

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster of the  
United Church of Canada  
Transgender Day of Remembrance  
Reign of Christ Sunday  
Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

**Thank you for Connecting for Worship**

**Today's Leadership includes**

Preacher: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Presiding: The Rev. Bill Booth

and the Rev. Tim Bowman

Musician – Donna Poncelet

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 All**

**Lighting the Christ and Rainbow Candles Bill/Tim**

**Call to Worship: Bill**

Leader: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, nor if there male or female for you are all one in Christ Jesus." To worship in this spirit, God calls us. (Gal. 3:28)

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:25-26)

**All: To worship in this spirit, God calls us.**

**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. X2*

*Open our hearts.*

## **Opening Prayer: Bill**

Holy God of all, You come to us in our every encounter with those in need in our world. You come to us in our own times of suffering and pain. We meet Christ in the poor, the anxious, the sick, the hungry, the excluded, the oppressed, the refugee, the rejected, the murdered transgender person, and in our lonely neighbour. And we meet Christ in these moments of worship as your Spirit unites us as your people. Open our hearts to know You in those around us. Amen.

## **Hymn: “Let Us Build a House” MV 1**

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal  
and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and  
loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

## **Time with our Children: Bill**

### **Hymn: "Know that God is Good" MV 104 2x**

Know that God is good,  
Know that God is good,  
Know that God is good,  
God is good, God is good. X 2

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

## **WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD**

### **Scripture Reading:**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon: “Choices Matters” Tracy**

### **Hymn: “Who is My Mother” MV 178**

*Who is my mother, who is my brother?*

*All those who gather round Jesus Christ:*

*Spirit blown people born from the Gospel sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.*

*Differently abled, differently labelled,*

*widen the circle round Jesus Christ:*

*crutches and stigmas, culture’s enigmas, all come together round Jesus Christ.*

*Love will relate us colour or status can’t segregate us*

*round Jesus Christ: family failings,*

*human derailings, all are accepted round Jesus Christ.*

*Bound by one vision, met for one mission*

*we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:*

*here is my mother, here is my brother,*

*kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen!*

## **WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION**

### **Prayer of Remembrance**

God full of mercy, bless the souls of all who are in our hearts on this Transgender Day of Remembrance. We call to mind today young and old, of every race, faith, and gender experience, who have died by violence. We remember those who have died because they would not hide, or did not pass, or did pass, or stood too proud. Today we name them: the reluctant activist; the fiery hurler of heels;

The warrior for quiet truth; the one whom no one really knew. As many as we can name, there are thousands more whom we cannot, and for whom no Memorial\* may have been said. We mourn their senseless deaths, and give thanks for their lives, for their teaching, and for the brief glow of each holy flame. We pray for the strength to carry on their legacy of vision, bravery, and love.

And as we remember them, we remember with them the thousands more who have taken their own lives. We pray for resolve to root out the injustice, ignorance, and cruelty that grow despair. And we pray, God, that all those who perpetrate hate and violence will speedily come to understand that Your creation has many faces, many genders, many holy expressions.

Blessed are they, who have allowed their divine image to shine in the world.

Blessed is God, in Whom no light is extinguished.

**Amen**

**By Rabbi Reuben Zellman written in 2006 for Transgender Remembrance day. \*  
Kaddish a Jewish liturgy of Praise often used at a memorial.**

**Assurance: [Sung]**

Wait for the Lord" VU 22

Wait for the Lord, God's day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!

Acknowledging and Remembering

The Transgender Day of Remembrance, November 20, was set aside to recognize those who have been killed due to ignorance and hatred, targeted because they were trans or gender non-conforming. The first event took place in 1999 in San Francisco to honour Rita Hester, who had been brutally murdered the previous year.

Name of Transgender people across the world who were murdered since Oct 2019.

There are 350 individuals identified.

(slides with names)

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"What Are You Waiting For" Written and Performed by Julia Rohan

**Prayers of the People and all the World: Tim**

**Prayers shared from the chat: Bill**

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 960)**

**Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God: Bill**

**Prayer of Dedication: Bill**

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

**Thanks be to God!**

***Hymn: "When A Poor One" VU 702***

*When a poor one who has nothing shares with strangers,*

*when the thirsty water give unto us all,*

*when the wounded in their weakness strengthen others,*

***Chorus) then we know that God still goes that road with us,***

***then we know that God still goes that road with us.***

*When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,*

*when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,*

*when we love though hate at times seems all around us, **Chorus)***

*When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,*

*when our lips can speak no words other than true,*

*when we know that love for simple this is better, **Chorus)***

*When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,  
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,  
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor,  
**then we know that God still goes that road with us,  
then we know that God still goes that road with us.***

**Commissioning and Benediction Tim**

**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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