

Jordan Station United Church est. 1859

March 22, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Lent
Liturgical Colour – Purple

Order of Service – See Below for the Full Service

Gathering for Worship

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Lighting of the Christ Candle

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship - Being intentional about entering into Worship

Opening Music: Bathe Me in Your Light, O God (More Voices #82)

Children's Time:

Story Time with Rev. Anita

"Sometimes I Need to be Hugged" by Elspeth Campbell Murphy

Video: Importance of Washing Hands

The Word of God:

Prayer of Illumination

1st Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

Special Music: He Will Hold Me Fast (CCLI #7016161)

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Sermon: "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

Sermon Hymn: Like a Healing Stream (More Voices #144)

Our Response to God's Word:

Announcements

Minute for Mission: "Protecting a Child's Rights"

Offering – Check out our new Website for how you can Donate online
(www.jordanstationunitedchurch.org/donate)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Closing our Worship & Going Forth in God's Name

Closing Hymn: Lord Jesus, of You I Will Sing (SFGP #20)

Benediction and Commissioning

Postlude: Be Thou My Vision (arranged by Mark Hayes)

Jordan Station United Church

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Full Worship Service

Gathering for Worship

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Welcome to Worship my friends. Today as we recognize and honour the lands of our First Nations People, we do so as a continuing act of reconciliation with those who called the land home before we arrived as settlers. We also acknowledge the Indigenous governances that exist today and our need to listen to their concerns and move forward with peaceful acts of reconciliation.

Lighting of the Christ Candle – Join us by lighting your own candle at home

There was once someone who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people just had to ask him who he was. One time when they asked him who he was, he said . . . "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Opening Prayer

Holy loving and mysterious God. We ask that you help us today to Worship with joy! Help us to embrace the gift of this time spent together as your people of faith. The church building is the place where we assemble and so today, we remember that each one of us is the church in the world regardless of where we find ourselves physically. Children of God, breathe and know that God is with us. We are not alone. Amen

Call to Worship – Being Intentional about entering into Worship

One: Lead us gently as we worship, O God.

All: With you we have everything we need.

One: You give us calm in the midst of stress, the light of hope when the world seems dark.

All: You strengthen and restore us.

One: You, O God, are the source of a life that is faithful and fulfilling.

All: As each day follows the next may we always be aware that it is you who leads the way. Amen

(Thanks to David Spark for this prayer)

Opening Music: Bathe Me in Your Light, O God (More Voices #82)

Children's Time:

Story Time with Rev. Anita:

"Sometimes I Need to be Hugged" by Elspeth Campbell Murphy

Video: Importance of Washing Hands

<https://www.wptv.com/news/state/video-south-florida-teachers-experiment-showing-the-importance-of-washing-hands-goes-viral>

The Word of God:

Prayer of Illumination

Let us pray . . . Holy One, thank You for Christ's example of a man who used every precious moment to carry out Your will throughout his life. I pray that I may follow His example and live my life guided by Holy Spirit. Give me the opportunity to share the gospel of reconciliation with others so they may know your love. Fill us with hope as we listen to the scriptures now. AMEN.

1st Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God for the Word.

Special Music: He Will Hold Me Fast (CCLI #7016161)

Gospel: John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So, they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So, for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will."

Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

One: For the word of God in scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us;

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Surely we are not blind, are we?"
(*Rev. Anita's sermon will be available online soon*)

Sermon Hymn: Like a Healing Stream (More Voices #144)

Our Response to God's Word:

Life and Work of Jordan Station United Church - Announcements

Friends, although our Church building is closed, our Programming and Worship continues. We are hosting many things on Facebook Live so follow us if you can and help us spread the word so that all can stay connected to our church family.

<https://facebook.com/JordanStationUnitedChurch>

Storytime with Rev. Anita @ 11:00 am daily
Creative Spirit with Carolyn Tuesdays @ 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship @ 11:00 am
All videos will be posted and stored so they can be viewed at any time.

We are also offering online materials via email so be sure and check every few days for updates.

Minute for Mission: "Protecting a Child's Rights"

Emmanuel Dennis Ngongo was 13 years old when he came across the Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children's Rights (KAACR) through his school's Child's Rights Club. KAACR is a long-standing Mission & Service global partner. When his parents were transferred to another district and he had to change schools, Emmanuel wrote to KAACR to get help in launching a new club.

Kenya has dire statistics on violence against children. Rape, abuse, and child labour occur widely in both rural and urban areas. For many young people, the situation is made worse by their inability to speak out at school or within their communities.

KAACR, a network organization established nearly two decades ago, serves as a platform for like-minded youth to engage in communications and advocacy on ending violence against children in Kenya. Using channels such as WhatsApp and social media, KAACR has reached at least 200 young men and women, many of whom have amazing stories to tell about their transformation. They share ideas and propel change at regional, national, and international levels. Their primary mandate is to champion children's rights everywhere; they believe every child should be protected.

Emmanuel was so inspired by his experiences with KAACR that he launched the Child's Rights Defenders Movement with other peers in 1999, which was hosted by KAACR. He later

worked for KAACR as an advocate protecting girls from female genital mutilation and early marriage, and in general youth development work, where he coordinated Youth Employment Summit sessions in Kenya and throughout Africa.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Offering Invitation & Prayers

We are grateful for the many gifts of time, talent and treasure that are continually being offered by our Church Members and friends. May they continue to make a difference in the world to those living on the margins. To give online please visit our website:

(www.jordanstationunitedchurch.org/donate)

Prayers of the People by The Right Rev. Richard Bott

Let us pray...In this time of COVID-19, we pray:

When we aren't sure, God,
help us be calm;
when information comes
from all sides, correct and not,
help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to breathe,
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,
slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts,
when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected,
when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can,
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

For the doctors, we pray,
for the nurses, we pray,
for the technicians and the janitors and the
aides and the caregivers, we pray,
for the researchers and theorists,
the epidemiologists and investigators,
for those who are sick,
and those who are grieving, we pray,
for all who are affected,
all around the world...
we pray
for safety,
for health,
for wholeness.

May we feed the hungry,
give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and may we do all that we can to heal
the sick—
in spite of the epidemic,
in spite of the fear.

Help us, O God,
that we might help each other.

In the love of the Creator,
in the name of the Healer,

in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all,
we pray.

May it be so. Let us pray that words that Jesus taught us. . .

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.

(A Prayer During Times of COVID-19 by the Right Rev. Richard Bott, originally posted on Facebook. Moderator Bott encourages the sharing of prayers he posts throughout his term.)

Closing our Worship & Going Forth in God's Name

Closing Hymn: Lord Jesus, of You I Will Sing (SFGP #20)

Benediction and Commissioning

May the peace of Christ enfold you.

May the love of God secure you.

May the Holy Spirit inspire you and those you love. Amen

Postlude: Be Thou My Vision (arranged by Mark Hayes)