

Jordan Station United Church est. 1859

June 21, 2020 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Liturgical Colour – Green
7:00pm

Theme: Aboriginal Sunday

Order of Service – See Below for the Full Service

Passing of the Peace of Christ

(Please pass the peace to one another in the live comments section)

Hymn: River (More Voices #3)

Call to Worship - Being intentional about entering into 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 (read by Marilyn Salmon)

Apology and Response

Reflection

There are seven Grandfather Teachings or Laws our people lived by daily. Today we thank our church elders for their gifts:

- Love - read by Jean Foster
- Respect - read by Wayne Gibson
- Courage - by Carolyn Vilim
- Honesty - by Lloyd Sanford
- Wisdom - read by Joe Wismer
- Humility - read by Edie Duncan
- Truth - read by John Thompson

Hymn: God Weeps (More Voices #78)

Prayers of the People

Announcements

A Father's Day Message (by Sarah Foster)

Offering

Hymn: When I Needed a Neighbour (Voices United #600)

Benediction and Commissioning

Postlude: I Will Arise and Go To Jesus (arranged by M. Hayes)

Go in Peace

(Revised and Used with Permission; by Deb Anderson Pratt)

Jordan Station United Church

Sunday, June 21, 2020
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Full Worship Service

Gathering for Worship

Drumming

Passing of the Peace of Christ

(Please pass the peace to one another in the live comments section)

Hymn: River (More Voices #3)

River, rush-a-down to the ocean blue,
River from a mountain high.
River, as you do what rivers do,
River, draw the Spirit nigh.

Spirit, come-a-down to the river-side,
Spirit, spark of wondrous thought.
Spirit, I am free for you to guide,
Spirit, pray that I be taught!

Water, let me drink of your healing pow'r,
Water, strength and life you give.
Water, as I travel with each hour,
Water, help my body live.

River, flow-a-down where you ran before,
River, source of clearer view.
River, as I walk your rocky shore,
River, see my journey through.

See my journey through.
See my journey through.

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

At a time when racism storms around us, this land acknowledgement is only the beginning of our confession to the wrongs that white Canada has been a part of for too long. May this acknowledgement spoken now be a step toward reconciliation. Today we recognize that we are gathered on the traditional territory of First Nations peoples. In particular, we recognize and thank the Anishnabe, Ojibwe/Chippewa, Haudenosaunee, and the Neutral Nation (Attawandaron) for their stewardship of these lands over millennia. May we acknowledge that our gain has come at a great cost to these peoples. Our words of confession are just the beginning and must be followed up with action. We must challenge prejudice in ourselves, our relatives and friends. Nothing will ever change unless we become part of that change. May it begin. May it be so.

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."

Call to Worship

One: We gather to share in the Creator's gift of abundant life for all.

All: We fix ourselves on you, Creator.

One: Come fill our hearts with your endless love, and send the wind of your Spirit to new hope through our lives.

All: Come light our souls to rise in faith, to reach out for your kingdom.

One: Come pour out your Spirit upon us as we stand together as brothers and sisters.

All: Lift up our heads, brush away the shadows, and shine your grace into our minds.

One: So, Creator, we rise to worship, we shake off the shackles of a fallen world and join our hearts together.

All: With gratitude we gather as a community in praise, Creator, to seek transformation and to celebrate the power of your Spirit that is always moving.

Opening Prayer (read by Marilyn Salmon)

Eternal God, you are our rock, you are the firm foundation for everything we build.

You give gifts to your people for the good of the church.

You equip and train your people to carry out the good works you have prepared for us in advance.

As we meet today, we ask that you would provide wisdom, guidance, and direction.

Remind us that you are our living ally, you are our fortress, you are our tower of strength, and you are our rescuer.

Everything we need is found in you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Reflection

Imagine living in harmony with Mother Earth, the animals around and with each other, before strangers came to your lands. We had a belief system that helped us to live a good life. Without trying to understand our beliefs the newcomers condemned this belief system and our people as barbaric, demonic, hedonistic, and savage.

Imagine you have a certain way of doing things. It's always the way you've done it as long as you can remember, and then someone comes along and tells you a different way you should or have to do it. For example: I like doing my dishes a certain way. I wash the cups and silverware first, the saucers and bowls, the big plates next, followed by the serving bowl, and then the pots and pans last. My sister does the pots and pans first and then all the rest. Thankfully we don't interfere with each other's way of doing them: a simplistic example of living in harmony with each other. That's how our ancestors, grandparents, and parents lived. They each had their role in the community and didn't interfere with each other. They lived a very simple life.

Some of the teachings we lived by were the Grandfather Teachings, which consist of Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth, teachings you also find in the Bible. Before contact these teachings were taught freely and daily in our communities. The mothers spoke of them to their unborn children. They were the first lessons a child was taught that were repeated throughout their lives. After contact the teachings were presented in secret and taught very subtly.

My great-grandmother was my teacher. She was very subtle in teaching them. She had to be to avoid being thrown in jail for practising her way of life. She was so subtle in the teachings that I was totally unaware that I had them within my being until I took a life skills program in 1986. The instructor had a woman come in to teach them to the class. Back in that time I had no voice and could barely speak up. As I listened to the woman present the teachings I apparently made a "humph" sound. She asked if I had something to say. It took some coaxing on her part, but I was finally able to tell her that I knew all of what she was teaching and I didn't learn it off any blackboard.

There are seven Grandfather Teachings or Laws our people lived by daily.

Love: (read by Jean Foster)

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)

Respect: (read by Wayne Gibson)

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)

Courage: (read by Carolyn Vilim)

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)

Honesty: (read by Lloyd Sanford)

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)

Wisdom: (read by Joe Wismer)

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.

Humility: (read by Edie Duncan)

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.

Truth: (read by John Thompson)

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)

Hymn: God Weeps (More Voices #78)

God weeps at love withheld,
at strength misused,
at children's innocence abused,
and till we change the way we love, God weeps.

God bleeds at anger's fist,
at trust betrayed,
at women battered and afraid,
and till we change the way we win, God bleeds.

God cries at hungry mouths,
at running sores,
at creatures dying without cause,
and till we change the way we care, God cries.

God waits for stones to melt,
for peace to seed,
for hearts to hold each other's need,
and till we understand the Christ, God waits,
and till we understand the Christ, God waits.

Prayers of the People

Announcements

Choir Rehearsal – Thursdays at 2:00pm via Zoom; contact Joyce for details

Save the Date!

Sunday, July 12, 2020 - 12:00 noon to 2:00pm for our [Car Rally Fundraiser](#) featuring an in-car adventure around Jordan.

The event stops will include:

- BBQ
- Donation Drop at the Village of Hope
- Bubble Prayers
- Lemonade Stand with music provided by Ryan Lunn

Cost \$20 for adults. No cost for Children.

Tell your friends and help support Jordan Station United Church.

A Father's Day Message (by Sarah Foster)

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.

Offering: 4 ways to give

- 1 – Donate Online: www.JordanStationUnitedChurch.org
- 2 – Drop off a cheque in our NEW mailbox at the Church. (side entrance on Bridgeport)
- 3 – Mail a cheque. Consider weekly post-dated cheques.
- 4 – Join PAR – email Wayne (waynegibson2@hotmail.com) for details.

Hymn: When I Needed a Neighbour (Voices United #600)

When I needed a neighbour,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty,
were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked,
were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?

When I needed a healer,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?

Wherever you travel
I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, I'll be there.

Benediction and Commissioning:

May our footsteps on these ancient lands remind us of creation and connectedness, in our search for truth.
May the Gum Tree, from its roots to its branches, remind us to dig deep and reach high, in our action for justice.
May the Eagle, who soars in the sky, remind us of the power, in our call for love.
May the expanse of the lands and seas, of the sky and stars, remind us of God's timing in our faith in hope.
May the Holy Three, Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus, remind us of community.
So, with grace, mercy, and peace, go in truth, justice, love, and hope.

Postlude: I Will Arise and Go To Jesus (arranged by M. Hayes)



2020 Indigenous Day of Prayer: The Seven Grandfather Teachings
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