



September 13th, 2020

Singing our Song of Faith in Extraordinary times!

CLIFF AVENUE UNITED CHURCH

www.cliffavechurch.com

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Church office hours: 1 – 5 pm Tuesday through Friday

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF MEETING

All members and adherents of Cliff Avenue United Church are asked to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting (to approve the 2019 Annual Report) followed by a 2020 Congregational update Meeting on **Saturday September 26 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary** of the church. Please wear a MASK; physical distancing, and other pandemic protocols will be observed. A ZOOM option will be available for those who are unable to attend in person.

Please bring your printed copy of the 2019 Annual Report (if you have one) with you to the meeting.

A PDF copy is attached to this weeks email.

GATHERING MUSIC – “10,000 Reasons”

(Bless the Lord, O My Soul)

(Performed by Matt Redman, live in Times Square)

Based on Psalm 103

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo--H_yx2vg

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His Holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your Holy name.
The sun comes up it's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His Holy name.
Sing like never before, o my soul, I'll worship Your Holy name.
You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.
Your name is great and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness I will keep on singing.
10,000 reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His Holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul I'll worship Your Holy name.
And on that day when my strength is failing.
The end draws near and my time has come.
Still my soul will sing your praise unending.
10,000 years and then forevermore.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His Holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your Holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship His Holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your Holy name.
Yes, I will worship Your Holy name Lord, I'll worship Your Holy name.

Call to Worship

We come into worship these last weeks of summer. We come in anticipation of a year ahead filled with times of faithful activity, refreshing renewal and quiet contemplation. We come to encounter once again the living God among us. We come, ready, willing, and

excited to encounter the God who dwells with us and among us. Let worship begin!

Opening Prayer and Prayer of Unburdening

As the warmth of the summer turns to the coolness of autumn, and the leaves turn from green to brilliant shades of crimson, gold and orange, may we know your presence, beloved Son of God. As the planting of summer turns to the abundance of our harvest, may our hearts turn with gratitude to you, Creator of All. Rest in the holy presence and unburden as you lay down your worries and cares in a few moments of silence...Amen.

Opening Hymn: "God, How Can We Forgive"

(Lyrics by Ruth Duck)

(First-Plymouth Church ~ Lincoln, Nebraska)

(Lyrics are included in the video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuBTuh4CsyE>

Minute for Mission *(included with Scripture recording)*

National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering 2019

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the important work of reconciliation with Indigenous members of The United Church of Canada. One of the programs Mission & Service supports is the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering. Many Indigenous members met on the territory of the Chippewas of Rama near Orillia, Ontario, in August 2019 to discern and decide on the structure and priorities for the self-determining Indigenous church within the United Church.

This fourth National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering provided opportunities for listening to and discerning the Creator's plan, visioning, spiritual nurture, mutual accountability, inspiration, education, youth development,

and expressing the voice of the Indigenous community on spirituality and ministry.

Using the Biidaabin* (“first light of a new day”) process of education, reflection and discussion, discernment, and decision-making, participants created and named a new national Indigenous church organization, elected a new National Indigenous Council, appointed a National Elders Council, and set priorities for the next triennium. The National Indigenous Council is an intergenerational group that includes two youth leaders.

As the planning team declared in its vision statement, the gathering would “inform, transform, and manifest healing and vitality. This is our act of decolonizing.” This vision and the decisions made at the gathering will help the Indigenous church to speak with a strong voice as its members continue to live into right relations.

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.

*Pronounced be-DAH-bin.

Scripture Readings

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you

everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Psalm 103: 1-7; 8-13

Of David.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear
him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

Response: For the Living Word **We sing Praise!**

Reflection

Rev. Jen

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

Musical Reflection "If I Have Been the Source of Pain"
(MV76)

Text: Sara Menéndez de Hall; alt., based on a text by C. Maude Battersby;

English Trans. by Janet W. May, © 1992, the Pilgrim Press.
Music by Pablo Sosa – 1988

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8RsYntBEqA>

If I have been the source of pain, O God,
if to the weak I have refused my strength,
if in rebellion I have strayed away,
forgive me, God.

If I have spoken words of cruelty,
if I have left some suffering unrelieved,

condemn not my insensitivity,
forgive me, God.

If I've insisted on a peaceful life,
far from the struggles that the gospel brings,
when you prefer to guide me to the strife,
forgive me, God.

Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer,
and free me from temptation's subtle snare;
with tender patience, lead me to your care.
Amen, amen.

Offering and Prayers of the People

<https://www.cliffavechurch.com/service-bulletins/pages/sunday-service-recordings>

The Disciples Prayer (The Lord's Prayer)

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!

Sending Forth

The Peace

May God's Peace be with you! **And also with you.**

Closing Hymn "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Words By: Frederick W. Faber / Music By: Mary McDonald
(Music & Lyrics included in video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKxQTuwmdKc>