

WELCOME TO...



June 19th, 2016
National Aboriginal Sunday

Prelude

Call to Worship: *We gather because we are God's people. Day by day, Sunday by Sunday, we praise the Living God. We are a community in Christ Jesus. In praise, in prayer, in teaching and fellowship, we are sustained by our Lord. Let us worship God.*

Hymn: By the Rivers of Babylon (1-2) 98

Opening Prayer: *God of all peoples, in all times and places; your creation sings your praise. Your son teaches us the ways of love, justice and peace. Your Spirit emboldens our hearts and hands to build the world according to your will. We confess our brokenness: We do not hear the cries of those who are suffering because it is inconvenient and costly to respond. We do not acknowledge truths that make us*

uncomfortable. We reject and belittle those who are different than we are. We are blind to the ways we benefit today from a legacy of hurt against Indigenous people. Too often we love imperfectly, speak harshly, and judge quickly. (silence)

Hymn: By the Rivers of Babylon (3) 98

Confession: *Reconciling God, we are called to gentleness, to compassion and to radical acceptance of difference. In Christ Jesus, we are learning to walk in new ways with new companions. We are learning to surrender the need to justify, to explain and to fix. We are learning to listen: when creation groans, we groan as well. When your people speak out against injustice, we honour their courage and stand with them. Spirit of God, create in us feeling hearts, clear eyes, and open minds.*

Hymn: God forgave my sin (1) 774

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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.

Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace (vs 1) 739

Call 48 *We call upon churches and other faith and interfaith social justice groups to formally adopt and comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation.*

Prayer *Creator God, the kingdom Jesus preached about challenged the political, economic and social values of the dominant culture. Give us ears to hear our brothers and sisters. Give us eyes to see you in our neighbours. Give us strength to work together to realize the world you would have us build here and now. Let us work for reconciliation. Amen. (silence to consider)*

Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace (vs 2) 739

Call 59 *We call upon churches to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization and in residential schools, and why apologies are necessary.*

Prayer *God of reason and understanding, we love to talk about theology, but sometimes our talk leads to actions of violence, not love. Sometimes our practices divide rather than reconcile. Lead us to face the truth of the past and to work for peace in the future. Remind us that confession from the heart leads to healing of the heart; that words of truth build trust. Stir us to respond to your longing for a new creation to heal and restore the circle of your people.*

Let us work for reconciliation. Amen. (silence to consider)

Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace (vs 3) 739

Call 60 *We call upon church leaders, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors and theology schools to develop and teach curriculum for students, clergy, and those who work in Aboriginal communities on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right. It should include the history and legacy of residential schools, the roles of the churches in that system, the history and legacy of religious conflict in Aboriginal families and communities, and the responsibility that churches have to mitigate such conflicts and prevent spiritual violence.*

Prayer *God, source of light and wisdom, soften our hearts and lower our defenses. Give us a retentive and honest memory, a willingness to learn about difficult and new things, and an ability to discern your voice calling us to follow you. Help us live into a new relationship.*
Let us work for reconciliation. Amen. (silence to consider)

Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace (vs 4) 739

Call 61 *We call upon church parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, in collaboration with Survivors and representatives of Aboriginal organizations, to establish permanent funding to Aboriginal people for projects that will further community-controlled healing and reconciliation, culture and language revitalization, education and leadership development.*

Prayer *Almighty God, we ascribe to you power and might, but we like to take power in our own hands. You govern with justice and mercy; but too often we control and limit, believing we are being faithful to you. Sharpen our vision so we may catch a glimpse of you in the places we prefer to ignore or forget and when you are fully among the people we are tempted to dismiss.*

Let us work for reconciliation. Amen. (silence to consider)

Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace (vs 5) 739

Invitation: *This table is God's offer of grace and an invitation to community. Where reconciliation is found and we are called to be the body of Christ, affirmed in our shared ministry, and empowered for the journey ahead. Christ is our reconciliation. Christ offers new life and new hope even in our brokenness. God does not leave us in our brokenness, sin and sorrow but invites us to the table of healing and reconciliations. All are invited and all are welcome. Come, for the meal is ready!*

Hymn: One Bread, one Body (1-2) 540

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *God is with us. Here in this place; at this time of sacred refreshment and renewal. Called in grace and gifted in love.* (we continue in prayer) *Come to us, Spirit of our Lord grace and forgiveness, and let the bread and wine before us nourish and sustain us for the life you offer us and unite us in one body of peace. Bring to our remembrance all that is necessary to celebrate at this table... We give thanks for the days Jesus walked this earth. We give thanks for the love of Jesus even as he died. We give thanks for Jesus' continued life even now. He is our life; He is our hope; He is our peace; And we praise him now and always.*

Hymn: One Bread, one Body (3-4) 540

Communion

Prayer following communion *Loving and compassionate God you give us all we need in an abundance and nourish us mind, body and spirit. Send us now into the world to proclaim your love, forgiveness and compassion to all.*

Hymn: Now let us from this table rise (1, 3-4) 556

Postlude