

Morning Worship
National Indigenous Day of Prayer, Sunday, June 21, 2020

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn 344 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" v. **1 & 2**

*From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise:
alleluia, alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue:
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia!*

*Eternal are thy mercies, Lord:
eternal truth attends thy Word;
alleluia, alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
till suns shall rise and set no more
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia!*

Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for the Land

The Four Directions Prayer

CELEBRANT God the Creator, the strength of the people, we honour you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. We respect the truth of your spirit world and care for your creations to the east, to the south, to the west and to the north. We honour you by deeds and not words. We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life.

READER Come Great Spirit as we gather in your name. We face *East*: To your symbol colour gold the breath of the morning sun, to your animal sign the Eagle which soars ever upward in the praise of the Creator and calls us to do the same, to your words calling us to balance our minds in the spirit of humility and truth. We invoke your Spirit of illumination and far sighted vision. The ways have shown us how to love you and each other with heart, mind, and soul, and we pray.

ALL Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

CELEBRANT We turn to the *South*: To your symbol colour red the hue of revelation, to your animal sign the Wolf...strong and enduring. The ways call us to balance of Spirit and harmony with all nations, tribes and clans. We invoke your wisdom, grace and goodness of the ages, and we pray.

All Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

READER We turn to the *West*: To your symbol colour black the stillness of night, to your sign thunder mighty and bold, to your animal sign the Bear. The ways call us to balance emotions in the tradition of truth and honesty. We invoke your spirit ways of seeing within the community and its strength to endure, and we pray.

ALL Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

CELEBRANT We turn *North*: To your symbol colour white the truth of clarity and brightness, to your animal sign, the Deer, which touches us with earthiness and all things growing, to your words calling us to balance of our body in the spirit of a good sense and humor. We invoke your spirit of innocence, trust and love. The ways open our eyes to the sacredness of each living thing, and we pray.

ALL Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

READER We turn to complete the circle: To God the Creator who cleanses the world with snow wind and rain, to the Creator's Son, Jesus the Christ, who fills us with mercy and loving embrace of all nations and to the Holy Creator's Spirit who guides us, and we pray.

ALL Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

CELEBRANT Creator, you bent the earth like a bow until it was one, round, shining planet. At your word the land was drawn into mountains and tundra, forests and prairies; the waters were gathered together into rivers, lakes and seas. Many times, when people crossed these seas from other lands they broke the circle of your creation by their greed and violence and they shattered the lives of others. Creator renew the circle of the earth and turn the hearts of all people to one another; that they and all the earth may live and be drawn toward you through the love of Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit in the circle of the Trinity, forever One. **Amen.**

Chant: "Neesa, Neesa" (Traditional Seneca)

Collect of the Day

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading

A reading from the book of Isaiah...

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and

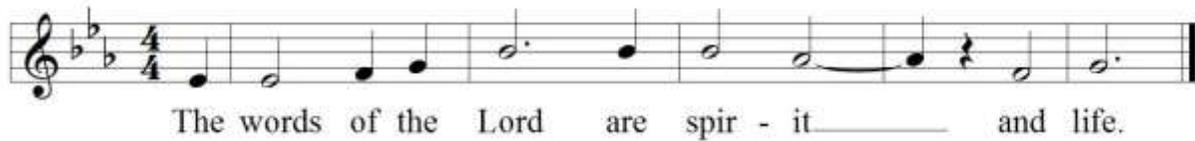
strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (40.25-31)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Psalm 19.1-4, 7-8

Gordon Johnston



*The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another. **Refrain***

*Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
Their sound has gone out in to all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world. **Refrain***

*The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and
gives light to the eyes. **Refrain***

Epistle

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians...

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable,

whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. (4.4-9)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn 407 "Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works"

v. 1 & 2

*Many and great, O God, are your works,
maker of earth and sky.*

*Your hands have set the heavens with stars;
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.*

*Lo, at your Word the waters were formed;
deep seas obey your voice.*

*Grant unto us communion with you,
O star-abiding one.*

*Come unto us and dwell with us;
with you are found the gifts of life.*

*Bless us with life that has no end,
eternal life in you.*

Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the

light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."')

) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. (1.1-18)

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Anthem 553 "Ubi Caritas et Amor" ~Taizé

Ubi caritas et amor.

Ubi caritas, deus ibi est.

Affirmation of Faith

A Statement of Belief

We believe in the love of God, embodied in the person of Jesus, spread through the cosmos by the Holy Spirit

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Intercessions

Leader: We ask.../we call upon you

Response: Teach us and show us the way

ALL Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the centre of this Sacred Circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your Spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Confession lets us set down the heavy things we carry with us, putting us in right relationship with one another & with God.

For all that separates our hearts from God and from all that closes our eyes to God's love... *silence*

For what we have done, left undone, and what has been done on our behalf... *silence*

For the pride that prevents us from forgiving others, as we have been forgiven... *silence*

All Jesus, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

The Lord enrich you with grace, and nourish you with many blessings; the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**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.
For ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Blessing

God of surprises, you call us from the narrowness of our traditions to new ways of being church, from the captivities of our culture to creative witness for justice, from the smallness of our horizons to the bigness of your vision. Clear the way in us, your people, that we might call others to freedom and renewed faith.

And the blessing of God: the Creator, who made and knows us; the Saviour, who redeems and befriends us; and the Spirit, who enlightens and sustains us, be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

In the name of the Light that came into the world, go in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 575 "Let Streams of Living Justice" v. 1 & 2

*Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading, the worker's claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron power;
abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour*

*For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun;
our loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great Weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colours with your sun.*

Postlude