

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster of the  
United Church of Canada  
Remembrance Sunday  
Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Thank you for Connecting for Worship**

**Today's Leadership includes**

Preacher: The Rev. Tim Bowman

Presiding: The Rev. Bill Booth

& The Rev Tracy Fairfield

Musician – Jacob Greenan

Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

*People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.*

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation and Land Acknowledgments

**Tracy (not in power point)** Across Canada, and in many other countries, people gather on November 11 to honour the courage and devotion of brave men and women who made the supreme sacrifice of dying for their country. The hostilities of the First World War ceased on November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m. – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The following year marked the first observance of a day to remember and honour those who died, as well as to give thanks for the sacrifices of those who came back from serving their country. Since then, Canadians have fought other wars, and many have given their lives so that we might enjoy freedom today. They too should be remembered. Today, we remember.

**Hymn: "O, Canada" VU 524**

*O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
the True North strong and free!  
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!*

*O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.*

**Lighting the Christ Candle for Each Congregation Bill**

We light this Christ candle knowing that Christ's love shines, like a beacon for those of us who are troubled, who are anxious, who are unsure, welcoming us into the presence of our God, who loves us into fullness.

**LAYING OF THE WREATH (Tim)**

**Call to Worship: Tim**

Through every generation, through times of hope and times of fear,  
**through times of war and times of peace,**  
through times of loss and times of joy,  
**you are God.**

In the first moments of grief,

**in the long, empty nights,**  
in the chaos of war, in the search for answers,  
**you are with us.**

When we pause in the midst of our busy lives,  
**when we remember those who suffered and those who died,**  
when we pray to you, saying, "Your kingdom come,"  
**you are God.**

Come, let us praise the God who leads us in dreaming of peace, all over the world.

(Written by Alison Etter. Gathering P2, 2015, pg. 46. Used with permission.)

Sung Response: "Open Our Hearts" MV 21

*Open our hearts, open our minds. Open our lives to you, O loving God.*

*Open our hearts, open our minds. Open our lives to you O loving God.*

*Open our hearts.*

**Opening Prayer: Tracy.**

O God, our Help in ages past, our Home for today and our Hope for the future, be with us now as we gather for worship this day. Support our voices as we sing songs that celebrate your presence with us. Raise our spirits as we remember those who have died in times of war. Deepen our relationship with you as we pray and consider our faith. Open our hearts to understand your call to peacemaking and peacekeeping, empowering us to answer that call in all we say and do, in this service and in our daily lives. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession Bill**

**God of peace, we have not always remembered the sacrifice of those who went before us. We have not always honoured them. When they said, "Never again," we did not listen. We did not answer your call, O God, to pursue peace in this world.**

**Forgive us....** *(a time for silent prayer)*

**Assurance Bill**

God is always with us. In every corner of the earth, in every town and village torn apart by war, in every home where our loved ones are remembered, God is present, God is active, God is working to heal and restore and bring about God's own reign of peace.

Thanks be to God for this everlasting grace and love. Amen.

**Time with our Children: Bill**

**Intro to Hymn: Tracy**

**(Not in Power Point)** Hymn Note for "O God, Who Formed Creation"

This hymn was requested by the Presbyterian United Nations Office and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program for the celebration of United Nations Day 2007 (October 24).

The first verse is inspired by the Preamble of the United Nations Charter.

The second verse celebrates those who have served and are serving in the United Nations and other international peacemaking efforts.

The third verse lifts up some of the work of UN agencies and programs (like food, environmental, humanitarian and refugee) and draws from Matthew 25:34-40.

The final verse is a prayer that we as people of faith will respond to God's peace by being peacemakers.

**Hymn: “A Hymn for the United Nations: O God, Who Formed Creation”**

(Tune VU 331 – Church’s One Foundation)

O God, who formed creation and made each living thing,  
We've seen the devastation that war and conflict bring.  
We long to stop the violence and end the scourge of war;  
We yearn for peace and justice, now and forevermore.

We join in celebration of those who've heard your call  
To bring together nations and seek the good for all.  
We thank you for their labors to bring a lasting peace,  
That we might live as neighbors and justice might increase.

Some care for your creation, some daily feed the poor;  
Some offer education, or seek an end to war.  
Some labor bringing healing, or care for refugees;  
It's you, O Lord, they're serving, in doing each of these.

This work to heal the nations becomes our calling, too.  
For reconciliation is first a gift from you.  
As we have been forgiven, may we reach out to share  
The peace that comes from heaven with nations everywhere.

*We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms.*

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD**

**Scripture Reading:** Joshua 24:1-3a, 14 – 28 – Larry Pasch

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** “The Choices We Make” ??? **Tim**

**Hymn:** “God of the Bible” MV 28 **Tim**

*God of the Bible, God in the Gospel, hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our centre, daylight or darkness freedom or prison, you are our home.*

***R) Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.***

*God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
suffering with us, taking our part, still you empow'r us,  
mothering Spirit, feeding, sustaining, from your own heart. **R)***

*Those without status, those who are nothing, you have made royal,  
gifted with rights, chosen as partners, midwives of justice,  
birthing new systems, lighting new lights. **R)***

*Not by your finger, not by your anger will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way. **R)***

*Hope we must carry, shining and certain through all our turmoil,  
terror and loss, bonding us gladly one to the other,  
till our world changes facing the Cross. **R)***

**WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION**

**Prayers of the People and all the World Bill**

**Prayers shared from the chat Tracy**

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we sing together the words that Jesus taught us...

**The Lord's Prayer [Sung]: VU 960**

**Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God Tim**

**Prayer of Dedication: Bill**

These are the gifts of God, given for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Time of Remembrance: (Bill)**

**IN FLANDERS FIELDS Geoff Hosking**

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place, and in the sky,  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high!  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

**THE LAST POST (on CD – Bill)**

**TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE**

**REVEILLE (on CD – Bill)**

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE Gwen Settle**

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning We will remember them.

**Response: We will remember them**

**Hymn:** "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" VU 659

*Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.*

*O Christ, whose voice the waters heard,  
and hushed their raging at thy word, who walked upon the foaming deep,  
and calm amid the storm did sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.*

*O Holy Spirit, who didst brood upon the chaos dark and rude,  
and bade its angry tumult cease,  
and gave for wild confusion, peace:  
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.*

*O Trinity of love and power, all travelers guard in danger's hour.  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them wheresoe'er they go:  
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.*

**Commissioning and Benediction Tracy**

Having gathered, remembered, heard, given, and prayed, we ask, Almighty God, for your blessing, and for your continual presence in our lives. Remind us that no matter where we go, you are there. No matter how bleak the world becomes, all it takes is one ray of light for a new day to be upon us once again. May we go with the Love of God, The Peace of Christ, and the Presence of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Sung Response:** "May God's Sheltering Wings" MV 214

*May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.  
May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,  
And hold you in her love and hold you in her love.*

**Postlude**

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