



We are
Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge and
Knox, Didsbury Pastoral Charge
of the United Church of Canada



Sunday January 23rd, 2022

Minister: Rev. Tammy Allan

Musician today: Janice and Barry Beaudry (Knox /Olds)

Our mission statements:

Olds: A Family of Faith, Spiritually Motivated, Welcoming and Caring

Sundre: Believing, Caring, Sharing

Knox Didsbury: Caring, Sharing, Believing

As we worship we gratefully acknowledge that our churches are located on the ancient and traditional lands of the people of Treaty 6 (Sundre) and Treaty 7 (Olds and Knox) and all are within the area of Metis Nation Region 3.

May we cherish and care for these lands and the people, just as those who came before us have done.

Prelude

Announcements

-Coffee time – Tuesdays at 10:00.

- Olds: Mission conversations – Sign up sheet in entry way

- Once a month, our Worship and Resource and Hospitality Teams have decided that we shall share one of the wonderful Stewardship services from the United Church of Canada's resources. Today's service is an adaptation from:

© 2021 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>.

Any copy must include this notice.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We gather in the Season of Light, Epiphany, to celebrate the light that shines in our lives eternally. We light this candle, praying that hope, love and light may fill our hearts.

Call to Worship

We are one, we are many.

We are one in the Spirit. We are different.

We are one in the kin-dom of God. We are unique.

We are one in the body of Christ. Even with our differences.

God invites us to the table, God invites us home.

Let us worship together as the body of Christ.

Hymn VU 402 We Are One (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

Opening Prayer

Creator of all, you call us into community, to work together as one body. Be with us today as we join our hearts and voices to bring praise to you who have perfectly created each of us. Help us to see past our perceived imperfections to see the beauty you created in us and in the world. Accept the praise of your people as we reach out to you, and each other, in worship and love. We pray these things as followers of Jesus. Amen.

Time with the Children in all of Us

Hymn MV 48 I Can Feel You Near Me God

Readings

1st Corinthians 12:12-31

This reading follows immediately after last week's passage from 1st Corinthians. It helps us understand that we are all part of the body of Christ, all valued members of the body.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be?²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body.²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this.

But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member,²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership,

various kinds of tongues.²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

³¹But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Luke 4:14-21

In today's reading, Jesus quotes the Book of Isaiah, from a passage that speaks of justice for all of God's people.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Response to the Scripture Reading

This is the witness of the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection "We, the Anointed Ones"

© 2021 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada.

Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence.

To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>.

Any copy must include this notice.

We can learn a lot about the possession of land and riches from Indigenous communities. Every nation has their own creation story that points to the connection between human life and land. People are woven into creation along with the land and its resources.

Indigenous teachings speak in many different ways about how Mother Earth is there to provide us with everything we need. She gives us our clothing, shelter, medicines, food, beauty, water. She sustains us, and we sustain her.

Our creation story in Genesis tells us that God has created an interconnected world in which everything works together for the benefit of everyone, right down to the food we eat. We can see this interconnectedness in Corinthians which tells us that we are all parts of the same body.

And we know that the body functions best when it is working together.

Each of our bodies has a story to tell: stories of babies and marathons, age and love, work and rest. We use our bodies in different ways. Some of us have parts that work better than others. If I took my glasses off, you would all be blurry images. My daughter is so far-sighted that as a child she could see a plane in the sky long before we ever could.

Some of us have parts that we use in different ways: some of us use our fingers to read or our hands to speak. Each of our bodies are unique, but none is better than any other. They are different, but not superior.

Unfortunately, this is not how history, or our present day, has always seen bodies. We are supposed to be treating our bodies, and the bodies of others, as part of God's creation: beautiful, unique, and sacred, something that we should care for with just as much love as we offer the land and the water.

Sadly, often our society treats our bodies with the same disregard that is often shown to our land and water resources. Despite the fact that there is more than enough of what we need for everyone, we still live in a world with marked disparity between the rich and the poor.

We still live in a world where people have power and other people do not. And we know that this system is failing us. All too often our bodies are seen as nothing more than capital, used to make money for a system that places more value on some people than on others, and where our worth is measured by our ability to be financially productive. But this is not what God commanded of us.

In today's reading, "the year of the Lord's favour" (Luke 4: 19) most likely refers to the year of Jubilee which is described in Leviticus 25. Every 50 years, the Israelites are to release their indentured servants. Creditors are to return properties to their rightful owners. Outstanding debts are to be forgiven. The Jubilee ensures that the poor are cared for and that the hoarding of land and wealth is made incredibly difficult.

In this passage, God also makes it very clear that "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants. Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of the land" (Leviticus 25: 23–24). God commands us to share our resources, to ensure that there is economic justice, to make sure that inequities are eliminated.

We know as a church that we have not always lived out that commandment. We have not always been welcoming to the stranger in our midst. We have a history that we need to acknowledge: our involvement in residential schools, our silencing of minority voices, the years of pain and trauma that our 2LGBTQI community has gone through. There have been, and continue to be, many times

when our church body has not worked together the way it should, or when we have placed a higher value on some parts of the body of Christ than others.

Yet, we are an Easter people. We know that with God there is always a chance for new beginnings and new relationships.

When I think of those new beginnings and relationships, I think of Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM). This ministry began in 1996, when Eileen Antone from Oneida saw a need for places to worship in Toronto that were welcoming to Indigenous people, and where Indigenous cultures and traditions could be incorporated into worship. She approached what was then Toronto Conference, and the Conference agreed to use Mission & Service money to hire a minister for TUNM: Elder Grafton Antone, Eileen's husband.

Over the years, this little church plant grew, eventually becoming an ecumenical ministry shared with the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. TUNM is a good example of what can happen when the whole body of Christ works together and when resources are shared.

Now, 26 years after TUNM started, it has three staff and reaches more than 90,000 people each year through culturally appropriate street outreach, harm reduction work, prison ministry, hospital chaplaincy, worship, Traditional ceremonies, and reconciliation work. This is just one of many examples of the ways in which our Mission & Service dollars can have a greater impact on our communities than we can imagine.

Today's reading from Luke tells us that Jesus went to the synagogue in his home community of Nazareth. The writer makes a special point of telling us that Jesus went "as was his custom" (Luke 4: 16). Jesus was not someone who only attended religious services on High Holy Days. He was someone who continued throughout his life to participate in the weekly gatherings of the faithful. We are taught by Jesus' example that being a part of the life and work of the congregation is integral to how we are to live.

Jesus went into the synagogue and chose a reading from Isaiah that speaks of bringing good news to the poor, releasing the captives, and letting the oppressed go free. He begins his reading with the same words Isaiah spoke: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me" (Luke 4: 18). This is the same Spirit that was given to us during Pentecost, which means that we have also been anointed to carry out this task.

We have a choice as individuals and as a church. We can choose to continue in the same way or we can be open to the possibility that God's Spirit continues to blow through the walls of this church, calling us to live our lives and our faith in the best ways possible: the ways that will allow all parts of the body of Christ to be lifted up and valued.

As followers of Jesus, the one who went all the way to the cross to show us the importance of standing in solidarity with the marginalized among us, we live into the promise that God's Spirit is upon us, calling us to ensure that the year of Jubilee is not a far-off dream, but a daily reality in our bodies, our homes, our communities, and the world.

And we also live with the promise that we never do this work alone. Together, as parts of Christ's body within our communities of faith – Knox, Olds and Sundre, and as 3 communities of faith among all that make up The United Church of Canada, we are making a difference. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn VU 567 Will You Come and Follow Me

This Week's Minute for Mission

Mission & Service partners have been working hard to respond to the emergency.

Photo Credit: Thomas Noreille/ACT



Published On: December 1, 2021

Last August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Haiti. This disaster killed at least 2,248 people and injured more than 12,700. It destroyed buildings and infrastructure, impacting hundreds of thousands of people. Days later, Tropical Storm Grace compounded the situation, bringing heavy rains that triggered mudslides. Since the earthquake, a severe fuel shortage, growing insecurity, and increasing water shortages have hampered efforts to restore basic services to thousands in need across the country.

In the five months since the earthquake struck, [Mission & Service](#) partners have been working hard to respond to the emergency. Through them, your generous gifts to the Haiti Emergency Appeal is helping people rebuild their lives.

Your support has provided

- medical supplies and first aid kits
- water treatment tablets
- temporary shelters
- food packages of rice, beans, and cooking oil
- tools, seeds, and livestock for families and farmers
- hygienic sanitation services
- access to safe water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene
- rehabilitated or reconstructed earthquake- and hurricane-resistant houses
- psychological support

This list consists mostly of things. Imagine their impact on people—on families like yours!

Imagine what it means when your life has been turned upside down to have a place to turn to for a meal, somewhere to lay your head, and later to have

*Sundre continues to have in- person worship at 1:30. All are welcome there, too!
You can access the livestream at www.oldsunited.ca (click on the Livestream link).*

The bulletin and sermon will continue to be posted to the websites, for those who are unable to join us. We also have a Facebook Page, Olds and Sundre United Churches. Each week, via email, there will be updates and announcements. If you'd like to receive those emails, please contact one of the church offices and ask to be included.

Questions? Wish to financially support our ministries? To Contact us:

Olds United Church

4810 50th Street, Olds AB. T4H 1E4

email office@oldsunited.ca website www.oldsunited.ca 403-556-3052

Sundre United Church

Box 614 118 Centre Street North, Sundre AB. T0M 1X0

email sundreuc@telus.net website www.sundreunited.ca 403-638-4428

Knox United Church

P.O. Box 57 1406 - 19th Avenue Didsbury, AB, TOM OWO

email knoxdidsbury@shaw.ca website www.knoxunited.com 403-335-8373

Rev. Tammy's confidential email minister@oldsunited.ca

Sunday Jan. 23 – Rev. Tammy in Olds, streamed to Knox

Sunday Jan. 30 – Knox

Sunday Feb. 6 – Olds

Sunday Feb. 13 – Knox (AGM)

Sunday Feb. 20 – Olds

Sunday Feb. 27- Knox