service for the Indigenous Day of Prayer 2020” written by Carolyn Wilson Wynne. Carolyn 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.

Her service can be found in it’s entirety on the United Church of Canada worship resources webpage. <https://www.united-church.ca/worship-special-days/indigenous-day-prayer>

Opening Call / Prayer

One: 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:

All: and the four directions from which it comes.

One: Here we are most aware of the gift of sun:

All: and the four directions on which it shines.

One: Here we are most aware of the gift of humanity:

All: and the four directions in which we exist.

One: Here we are most aware of the gift of Creation:

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



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

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

Musical selection For the Beauty of the Earth

This is not the tune that we are familiar with, however it's a beautiful arrangement, and the photography is lovely. Click here to listen :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVQFEgT7E6c&feature=youtu.be>

Reading for today

Matthew 5:21-24

Introduction: The NRSV translation of this passage uses a word that is relevant to our time. 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 to be given with integrity. Let the ancient words wash over you and reside in your heart and spirit.



²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister,^[a] you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult^[b] a brother or sister,^[c] you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell^[d] of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister^[e] has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister,^[f] and then come and offer your gift.

A Message for Today

Reflection

This week, I have been on study leave, working along with my colleague Loraine McKenzie Shepherd, on the follow up to our sabbatical projects – the development of a resource book for congregations. I am grateful for the shared resources found on our denomination's website.

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. The Indigenous Day of Prayer is usually celebrated either the Sunday before or Sunday after June 21. In 2020, As

the two days both land on this Sunday, we had good things in store. And then, COVID 19. If it were not for that, I would have invited our pastoral charge to enjoy the Olds National Indigenous Day celebrations that were to be held at our Centennial Park. Instead, I offer you a worship service from our United Church of Canada website, created by Carolyn Wilson Wynne. I have chosen not to share her written sermon (although if you want to read it, you can find it at the link I shared at the beginning of this service). Instead, I have offered the link to a video sermon by Tony Snow and John Snow. Both John and Tony are members of our own Chinook Winds Region, and they offer a reflection on the history of this day.

You will find the reflection here, however note that for some reason, when I click on it, it starts part way through, so just scroll the curser back to the beginning and all should be well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE8SE8fF2Ds&t=172s>

Hymn Like a Healing Stream

<https://youtu.be/SrOlxtY-4HU>

This Week's Minute for Mission

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the United Church's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.



Published on:
January 15, 2020

Fairfield, a historic village in Bothwell, Ontario, was first settled by the Lenape people on May 8, 1792. It was established by Eelünaapéewi Lahnkéewiit (Ei-na-pow-way Lah-ka-weet) ancestors and the Moravian missionaries who lived among the group for generations. For the past 74 years, Fairfield has been operated as a historical park and museum by The United Church of Canada through a grant from Mission & Service.

In May 2019, the United Church returned a significant piece of land to the Eelünaapéewi Lahnkéewiit people of Delaware Nation. A ceremony was held on the site to officially execute the land transfer.

“I think the community is going to be really proud of getting that piece of property back because it’s part of who they are,” said Chief Denise Stonefish. “That will make our home whole again.”

“I actually view it as the people whose story it is are finally getting to tell the story,” said Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, a regional council Executive Minister.

But both Stonefish and the United Church recognize it took the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to bring the transfer to fruition. We are thankful that Mission & Service has played a part in the Truth and Reconciliation process within The United Church of Canada. “The Truth and Reconciliation Commission involved all of us viewing ourselves as treaty people and understanding how broken the relationship was between Indigenous peoples and Settlers, and how all of us have a role to play in the care and tending of that,” said Stadelbauer-Sampa. “The United Church is deeply committed to being honest with ourselves about our colonial past.”

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Prayers for this day

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.



A Blessing for Today

Let us go to share God's gifts and grace, and be witnesses to the good news of Jesus, alive in the Spirit. Amen.



Thank you so much for using this worship resource! Feel free to share it! We are grateful for your connection to the Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge, and to both Olds and Sundre United Churches. As the time of COVID 19 distancing progresses, know that we are still the United Church in our communities, striving to serve you and the community. Our ability to do that requires financial support,

and we are so very grateful for those who are able to continue to supporting us in these challenging times. We also are aware for some, this time of pandemic has created hardship, and we pray for peace and hope.

If you already give to the church with PAR (Pre-Authorized Giving) things will carry on as usual, unless you need to make a change.

If you give through envelopes, it would be greatly appreciated if you would mail your offering in, or bring it to the office, however please call first to confirm someone is there, as in these days our staff must be cautious as well.

And finally, if you are not a regular giver, but wish to support our ministries, we would gratefully accept your gift. Amounts over \$20.00 will be tax receiptable, at the end of the year. Our church mailing addresses are:

Olds United Church 4810 50th Street, Olds AB. T4H 1E4

And

Sundre United Church PO Box 614

118 Centre Street North Sundre AB. T0M 1X0