



July 3 2022

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Canada Day service**

*A family of faith ministering together in the
Name of Jesus Christ*

Ministers: Each of Us

Guest Organist: Dawn Telfer

Acknowledging the Territory

"We give thanks for the land and our ancestors who have cared for it, for both indigenous and for settler, for those who continue to tend to the land to nourish our communities and creation, for those who are tender and respectful to all living things. As members and representatives of the United Church of Canada we acknowledge the role our church played in the Residential School System and humbly live into the United Church's apology. Help us make space for grieving, acknowledging, and remembering."

Birthdays, Celebrations and Life and work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering in Son MV 2 "Come All You People" (2 times)

Words and music: Alexander Gondo, Zimbabwe. © 1986 World Council of Churches

Arr. John Bell 1995, © 1995 by WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland used with permission OneLicense.net & CCLI 2593760

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
Come now and worship the Lord.

Call to Worship

We gather today for worship marking the 155th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada.
As we gather, we recognize that a history of a people is not all glory.

The history of Canada has both joy and sorrow, both triumph and tragedy.

We have much to celebrate, much to lament,
and much to dream.

Come, let us gather in the presence of God,
our Creator.

Come, let us worship the Creator in whom we,
and all of creation, are one.

Come, let us open our hearts in thanksgiving.

Come, let us be filled with the Spirit's vision as we worship today.

Hymn: MV 1 "Let us build a house"

Words and Music: Marty Haugen; French trans. David Fines, 2006

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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.

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.

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.

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 know.
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.

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.

Opening Prayer:

O God of shepherd, warrior, and prophet;
Creator of First Peoples, pioneer, and saddlebag preacher;
Light of immigrant, loyalist, and seeker:
we live with history and we love your presence in it.

We trace our roots to your creative powers.

We embrace one another as children of your Spirit.

As we celebrate our history today, help us remember all of it:

that which makes us proud

and that which makes us ashamed;

that which reveals our closeness to your Word

and that which reveals our distance.

Remind us of your constant presence:

forgiving, restoring, recreating, and making all things new.

Hear us, Redeemer God, as we dwell for a moment in your goodness. Amen.

Robin Wardlaw, Glen Rhodes U.C., Toronto, Ont.

Remembering the Tapestry of Cultures

The truth is that anyone who is not Indigenous is an immigrant to this nation. The first immigrants were welcomed with hospitality by the First Peoples of this land now called Canada. Since that time, we have had a history as Canadians of welcoming immigrants.

Prayer of Illumination

We have heard the words of scripture so often
that we assume we know what they mean.

We fail to notice the cultural lenses through which we view the stories,
the assumptions we make based on what we have been taught.

Today, may we receive these words afresh, Loving God.

May we notice what we have not noticed before,
by the power of your Spirit working through these words. Amen.

Hymn: VU 269 "The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young (tune 747)

Words: Marjean Postlethwaite. Music, Harmony: Public Domain

The care the eagle gives her young,
safe in her lofty nest,
is like the tender love of God
for us made manifest.

As when the time to venture comes,
She stirs them out to flight,
So we are pressed to boldly try
To strive for daring height

And if we flutter helplessly,
as fledgling eagles fall,
beneath us lift God's mighty wings
to bear us, one and all.

Scripture: Luke 1:46–55:

Justice turns the world upside down and inside out

And Mary^[a] said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

A Story from the Indigenous Peoples

Hearing the Word

Scriptures: John 8:31–34

Knowing freedom through truth

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin

2 Corinthians 5:17–21:

The ministry of reconciliation

¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there^[a] is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!^[b] ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through

Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,^[c] not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reflection: “The Gift in Apology”

Hymn: This Path We Walk (tune 372 VU)

Words ©S. Curtis Tufts – April 2016

This path we walk, through joy and tears,
a living Way of faith and fears,
through each step’s risk, each sorrow’s pain,
when walked in love, we’ll rise again.

When life is shared, together, free
we’ll grow to be all we can be:
a circle wide will call us home,
when wrapped in love, we’re not alone.

These gifts we bring, this light we hold,
our songs of grace, our stories told,
remain un-done, told just in part,
till shared in love, and known by heart.

When life is shared, together bound,
God’s richest gifts, together found;
together walk the Spirit’s Way
when love’s the guide, we shall not stray.

This life we share, a blessing deep;
a promised gift, now ours to keep.
God grant our words were spoken true,
now clothed in life, each day anew.

Responding to the Word

What does it mean to be Canadian?

Song: VU 524 “O Canada” (*Please stand if able*)

As we sing, let us hold in our hearts the Indigenous Peoples, new immigrants, those who live in vulnerable situations, those serving in the Armed Forces, and all Canadians from sea to sea to sea.

Offering Invitation

How privileged we are that the Creator, God of heaven and earth, who cares intimately for all creation, asks and allows us to work to bring the life and hope, the peace and justice of God's kingdom into reality.

Offering MV 191 "What Can I Do?"

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What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Offertory Prayer:

We gather together as a community of faith, as a community by grace.
Teach us, O God, to offer the very best of who we are in the service of your
will through the mission of this church;
May we offer hope, may we offer joy, may we offer reconciliation in a world so much in need.
Receive what we give for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of Gratitude, Lament, and Hope

Gracious and Loving God,
in whom all of creation and all peoples live
and move and have our being,
we gather to celebrate the 155th year since
the Confederation of Canada.

We gather in gratitude for the richness of this land that goes from sea to sea to sea:

For the First Peoples, who discovered this land millennia ago, and who teach us that we are all
one with creation and with each other,

we offer our gratitude to you, Creator of Life.

For the rich natural resources, the wonder of the variety of landscapes and ecosystems in our
country, urban and rural, prairie and maritime, tundra and mountains, Canadian Shield and
foothills,

we offer our gratitude to you, Creator of Life.

For the wonderful tapestry of Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures that make up our nation,
making us all richer for the diversity,

we offer our gratitude to you, Creator of Life.

For a country in which we are free and safe to cast our vote, where our vote and our voice
count, and where we can give voice to what we believe,

we offer our gratitude to you, Creator of Life.

For what our country has offered the world through inventions from both Indigenous and non-
Indigenous people, such as a cure for scurvy, canoes and kayaks, medicinal insulin, the
Canadarm, the IMAX movie system, walkie-talkies, toboggans, snowshoes, life jackets, maple
syrup, the snowmobile, the electric wheelchair, the prosthetic arm, the garbage bag, the
caulking gun, the Robertson screw, and many sports and games such as Trivial Pursuit, ice
hockey, lacrosse, basketball, and five-pin bowling,

we offer our gratitude to you, Creator of Life.

For Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, musicians, and actors who contribute to the richness of Canada and also on the world stage.

we offer our gratitude to you, Creator of Life.

For Indigenous and non-Indigenous athletes who give heart, soul, and energy in striving to be the top of their sport, representing Canada in competition around the world.

we offer our gratitude to you, Creator of Life.

We pray in awe and wonder, seeking to live daily lives that reflect gratitude.

We gather in lament for the painful parts of our 155-year history:

For the devastation caused to the Indigenous Peoples through colonization of this land, the overuse of natural resources, and the loss of their cultures, spirituality, and traditions,

this we lament, God-who-enters-into-suffering.

For the pain and suffering experienced in the Indian residential schools by too many Indigenous children; while some teachers and supervisors were good and kind, the system itself was cruel, and too much abuse happened that cannot be excused or justified;

this we lament, God-who-enters-into-suffering.

For seizing people's property and money and confining them in internment camps (Ukrainian Canadians during and after the First World War and Japanese Canadians during and after the Second World War), naming them as "enemy aliens" rather than seeing them as devoted Canadians,

this we lament, God-who-enters-into-suffering.

For all others in our country who have been discriminated against, abused, and devalued because of their ethnicity, beliefs, or country of origin,

this we lament, God-who-enters-into-suffering.

For those who gave their lives and those who continue to experience the traumatic effects of their service in the Armed Forces, during both world wars, as peacekeepers, and in other conflicts,

this we lament, God-who-enters-into-suffering.

For the stolen sisters (the missing and murdered Indigenous women), for the 14 female engineering students who were murdered at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal on December 6, 1989, and for the violence and abuse that women in our nation continue to experience,

this we lament, God-who-enters-into-suffering.

For the continuing violent and derogatory attitudes and actions that prevent those of the LGBTQ2 community from living freely who they are,

this we lament, God-who-enters-into-suffering.

For those who have suffered devastation in both natural and human-made disasters in Canada,

this we lament, God-who-enters-into-suffering.

We join our voices to cry out for justice for the continuing wrongs in our country.

We dream of the future for our beloved land of Canada:

For a country where the best of Canadian values of peacemaking, compassion, hospitality, generosity, fairness, and kindness are lived day by day and extended to everyone in this land,

to this we commit ourselves as your faithful people, Loving God.

For a country where everyone shares in the abundance, where everyone has food, shelter, safety, and employment, where everyone is valued as they are for who they truly are,

to this we commit ourselves as your faithful people, Loving God.

For a country where we care for the land, the environment, and the creatures, and live with respect in creation, making wise use of our natural resources and understanding that we are one with all of creation,

to this we commit ourselves as your faithful people, Loving God.

For the possibilities and promise we have as a nation in which every one of us can contribute our ideas, our imagination, and our creativity for the good of all,

to this we commit ourselves as your faithful people, Loving God.

For the leadership and example we can offer as a nation to the world, in building right relationships between all people and in treating all citizens, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, with dignity and respect, and in radical caring for the environment,

to this we commit ourselves as your faithful people, Loving God.

For the vision and encouragement we can offer as The United Church of Canada by striving for right relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, in seeking justice and proclaiming hope, as we seek to follow the Way of Jesus,

to this we commit ourselves as your faithful people, Loving God

On this 155th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada,

We give thanks, we lament, and we dream,

gathering all of our prayers together as we pray the words of Jesus,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your 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;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: VU 678 "For the healing of the nations"

Words: William Watkins Reid, Jr. 1958 © 1968 Hope Publishing Company. Music Public Domain. OneLicense.net & CCLI 2593760

For the healing of the nations,
God we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

You creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.

Commissioning

Let us go forth from this time of worship,
recommitted as followers of the Way of Jesus
to working for reconciliation and right relations,
open to the wisdom of God's Spirit guiding us day by day.

Sung response: VU 298 "When you walk from here"

Words, Music: Linnea Good © 1991 Borealis Music. OneLicense.net

When you walk for here, when you walk from here,
Walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.

ALL:

10,000 Signatures for Peace To sign the petition calling for an end to the Korean war, go to en.endthekoreanwar.net Don't forget to enter the United Church of Canada in the denomination field.



Rev. Mark will be on vacation from Monday, June 27 until Sunday, July 24, returning Monday, July 25.

Union will be hosting worship for the first two weeks of July (3rd and 10th). All are welcome – live or online. For the next two weeks (17th and 24th) you are invited to join either Reynolds Creek United Church in Putnam at 9:30 a.m., or St. John's United Church in Springfield at 11 a.m., or do your own thing.

Mary Dillon will be covering pastoral emergencies for Dorchester United Church. Mary can be reached at 519-878-7134.

Rev. Tom Beecroft will be covering pastoral emergencies for Union United Church until July 10 (after which he will be out of the country). Tom can be reached at 519-615-0281. Rev. Matthew Penny will be covering pastoral emergencies from July 11 to July 24. To contact Rev. Penny, please call either Sally Martyn or Roberta Gillard.

Lectionary Readings:

(July 10, Fifth after Pentecost/Proper 10)

Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

(July 17, Sixth after Pentecost/Proper 11)

Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52, Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

(July 24, Seventh after Pentecost/Proper 12)

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

(July 31, Eighth after Pentecost/Proper 13)

Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21