
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



**June 20th, 2021 – Indigenous Day of Prayer
and Father's Day**

Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling

Welcome!

Welcome to worship! We're glad you're here!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

*We acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract,
traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and
Haudenosaunee peoples.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: We gather to share in God's dream
of abundant life for all.

We gather to give and receive gifts
of deep emotion, deep wisdom, and deep love.

With gratitude we gather as a community
to praise God, to seek transformation,
and to celebrate the power of the Spirit
who is always moving.

Opening Prayer

One: Great Comforter,
we know that we are surrounded by a legacy of pain.
We acknowledge the pain, grief, and sorrow
caused by not living respectfully with all people,
and we are sorry for the ways that we have
dishonoured the depths of this pain.
Open us, Creator, to the power of interconnectedness.
Help us to receive the painful stories as well as the
inspiring stories;
Grant us the courage to own any feelings of
vulnerability, shame, fear, and guilt that may come
from our interactions with each other;
And with your healing grace, lead us through our
aching toward your dream of wholeness.
Transform us and our community so that we may
continually work toward reconciliation and new life.

First Teaching Wisdom

Wisdom is the ability to make decisions based on personal knowledge and experience. The beaver teaches us wisdom. Community is entirely dependent on the gifts given to each member by the Creator. The beaver's example of using its sharp teeth for cutting down trees and branches to build its dams and lodges expresses this teaching. If the beaver didn't use its teeth in this way, the teeth would continue to grow until they became useless, ultimately making it impossible for the beaver to sustain itself. The same can be said for human beings. One's spirit will grow weak if it is not fulfilling its use. When used properly, one's gifts contribute to the development of a peaceful and healthy being and community.

James 3:13 says: *Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. (NIV)*

The beaver is wise and understanding in knowing he has to use his teeth for them to be productive.

Opening Hymn Faith of Our Fathers

VU 580

**1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy,
whene'er we hear that glorious word:
faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

**2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real:
faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

**3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright:
faith for today, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

**4 Faith born of God, O call us yet;
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

Second Teaching Love

Love: To know love is to know the Creator, therefore it's expected one's first love is for that of the Creator or Great Spirit. Creator is the parent of all children. The love given to the Great Spirit is expressed through self-love; if you can't love yourself how can you love anyone else? The Great Spirit chose the eagle to represent love because the eagle soars the highest of all creatures in bringing pure vision to the seeker. Although love is the supplier of the greatest and most powerful medicine, it can also be the most elusive of the teachings as it depends on a world that acknowledges the importance of spirituality.

Colossians 3:14 states: *And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (NIV)*

Hymn This Path We Walk sung to O Waly, Waly
from Apology towards Reconciliation

*written on the 30th Anniversary of the United Church's Apology
to First Nations Peoples, 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.***

Third Teaching Respect

Respect is the condition of being honoured. Respect is represented by the buffalo. Through giving its life and sharing every part of its being the buffalo showed the deepest respect it had for people. No animal was more important to the existence of our people. Its gifts provided shelter, clothing, and utensils for our daily life. Our people believed we were the true caretakers of the herds and developed a sustainable relationship with the buffalo that resulted in a relationship of true respect. I remember all the teachings my great-grandmother gave us in regards to respect; a few of them were:

- Respect our Elders by listening to what they said and do what they told us to do. In teaching my own children, I taught them to do only what felt right and respectful. I did this to teach them to protect themselves from sexual abuse.
- Give your seat up to Elders. It is considered very disrespectful to see a young person seated and an Elder standing.
- Respect your siblings, especially your brothers. Do not step over your brother. It was taboo to step over the men in the family because a girl/woman may be close to or on her time of month; it was believed that women are very powerful when they are on their time and could cripple a man if they stepped over them.

1 Peter 5:5 teaches: *Likewise, you who are younger be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* (ESV)

Readings from Scripture (CEB) 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, 6:1-3
5:20 So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" 21 God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

6:1 Since we work together with Christ, we are also begging you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 Jesus says, I listened to you at the right time, and I helped you on the day of salvation. Look, now is the right time! Look, now is the day of salvation!

Fourth Teaching Courage

Courage is the ability to face danger, fear, or change with confidence and bravery. The bear teaches us courage with many lessons in the way it lives. Courage is the most important teaching the bear offers. The true definition of courage is a mother bear's ferociousness when it comes to her cubs being approached, very much like a human mother when she comes to her child. This same ferociousness is needed to have the moral and mental strength to overcome fears that prevent us from living our true spirit as human beings. Living in the heart and spirit is difficult. The bear's example shows us how to face any danger to achieve courage in our lives.

2 Timothy 1:7 speaks of the spirit: *God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (ESV)*

Anthem Called By Earth and Sky

Fifth Teaching Honesty

Honesty is speaking and acting truthfully, thereby remaining morally upright. The Sabe (Sasquatch) represents honesty. Long ago, there was a giant called Kitchi-Sabe. It walked among the people to remind them to be honest to the law of the Creator and with each other. The highest honour bestowed on a person was the saying, "There walks an honest man, he can be trusted." Keeping the promises one made to the Creator or to others and self was to be truly honest. The Elders said live true to your spirit, never try to be someone else.

Ephesians 4:25 says what our ancestors passed down long before Christianity came to our people: *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. (NIV)*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Sixth Teaching Humility

Humility is recognizing and acknowledging that Creator is a higher power than people. This is truly humbling. True humility is being humble and not arrogant. To capture true humility one must express deference or submission to the Creator, through the acceptance that all human beings are equal. The expression of this humility is manifested through the consideration of others before oneself. The wolf teaches us humility; it bows his head in the presence of others in deference, and once it has hunted the wolf will not take any of the food until it can be shared with the pack. The wolf's lack of arrogance and its respect for its community is a hard lesson, but in our people's way. The wolf's actions bring to mind Chief Marie-Anne Day Walker-Pelletier, who has been Chief of Okanese First Nation since 1981. Whenever there was a community meal taking place she always waited till the last to eat to ensure all the people were fed first.

Proverbs 18:12 says: *Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor. (NIV)*

I believe the wolf and Chief Marie-Anne Day Walker-Pelletier are true examples of humility and honour.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer written by *Deb Anderson-Pratt, OM Cree/Saulteaux residential school survivor*

One: God, Creator and Great Mystery, we praise you this day for the gifts you have provided your people.
We lift our people up for healing comfort and your compassion.
We pray for the missing and murdered women, young girls, men, and boys of your people.
May they be wrapped in your arms of comfort.

We pray for the families of the missing and murdered, that they receive comfort in their loss.

We pray for our warriors who fight against the injustices our people endure; we pray they have your compassionate ear; we pray for strength and endurance for them.

We pray just as the Elders prayed, for renewal and for the restoration of beauty to the land and its people.

We pray for Mother Earth, the waters, the winds, for our siblings the animals, birds, and fish, and all of life that surrounds us.

We pray that we will walk the good Red Road of life, and that we will walk with courage, honesty, humility, love, respect, truth, and wisdom.

We offer this prayer in humility and hope and in the name of our brother Jesus, the one who lights our path to wholeness, justice, and peace. Amen.

Lord's Prayer *(read and prayed slowly together)*

**All: 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.**

**And 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.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Hymn

We Praise You, Creator

VU 293

**1 We praise you, Creator, in earth, sea, and sky:
our Ruler, our Maker, our Sovereign most high.
Each new generation lifts voices in praise;
how good your creation, how gracious your ways!**

**2 Each springtime the blossoms bloom
fragrant once more;
each summer and autumn brings forth its rich store.**

***With witness compelling our praise and our prayer,
creation is telling of your faithful care.***

**3 *Your wondrous works teach us, Creator, to trace
the limitless reaches of your love and grace.***

***Your grace dwells among us, your love goes before:
from eldest to youngest we praise and adore.***

Seventh Teaching Truth

Truth is to know and understand all of the original laws given by the Creator and to remain faithful to them. The turtle teaches us about truth. It is said that in the beginning when the Creator made humanity and gave them the Sacred Laws, the Grandmother Turtle was present to ensure that the laws would never be forgotten.

On the back of a turtle are the 13 moons, each representing the truth of one cycle of the earth around the sun. The 28 markings on the turtle's back represent the cycle of the moon of a woman's body. The shell of the turtle represents the body's real events as created by a higher power, and serves as a reminder of the Creator's will and teachings.

1 John 5:20 teaches: *We know also the Son of God has come and given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (NIV)*

Commissioning

One: We go from this sacred space and time, to witness to the sacredness of life throughout all creation, the wisdom that persists, truth that empowers, respect that guides relationships, bravery that becomes shared with those experiencing injustice, honesty that confesses our ignorance and bias, humility that enables us to grow, and love that in and through all, sees creation and Creator as one, and invites us into this same unity.

* **Choral Benediction** (“Go Now in Peace” Written by Besig & Price 1988)

***Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.***

Postlude

Announcements

Upcoming Services

June 27th – Hymn Sing Sunday – **Send your requests to revchris@sjruc.ca. We'll do our best to accommodate your requests!**

July and August – Shared Services with local United Churches

July 11th at 10:30am – Join with us on the labyrinth for in-person worship. Bring your masks, lawn chairs, as we socially distance worship together!

Aug 8th at 10:30am – Join with us on the labyrinth for in-person worship. Bring your masks, lawn chairs, as we socially distance worship together!

Responding to the tragedies in Canada – The Executive of SJR is drafting a letter in support of those seeking healing in connection to residential schools. If you wish to make a donation to the Healing fund of the United Church please make your donation to SJR with a note in the memo line “Healing Fund of the UCC.” In mourning and peace we join together. In addition, we stand alongside our sisters and brothers of the Muslim faith, condemning acts of terrorism and Islamophobia. May peace prevail!

Monica Place – Thank you for those who have already dropped off their gifts in support of Monica Place. We have yet to announce our dropoff date, so if you can, please keep your donations at home until we announce a date!

Shared Summer Services - Over the months of July and August, we are partnering with local churches in the area to share services. We will host

a wide variety of preachers in order that we can travel the region from the comfort of our couches! We are grateful for all those joining with us together in worship – as we share the faith that unites us! Rev. Chis will be off for the month of August, with Rev. Tim Graham providing pastoral coverage during this time.

Silver Lake Mennonite Camp (www.slmc.ca): Are you looking for an outdoor day camp in Waterloo Region? Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, a summer camp with 60 years of experience in camp, is running outdoor day camps in Kitchener and Waterloo this summer! Campers can sign up for a week of camp filled with nature exploration, fun crafts and games, spiritual discovery, and opportunities to connect with each other. Qualified Silver Lake staff will lead activities, ensuring that your campers stay safe and have a blast this summer! Payment will only be taken once it's likely camps can run, so you can sign up without penalty if COVID-19 prevents operation. Camps will follow all COVID-19 guidelines. **Ages 5-15. \$235+tax. [Visit our website](#) for more information and to register.**
Locations: First Mennonite Church, First Hmong Mennonite Church, Waterloo North Mennonite Church.

