

WELCOME TO...
The Presbyterian Church of
Saint David

June 21, 2015



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

Call To Worship:

We come together to worship the one God and Maker of us all. Let us put aside our differences and be united in our love of the Creator. We come together to seek healing and reconciliation. Let us deal with past hurts and go forward together in the comfort and strength of our Holy Spirit. We come together to honour and affirm our faith as children of the One God who created us. Let us praise God for all mercies. Let us worship God.

Hymn: For the beauty of the earth (1-3) **434**

Confession of Brokenness: **We regret that there are those whose lives have been deeply scarred by the effects of the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. For our Church we ask forgiveness of God. It is our prayer that God, who is merciful, will guide us in compassionate ways towards helping them to heal.**

We ask, also, for forgiveness from Aboriginal peoples. What we have heard we acknowledge. It is our hope that those whom we have wronged with a hurt too deep for telling will accept what we have to say. With God's guidance our Church will seek opportunities to walk with Aboriginal peoples to find healing and wholeness together as God's people.

Hymn: For the beauty of the earth (4-5) **434**

From the Letters 2 Corinthians 5: From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Naming the Challenge: *"God not only calls the church to confession, but to a ministry of reconciliation, walking together, seeking to restore justice in relationships where it is lacking. Our church is called to commit itself to support processes for healing of the wounds inflicted on aboriginal people."*

We confess how difficult it is for us to change our attitudes towards others. Twenty one long years have passed since our confession before you and still our hearts are restless: (pause)

- We confess how hard it is to remember the words of confession we spoke before you and to our Aboriginal sisters and brothers. (pause)
- We confess how hard it is to remain focussed on the ministry of reconciliation when it requires such change in us and such challenge for us. (pause)
- We confess how hard it is to live out daily the promise we made to walk together, to restore justice in relationships and find common communion before the Creator of all.

Be Assured: *in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*

Hymn: 'O Great Spirit' 447

Questions for Conversation: *Think about what opportunities might exist in your community or in your congregation or in our Presbytery to join with Aboriginal brothers and sisters. Could we gather for shared worship, a talking circle, or a community meal? How can we break down the walls that divide and walk together toward a new day and a new relationship with Aboriginal People in Nova Scotia?*

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARD RECONCILIATION AND COMMUNION

A Covenant Collect *Together*

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and on 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 and respect. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be reconciled, strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into all that you created us to be. Amen.

Hymn: O mystery profound 289

Invitation to the Table of Reconciliation: *In the name of the One who said, "I am the bread of life," Invite you to come and eat. In the name of the One who said, "I am the true vine," I invite you to come and drink. At this table find*

your reconciliation. In the name of the One who said, "Love one another, as I have loved you," I invite you to the table of Jesus Christ. We come, for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.

Hymn: One bread, one body 540
 Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. God's spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise. Creator God, we give you thanks for the grain farmers, the bread bakers, the grape growers, the juice makers. Redeemer God, we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal: your birth, your life, your death and resurrection. Sustaining God, we give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us, surrounding us and filling us with Divine life. May this meal we have shared renew us and inspire us to join more joyfully with you as you work for peace and justice in the world. Amen.*

Communion

Prayer following communion: *Send us out in the power of your Spirit... to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Hymn: Sent forth by your blessing (1) 775

Sending: *This is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.*