

Hybrid Worship for July 3, 2022

Fourth after Pentecost

(please stand in body or in spirit*

bold print is for all to share)

Territorial Acknowledgment and Announcements

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississauga of the Credit First Nations. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibway and other allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in their community, and to share and respect Mother Earth.

Centering Music: “Gather Us In” MV 7

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in,

ground us, ground us in you.

*** Call to Worship and Opening Prayer**

One: God calls us in,

All: and God sends us out.

One: God calls us into community, into relationship and into worship,

All: and God sends us out to share hope, healing and justice.

One: God invites us to enter new spaces and new places,

All: and God dispatches us to encounter new people and circumstances.

One: God calls us in,

All: and God sends us out.

One: Let's pray together:

All: God in the known and the unknown,

you are a constant presence in the cosmos.

You have given us so many gifts to share,

and so much love to spread throughout your creation.

Help us to go confidently into the world,

seeking justice, declaring your peace and living your grace.

In these moments of worship today, open our hearts

to your joy, our minds to your truth, and our spirits to

your Spirit, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

*** Opening Hymn: “God Is Here” VU 389**

God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation: 'Reaching Down' by Dave Hopwood at engageworship.org

Lord you reach down into our darkness,
into the pits and the traps others make for us,
into the mire and mess we make for ourselves,
into the despair and disappointment of this difficult world.

You reach down and step into our darkness,
making yourself small,
making yourself like us.

Not distant,
not holding back
but walking every difficult mile
every foot-wearing journey
of this Emmaus life.

Every Calvary Road, every Valley of Shadow,
you take the stones in our shoes
and place them in yours.
You limp beside us.

Quietly, silently, often in the guise of others,
in the hands and feet,
tears and smiles of friends and strangers,
and in the profound name and caring presence of
the Man of Sorrows,
the Prince of Peace,
the Son of Man:
Jesus.

Sung Response: “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” VU 400

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Scripture Readings:

Galatians 6:7-10 *The Inclusive Bible*

Don't be deceived – God cannot be cheated: where you sow, there you will reap. If you sow in the field of self-indulgence, you will reap corruption. If you sow in the field of the Spirit, you will reap the harvest of eternal life. Never grow tired of doing good. We will reap a harvest at the proper time – if we don't grow weary. So, while we still have time, do good to all and especially to those of the household of faith.

Luke 10:1–11, 16 *The Inclusive Bible*

After this, Jesus appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he intended to visit. He said to them, “The harvest is rich, but the workers are few; therefore ask the overseer to send workers to the harvest.

Be on your way, and remember: I am sending you as lambs in the midst of wolves. Don't carry a walking stick or knapsack; wear no sandals and greet no one along the way. And whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be upon this house!’ If the people live peaceably there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you, for the labourer is worth a wage. Don't keep moving from house to house.

And whatever city you enter, after they welcome you, eat what they set before you and heal those who are sick in that town. Say to them 'The reign of God has drawn near to you.' If the people of any town you enter don't welcome you, go into its streets and say. 'We shake the dust of this town from our feet as testimony against you. But know that the reign of God has drawn near.'

Anyone who listens to you, listens to me. Anyone who rejects you rejects me; and those who reject me reject the One who sent me.'

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "Go In Love"

Reflection: "Sowing in the field of the Spirit"

*** Hymn:** "Soil of God, You and I" MV 174

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be
part of God's promise for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth
joining as partners will all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found.
All stand together, this is Holy ground.

Offering Prayer:

All: In the name and in the spirit of Jesus,
we bring our gifts to you, O God.
Remind us that wherever we are,
and however we engage in worship,
we have something to share and gifts to offer.
Help us to give with them
a ready mind,
a willing spirit,
and a joyful heart.
Amen.

*** Hymn of Dedication: MV 104**

Know that God is good, know that God is good,
know that God is good, God is good, God is good.

Prayers of the People

- One: Loving God, as we share this journey of life and faith,
we offer our thanks for your abundant blessings
to the world.
- Two: *We are grateful for the beauty of sunrises and sunsets,
for the refreshing waters of lakes, rivers and oceans,
and for the diverse forms of life that thrive in our neighbourhoods.*
- One: We thank you, God, for noisy birds and nosy raccoons,
for busy squirrels and buzzing insects,
for shade trees and tomato plants,
for milkweed and for butterflies.
- Two: *We offer our thanks for our siblings in faith
across denominations and traditions,
across the street and across the pew and screen.*
- One: You remind us, Holy Source, that we are never alone,
and that we are called to share your love, wholeness and justice
with all people and all creation.
- Two: *And so we offer our prayers today for those who still feel alone
as they journey through loss – loss of health, loss of community,
loss of a loved one, loss of hope.
Help us to reach out with words and actions
that bring your comfort and presence.*
- One: We pray today for those who are closest to us – our friends,
our families and extended families, our neighbours and siblings in faith,
that they know your love through us, that they see your Spirit in us.
- Two: *We offer our prayers for those distant from us physically today –
Ukrainian families still separated by war, Afghanistan families still
struggling to find freedom and new life, American women now living in
fear and with the loss of control over their own choices, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals
still fighting to be respected and acknowledged all over the world.*
- One: We pray, God, knowing that you hear and answer,
knowing that sometimes we will be called upon to be the answer -
- Two: *We pray as Jesus taught us.*

The Lord's Prayer (sung) VU 959

Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil,

For the kingdom, the power and glory are yours
now and forever. Amen

*** Closing Hymn: "We are Pilgrims" VU 595**

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

*** Commissioning /Blessing**

May God, who sang the universe into being, go with you.
May Christ, who is God's love song to the world, attend you.
May the Holy Spirit continue to sing God's love
into each and every heart, each and every day.

*** Sung Amen VU 974**

Rev. Joanne's Reflection

"Sowing in the field of the Spirit"

This past week, I was able to visit some very different spaces as part of my ministry at Applewood and beyond. The first was the Interfaith Council of Peel Picnic, which was held at the Jame Masjid Mosque. Members of the council were invited to share *Asr* or afternoon prayer in the mosque before we shared a potluck meal with food provided by our own Applewood folk, and our Buddhist, Muslim, and Jewish members. As we shared prayers and conversation and community, the Spirit of God was very much present despite our differences in faith traditions and belief. All of us present were, as Paul put it, ‘sowing in the field of the Spirit.’

The second space was Mayor Crombie’s Pride Social at the Stonehooker Brewery on Lakeshore Road. In this milieu, we were not among those who gathered because of faith, but because of their desire to be in welcoming and accepting community. After we set up a small display that simply offered our peaceful and presence as an affirming community of faith, we were fed, and offered refreshment. Slowly folk came to explore our table, perhaps taking a business card or an information card, or a small pride flag. Some took away a ‘prayer square’ knitted in pride rainbow colours, and many were moved by those small pieces of cloth that held our prayers, our care, and our inclusivity. Despite this being a secular event, we were definitely ‘sowing in the fields of the Spirit.’

The third space I experienced this week was a virtual one, as I attended several offerings of information and conversation with leaders at the Digital Ministry Summit hosted by Convergence, formerly the Centre for Progressive Renewal. This learning opportunity allowed me to be fed both spiritually and mentally by folk who share my values and my theology, and my passion for God’s work in the world. It was clear to me that their work was ‘sowing in a field of the Spirit’ that was very unfamiliar to me, but that can bring hope and innovation to churches. In this digital space, I was reminded that those who were leading and those who were attending had brought nothing along with us, sent into a space where our thoughts and ideas about what God is calling us to do and to be were paramount.

In each of these experiences, I felt God’s call to “do good.” In each of these three encounters, I also felt “sent” – sometimes into very unusual scenarios. In each, there was an element of hesitation – would I, as a female leader in a Christian community of faith, be welcomed, or accepted? Would what I could bring to these gatherings be seen as worthwhile? Would I end up shaking some dust from my feet? I can say that despite feeling hesitant, there were moments of real connection and deep respect in all three spaces.

As I read our gospel passage from the lectionary for this week, I felt a real connection with those who were sent – sent out to places where Jesus intended to go. I believe that the spaces I entered over the past days were places that Jesus would also want to go – to interact with those who relate to God differently, to share God’s love and acceptance with those who may have been rejected, to learn and to use technology that is already transforming our world, to spread God’s reign of justice and peace.

I believe we are all being sent by Jesus to explore and experience places where we may find new ‘fields of the Spirit’ in which to plant God’s love. Many of us embraced ZOOM worship, and found that we could be fed there, we could find community and connection and sacredness in a virtual space that could also grow and nourish God’s love. Some of you have entered into the space of learning about systemic racism in this country – and even in our own lives – and have found that exercise to be both an opportunity for nurturing Spirit, but also a path to knocking the dust of colonialism from your metaphorical feet.

We can begin to imagine where Jesus is sending us – where the places and spaces to share may be, and we can go. We can go in pairs, in groups, or as a community of faith working together. We can walk further into the world of digital ministry, we can stride into virtual and physical spaces that may

challenge us, but may also be rich fields in which we can sow in the Spirit. Perhaps we could partner with a local café that wants to bring people together to share music, or ideas, or discussion. Perhaps we could help to organize an event that brings curious but cautious members of the 2SLGBTQ+ into church for frank discussion.

Some of these ideas may work, some spaces may welcome us, and there may be times when we just need to keep moving on to the next encounter, to the next project or idea or community, trusting that God is with us in our explorations and in the physical or virtual spaces we enter. If we are truly seeking to plant the seeds of God's love in the world, we will find the right fields, we will find the communities in which that love can flourish.

We may also come upon situations where God's peace cannot easily be proclaimed or welcomed. In our own Christian family there are churches that would turn Jesus gospel of God's love for all into a 'you must be like us to belong' kind of church. We may personally know individuals or organizations that do not promote inclusion, who may deny others their truth, or who seek profit or wealth over the well-being of persons and creation. I believe Jesus was telling those he sent – including us today – that we don't have to stay in those spaces or give them our time and energy; we don't have to argue with those who do not share our values. We can move on, looking for the next place that Jesus would want to go.

Ultimately, those that Jesus sent returned, and were amazed that they were able to minister to others successfully in Jesus' name. The church in Galatia to whom Paul wrote continued to grow, and we assume found the courage and strength to "never grow tired of doing good." In mosques or at Pride events, at the grocery store or in our church building, on-site or on-line, may we find ways to sow in the fields of the Spirit, and minister in Jesus' name, while we support one another to continue God's good work and spread God's good news in the world. Amen