



Cup of Hope – February 6, 2022

Sunday, February 6
Theme: Cup of Hope

† indicates stand as you are able
Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

GATHERING AS COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Rev. Bob Fillier

LIFE & MINISTRY - Rev. Bob Fillier

CENTERING MOMENT (A Defiant Hope Nadia Bolz-Wber TWOTP Video)

THE CHRIST CANDLE & CANDLE OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION – **Derry Bott**

INTROIT: *Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope* x5

MV#33

Call to Worship

Here we are. From across Canada and around the world to receive a cup of hope. To ground ourselves in something more than optimism, something more defiant than that. Here we are, where others have sat and more will sit after we've gone. Here we are so that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened. Here we are, to know more fully the hope to which God has called us. Here we are, to reveal ourselves, to confess, acknowledge, own, and imagine what a cup full of hope from the One who grounds us can do in our lives and in the world.

Gathering Prayer

We dance the dance of struggle and hope....

Shifting from one foot to another... toe...heal...toe heal...

We move through life, pulled by a rhythm as deep and interwoven as the DNA of our cells. Its manifestation the very beat of our hearts.

We dance the dance of struggle and hope...

So much to distract us.

So much to cause a floundering step.

So much pain and heartache and despair and hate and violence.

We dance the dance of struggle and hope...

Because you, Holy One have inserted a gyroscopic center in our lives that will not let the shadows have their way - hope.

Not a vapid hope dressed up as optimism, but real hope.

Hope that resists, that remakes, the transforms.

Hope...that is grounded in you.

May this hope inspire us, disorient us, confuse us, and ground us.

Right here. Through the eyes of our hearts. Amen.

AFFIRMING GOD'S LOVE -

Each of us is called to embrace a hope rooted in a transformational love that can take



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all the pain, doubt, anxiety, despair, anger, fear, guilt, hate, and grief...all the muck of life and make something different. No matter where you've been, what you've done, or left undone; what others have said about you or the narrative you tell yourself, know this – God's love for you is real. A hope grounded in God's love working through you is real. Here, in this moment, you are loved. You are wanted. You are valued, included, and affirmed.

Together may we ground ourselves in the source of all our being. May God's love reveal the possibilities that hope can show us.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST SHARED WITH ALL - Rev. Bob Fillier

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

✠ **HYMN:** *Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives ~Adrienne Striker*

Impartial, compassionate God of all lives,
In Christ you have shown us your love actualized,
incarnate and weak in the arms of the poor,
Destroying all systems that keep closed the door.

Unholy, unjustified, fear we incite,
When we shun our neighbours yet cling to our rights.
Your children still wander the streets left in pain,
We pass laws against them to prove our disdain.

Creator of beauty, we stand not in pride,
We do not assume you will stay on our side.
For yours is the sacred, untarnished by sin,
A refuge for outcasts that all may come in.

Our hope us your freedom for both great and small,
To strive for perfection and know all means all.
We challenge and question each law without grace,
Affirming the image of Christ on each face.

All honour we give you, O help us to see,
Your children are worthy to claim victory.
And so let our actions flow out of our praise,
To see transformation, you Kindom to raise.

A STORY FOR THE AGES

(Lectionary@Home: Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

Focus Readings: John 4:3-15 and Ephesians 1:18a (NRSV)



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Then Jesus went from the country of Judea to the country of Galilee. He had to go through the country of Samaria. So He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar. It was near the piece of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from traveling so He sat down just as He was by the well. It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to get water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." His followers had gone to the town to buy food. The woman of Samaria said to Him, "You are a Jew. I am of Samaria. Why do You ask me for a drink when the Jews have nothing to do with the people of Samaria?"

Jesus said to her, "You do not know what God has to give. You do not know Who said to you, 'Give Me a drink.' If you knew, you would have asked Him. He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, the well is deep. You have nothing to get water with. Where will You get the living water? Are You greater than our early father Jacob? He gave us the well. He and his children and his cattle drank from it."

Jesus said to her, "Whoever drinks this water will be thirsty again. Whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty. The water that I will give him will become in him a well of life that lasts forever."

The woman said, "Sir, give me this water so I will never be thirsty. Then I will not have to come all this way for water."

And from Ephesians 1:18a,

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which The Holy One has called you"

Music Held in Your Promise Joseph Blotz – Enfleshed

Held in your promise of love,
Held in your promise of hope,
Held in your promise of justice,
We will love,
We will hope, we'll be just.



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Held in Your Promise

Joseph Blotz

Held in your pro - mise of love, held in your pro - mise of hope,
5 held in your pro - mise of jus - tice, we will love, we will hope, we'll be just.

We Are Held by M Rudder of Enfleshed

(M Rudder is a queer, non-binary, transmasculine artist, writer, and deep listener, grounded in earth-based practices and exploring what it is to listen and live as sacred.)

We are held. We are held. We are held. We are held in the rocking currents of her waves. We are held as we bathe in the constellations of the night sky. We are held by the medicines of all our relatives. We are held on the inhale taking in that which is meant to carry us forward in this lifetime. We are held on the exhale moving close to the mystery of death. We are held. We are held. We are held. Held in the shape of our lungs. Held in the trees that breathe for us. Held in the light that heals. Held in the soil that feeds us. We are held. We are held. We are held. We are held in the magic of our being-ness. With never a request for us to be more. Or less. Or quiet. Or louder. Or thinner. Or stronger. Or peaceful. Or angry. We are held. Simply held. We are held. We are held by the mystery as we hold one another. We are held by the certainty of death in each moment that we live. We are held in our fear while we strive to live in our joy. We are held in our desire as we dance with our disconnect. We are held. We are held. We are held. We are held by our feet. Our breath. Our blood. Our relations. We are held. We are held. We are held.

Reflection: Kisay's Song (Iskewek Iskotew Tapwewin) by Eekwol (beat by Merky Waters)

Our Cup of Hope... (Video from festival participants responses)

Reader: In these pieces of Christian witness we see the Christ.

Many: Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

The Very Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator of The United Church of Canada



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WE RESPOND

✠ **HYMN:** *When Hands Reach Beyond Divides*

MV#169

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, OURSELVES & PRAYER OF JESUS

BEING THE CHURCH THROUGH SERVICE

INVITATION TO RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

SHARING OUR GIFTS

✠ **OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)**

May you enlighten the eyes of our hearts, O God, so that as we know more fully the hope you've placed at the very center of our beings we may see how the call you've placed upon our lives is made manifest in serving all of creation through the lens of hope. May our time, talent, treasure, passion, and creativity be part of the hope you share with the world. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

One: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Wait a moment! Just wait one moment!

Do you realize what we've just said?

God. Is. With. Us.

God is with all creation!

That is something to be hopeful about.

That is something that fills our cup!

So... friends... **GOD IS WITH YOU!**

All: AND ALSO WITH YOU! ALLELUIA!

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift our hearts to God!

One: Let us give thanks to the God of all hope,
all wonder, all life!

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

One: Yes. It is right that we celebrate your presence, loving God.
You have been with your creation from the beginning of the beginning,
before there was a beginning at all.
And, with your wonder, with your curiosity, with your love,
you brought creation into being.
From the smallest particles that we can only begin to imagine,
to the grandest universal structures that stretch further than we can imagine!
You know every part and parcel,
every moment, every creature,



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every thing that matters,
matters to you.

In that we find our hope!

All: In that we find our hope, loving God!

One: Throughout the ages that human beings have been a part of your creation,
you have wandered with us,
through our high places and our low places,
through our times when the sun has shone bright and hot,
through our moments when the night has wrapped us in its cool shawl.
Throughout the ages,
in our best moments and our worst moments,
you have loved us with a never-ending love.
And you have given us teachers,
the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the animals that walk or stomp or slither,
even the plants themselves;
you have given us teachers,
grandparents and tiny little babies, teenagerly teens,
and children of all sorts,
adults of every shape and age.
When we have forgotten what it means to be connected to you,
your teachers have called us back to your love,
again and again and again.
In that we find our hope!

All: In that we find our hope, loving God!

One: When the time was right,
Jesus came to be among us,
to offer the entire world ways of understanding you,
experiencing you, knowing you –
and being understood, experienced, and known by you,
loving God.
He was born like all of us.
He laughed with those who laughed,
and mourned with those who mourned,
and danced with those who danced.
With all of his teaching,
all of his living,
all of his dying – and rising again –
he called us into you.
In that we find our hope!

All: In that we find our hope, loving God!

One: On the night before he was taken to what would be his death,
he gathered with his friends,
for a meal of remembrance –
a meal of hope in your presence past,
and your presence yet to come.



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He reminded us that we were to serve the most vulnerable.
He reminded us that we would be known as his people,
by our love.

He reminded us that, no matter what,
he would be with us to the end of the ages.
In that we find our hope!

All: In that we find our hope, loving God!

One: He took bread and blessed it.

He gave it to all of us saying, “Take this bread, all of you, and eat it.

This is my body, given for you.

Each time you eat bread – remember me.”

When the meal was nearly over,

he took wine and blessed it.

He gave it to all of us saying, “Take this cup, all of you, and drink it.

This is my promise, in my life’s blood,
that sin is forgiven.

Each time you drink – remember me.”

So we eat, we drink, and we remember.

All: We eat, we drink and we remember.

One: Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and this cup, loving God,
that they and we might be Christ’s body and blood,
hope for the world, alive in the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory is yours, God most holy,

now and forever, amen!

SHARING THE MEAL

Please come forward to receive starting with the back rows. You are invited to come forward using the centre aisle. You will be given a rice cracker and a small cup of juice.

Please return to your seat via the side aisles. Please wait until everyone has been served before eating and drinking. If you are online, please gather the elements you need to participate and wait until everyone has been served so we can share in communion together wherever we are located. All cups are filled with grape juice.

One: The bread of life! Alleluia!

One: The cup of hope! Alleluia!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**All: With the sweetness on our lips,
with our spirits given hope again,
may all that we have shared at your table
carry us into the world,
to be cups of hope,
brimming over,**



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each and every day.

Amen

† HYMN *In the Bulb there is a Flower*

VU#703

† COMMISSIONING and BENECTION

Beloved and worthy!

We go into this world to offer
Abundant and unconditional hope
To everything, God has touched.

This is the mission to which we've been called.
So go, go and be the church.

† HYMN *Will You Come and See the Light V.5*

VU#96

POSTLUDE