

St. Andrew's United Church (Williams Lake) – October 18, 2020
Sunday Worship (by Zoom and email)

Welcome

Welcome to the gathering of the family of Jesus. We gather on lands walked for thousands of years by people of the First Nations. We acknowledge the history, culture, and spirituality of the Secwépemc (Shuswap) People. We also honour the heritage and gifts of the Métis people. We remember our responsibility as persons who inhabit this land alongside our First Nations and Métis sisters and brothers. May we live the respect that our words offer.

In the name of Jesus, who is alive in each of us, peace to you.

And also with you.

We light a candle when we gather – a visible sign of God's presence, if you have a candle where you are, please join me as I light the candle.

Hymn – Jesus, remember me

VU 148

Jesus, remember me when you come in-to your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come in-to your kingdom.

Call to Worship

Each morning, God's grace awakens us,
each evening, God's peace cradles us.
Compassion is our constant companion,
as we go through our work, our activities, our days.
In every moment, God is present with us;
God whispers words which can change our lives.
Justice is our faithful teacher,
pointing to where we can carry out fairness and mercy.
When we find ourselves groping in the shadows,
God's light will provide a way home.
We turn the corner, and hope is waiting for us;
we return home, and find a feast prepared.

Thom Shuman. Liturgy w/communion for October 18, 2020.
(Pentecost 20/Trinity 19/Proper 24/Ordinary 29-A.)
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Opening Prayer

God of sanctuary,
we come to you for protection.
God of comfort,
we gather – though scattered – to feel your loving embrace.
God of assurance,
we ask you to whisper your secrets
to our desperate hearts.

God of creation and beauty,
we acknowledge your power and grace.
We have known you in moments of joy.
We have felt you in moments of pain.
Moments in your presence
are moments beyond words.
Lead us to seek your truth and live in your light.
We ask that you let us feel your presence where we are today,
in gifts of revelation, gentling of hearts,
and strengthening of spirits.
We are listening for your message
and looking for your direction.
We proclaim ourselves proud seekers.
Amen.

Written by Cheryl Stenson.
Gathering, Pentecost 2 2020, page 36.
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Call to Reconciliation

We know, despite our best efforts to live God's way, that all too easily we slip off the path to the kingdom. Trusting God will answer our prayers and forgive us, let us confess our shortcomings as we pray,

Prayer for Forgiveness

Great Love of Justice, hear our prayers:
called to treat all people equally,
we take sides and pick favourites;
chosen to be your children,
we arrogantly assume others are not so honoured;
challenged to be examples of faith,
we reveal our worst natures to our families, friends, and communities.

Forgive us, Giver of Rest. Enable us to stop putting you to the test, so we can open our hypocritical hearts to your healing touch of compassion and hope. May we give ourselves to you – confidently, completely, faithfully.

...silence is kept...

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: the One who created goodness and beauty is also the One who shows no partiality, but offers grace and peace to all.
God has heard our prayers and done the very thing we asked – forgiven us, healed us, restored us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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Scripture Readings

Exodus 33:12-23

Moses' Intercession

12 Moses said to the LORD, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight."¹³ Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.'¹⁴ He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'¹⁵ And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here.¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.'

17 The LORD said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.'¹⁸ Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.'¹⁹ And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The LORD"; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.'²⁰ But', he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.'²¹ And the LORD continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock;²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by;²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.'

Matthew 22:15-22

The Question about Paying Taxes

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.'¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?'¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius.²⁰ Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?'²¹ They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.'²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Sermon/Reflection –

Community Prayer

Creator, even though we have not always been aware, we know you have been with us along the journeys of our lives.

We have not always recognized your presence, but we thank you for your abiding love. Your glory is all around us. Your mercy has seen us through. Your goodness is our strength and our renewal. And we thank you for the abundance in which we live and move and have our being.

We pray today for people who remain on the journey and feel alone along the way... *(pause)*

We pray for those who seek your face in times of sickness and ill-health; those who seek your face in times of loss and grief – who long to feel your healing presence especially near... *(pause)*

We pray for all who suffer under the powers and principalities of this world – who have been treated as collateral damage in a battle for loyalty to false god... *(pause)*

We pray for our planet – for your true face all around us. Help us not only to see you clearly in all of its wonder, and to remember our commitment as stewards of your lands, your seas, your air and your creatures. Guide us in our efforts to care for and tend to your world... *(pause)*

We pray that you will help us always to see your face beaming at us in every face of humanity that we encounter.

Show us your anguish as well as your delight;
your struggles as well as your strengths;
your discouragement as well as your resolve;
your sadness as well as your love.

And in all of these, help us to know you and your grace more perfectly.

Holy one, out of our privilege we give. Out of our longing, we seek your face. Bless the gifts we bring and claim them for yourself and the work we do in your name. Use them toward your mercy, goodness, and glory, we pray.

And now, O God, we are one in prayer but bring our own thanks and concerns. If some need to say “help me”, or “save me”, or “hold me”, or “forgive me”, then let these be spoken now in the confidence of our hearts in a moment of quiet prayer.

God in Community, Holy in One,
we know you as Glory, Grace, Goodness
and lift our prayer to you, saying,

The Lord’s Prayer

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
forever and ever. **Amen.**

Minute for Mission Snippet

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries as well as Healing Fund projects like the weekly sharing circle at St. Matthews Maryland in Winnipeg. This community ministry offers health and wellness programs to meet basic needs and help families thrive.

**Oct 18: Sharing Circle
Lifts Indigenous Voices**
The Healing Fund and St.
Matthews Maryland,
Winnipeg

The Life and Work of our Church

- Sad news. Marion Rainey passed away peacefully in hospital Tuesday morning, October 13. George and Marion's children, Bert and Sandra, have been staying with George. Our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers are with George and his family at this difficult time. The family said Marion was content and at peace and they are grateful even in their loss.
- Thank you for remembering that the work of the church needs your support even when we aren't able to meet in person:
 - we do appreciate all your gifts and support;
 - first and foremost – for the gift of YOU in the life of our congregation;
 - thank you for continuing to send in or drop off your offering or using PAR;
- **Fall Book Study – *Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend***, by Andy Stanley. The Board has decided to read and study this book about stewardship. You are all invited, welcome, encouraged to join us as we learn and understand more about stewardship. The books have arrived and are available in the office during office hours if you'd like to pick one up and participate in this stewardship study.
- **Advent Small Group Study** – four sessions through the Season of Advent. We'll use a study from *The Prayer Bench* by Rev. Janice MacLean, an UCC minister in Riverview, New Brunswick.
- **The Next Newsletter.** Work on the next newsletter is beginning. If you have something to include, please have it to Heather Awmack by Nov. 5 either via e-mail to hawmack@yahoo.com, the Awmack family file at the church, or delivered to her house at 1265 Resker Place (off 12th Ave). The target distribution date will be about Nov. 19, just before Advent. Thanks for your help in making this newsletter an informative one!
- **Winter Book Study – *God, Improv and the Art of Living***, by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Goodreads says this about this book... **God, Improv, and the Art of Living** is a playful, insightful book written by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Finding the connection between her hobby of **Improv** and her Christian faith, the author has some fresh ways of looking at life.

- **Winter Small Group Study** – looking at a number of Jesus’ parables with aid of a book by Amy-Jill Levine called *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*, for perspective, insight and inspiration.

Commissioning and Benediction

Knowing that...

“The world is too dangerous for anything but truth,
and too small for anything but love.” (William Sloane Coffin.)

Go forth now, filled with God’s grace.

Cradle others in God’s peace.

Go forth now, with the words that can transform the world.

Speak up for those who are not heard.

Go forth now, taking the light of God into the world.

Go into every shadowed corner with hope lighting the way.

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The grace of Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Sung Amen.

VU 974

A-men! A-men! Hal-le-lu-jah, amen!