

Sunday, June 20, 2021
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Indigenous Day of Prayer
World Refugee Day

11:00 am Sanctuary Service



Prelude: *Simple Song* (instrumental) L. Bernstein

Welcome: Liane Clark

Announcements: Liane

Territorial Acknowledgements: David Bray

Lighting the Christ Candle and the Candle of the 4 directions: Shelagh/David

We light the Christ Candle welcoming the light and warmth of the love of God into our lives and our living.

Creator has given us the eastern direction: the direction of vision, children, and the sun that rises on us each day. Let us view the

world with child-like wonder—full of awe and humility. Thankful for the new day that dawns on us each and every morning, we give thanks for God who gives us new mercies every day.

Creator has given us the southern direction: the direction of honesty, adolescence, and growth. Help us to speak only the truth, and open our hearts to hear the stories of others. Inspire us to grow in the image of Christ who teaches us to walk the good path. Creator has given us the western direction: the direction of adulthood, harvesting, and deep spiritual understanding. Give us the tools we need to act on the knowledge we are gathering, allowing us to act with maturity and grace.

Creator has given us the northern direction: the direction of Elders, achievement, and a deep connection to spirituality. Empower us to learn from the past, and to move forward to create your companionship of empowerment* here on Mother Earth.

On Ash Wednesday, we shared the tradition of lighting the candle of hope. This morning especially our hopes are for reconciliation and right relations with the First Nations of Canada. We invite you to light a real or electronic candle at home to complete a virtual circle of hope.

Invitation to Worship: David

Hymn: VU 308 "*Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works*"

(Song leader: Mary Byrne)

Opening Prayer: Liane

Time with the Children: Ojibwe Prayer by Kathy McMillan

The Sunday School families have coloured 215 feathers to be displayed in the Sanctuary. The Breckon-Oliver family will toll the bell 215 times at noon.

Scripture: *Luke 4:14-21* David

This is part of our story. **Thanks be to God!**

Musical Gift: *Mysterious Summer's Night* L. Kuzmenko

Lighting the candles of the 4 directions on the Communion Table:

David: The medicine wheel has four areas of a circle that have four different colors assigned to them. These colors are most often yellow, red, black, and white. We honour the different traditions regarding these colours. On many blogs we are reminded that the medicine wheel is interpreted uniquely to each culture. The order of the colours is not the same in each culture, nor are the attributes, and it would be wrong to make a sweeping generalization that indicated otherwise. The next time you see a medicine wheel, take a moment and think about its history and cultural significance.

(Lighting the Yellow Candle:) East is where the sun rises, which is why yellow is on the Eastern doorway or the Eastern area of the medicine wheel. East represents the beginning, the new beginning of life. Therefore, the spring season is attributed to that section of the circle. We believe light smothered darkness, penetrates every shadow in our world, and leaves clarity brighter than the sun; and we cannot adequately name that Light.

Liane: (Lighting the Red Candle:) South represents the next stage of life being youth, the next season which is summer, and the color red. We believe love breaks through hatred, and leaves space for forgiveness to re-build and re-create our world; and we cannot adequately name that Love.

We believe truth exposes injustice, revealing a different vision for our world, a vision of freedom, fairness and future; and we cannot adequately name that Truth.

David: (Lighting the Black Candle) Black represents the sun setting and the day ending, the fall season, adulthood. We believe in a hope that rattles oppressors, shaping the intent of creation in a people destined for love; and we cannot adequately name that Hope. We believe in a time toward which all things journey where all our lives will be held and loved in an eternity; and we cannot adequately name that Time.

Shelagh: (Lighting the White Candle) North and white is at the top representing the colour of the clouds in the sky as well as the winter season, which closes out the year. Some communities also teach that white represents the moon in the middle of the night.

With growing light, with faltering love, with glimpses of truth, with rising hope, upon time and beyond time, we live and move and have our being in that gracious mystery which is beyond all naming.

Reflection: Shelagh

Hymn: MV106 *I Am the Dream* Tufts/Gunn

The Prayers of the People: David

Let us gather ourselves to be present here and now and join our hearts and minds as we offer praise and thanks and pray for mercy, grace, wisdom, hope, and new life.

Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled in gratitude for this amazing gift of your creation, and for the teachings of Indigenous siblings and cousins that reconnect us to the land, water, sky, and creatures of all kinds. The wisdom of your creation's balance and harmony is astounding, and we pray that such wisdom will both unite and enliven us even more, given that we are all latecomers to this amazing Earth.

Holy Friend, we are humbled in repentance that a distorted image of the Divine was used to dehumanize others, to conquer

nations, and to forcefully expropriate land and resources in your name. We remember the grieving families of the missing children of the residential school system and the murdered and missing indigenous women and girls. Pour your love into our hearts so that we might build right relations of mutuality, equity, and respect and be responsible keepers of the lands and waters.

Creator God, in thanksgiving inspire us. With your Spirit nurture an attitude of gratitude for all your gifts, and for the wisdom of the Indigenous perspective toward creation. With your Spirit lead us to see your face in all humanity, and your spirit of love in all of creation.

Creator God, in your grace transform us. With your Spirit guide us in living out right relations with all people based on respect and equal rights. We are humbled in seeking healing for our churches as we move from a legacy of colonization and domination to creating a new history built on right relations and gracious mutual habitation on these lands. For the harm committed in your name against all the First Peoples of the land we are sorry. Despite inflicting such pain, we are aware of so much grace as well as the great resilience among Indigenous Peoples themselves, as we share the hope of reconciliation.

Creator God, in your wisdom heal us. With your Spirit heal us and strengthen us to be agents of wholeness and wellness with all nations and peoples.

Creator God, in your hope give us courage. With your Spirit may we change the churches to live in harmony with all creation and be agents of care for all humanity, that we may faithfully follow the life of Jesus, the Nazarene who showed us the good path of justice, reconciliation, and peacebuilding. It is the way of life he represented, based on providing for the common good and the sharing of all your Earth's resources that will enable us, together, to recreate your loving and compassionate empowerment on Earth.

Creator God, in your love give us faith and new life. With your Spirit help us to be co-creators of a world of justice and peace. Amen.

Hymn: VU333 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Wesley/Pritchard

Blessing: Shelagh

Postlude: *Allegro in C*

J. Stanley

Worship resources: *Seasons of the Spirit*, adapted by N. Steeves

Writing Team: The Rev. Won Hur is a minister at Ebenezer United Church in Markham, ON.

*from a statement in the *Introduction to the Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum adapted by Rev. Dr. Nancy L. Steeves