

Land Acknowledgement

(An act towards reconciliation)

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked in this land, on their own country.

Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.

We acknowledge the Algonquin People of the Anishinabek Nation, past, present, emerging, and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

And we recognize and give thanks that we humans are creatures of the Earth living in the ecosystem —flowers, trees and insects; land, waters and mountain range— that is unique to the lands around us.

May we honour one another and honour life itself.

This is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation.

GATHERING

Gathering Music AMAZING GRACE (Refrain:My Chains are Gone)

Lighting of the Community Candle

The Community Candle is lit

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of this life.

The light waits –

Who will keep the light burning in our day?

Who will take the light into the world?

Who will carry the light into another year?

All: Who will carry the light if we do not?

Opening Sentences

We are met in the presence of the Sacred

All: And we do not meet alone.

With the angels in highest heaven,

All: We gather to worship this present God.

With the saints of every age,

All: We gather to celebrate this present God.

With the church throughout the world,

All: We gather to honour this present God.

We are met in the presence of the Sacred we name God

All: And we do not meet alone.

Hymn of Praise: I will Call Upon the Lord

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: Surprising God, as you lead us into new experiences, help us to be open to your presence among us and within. Let us sense your glory in the sights and sounds of this beautiful day.

All: May it be so.

Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7]

God, in the form of three messengers, announces to Sarah and Abraham that they will have a child. Sarah, because of her advanced age, laughs at this seeming impossibility. But nothing is impossible for God, and in due course Isaac is born (Gen. 21:1-7). Now, Sarah confesses, everyone will share in her joyous laughter.

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the

entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ¹⁰Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.” [¹The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.]

⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
⁶Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” ⁷And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”]

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

I will call on the name of the Lord. (Ps. 116:13)

¹I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

**²for the Lord has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

¹²How shall I repay the Lord
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God’s people.

**¹⁵Precious in your sight, O Lord,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶O Lord, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

**¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the Lord

in the presence of all God’s people,
**¹⁹in the courts of the Lord’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

Matthew 9:35-10:1. (Inclusive Text)

Jesus went about all the cities and villages teaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

At the sight of the crowds Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the One who oversees the harvest to send labourers to the harvest.'

Jesus summoned the twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

Kids Message

Sermon Time

Prayers of Intercession

(Prayer Response - Lord Listen to Your Children Praying)

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

For the church here and around the world, we pray. Seek out disciples and send them out with authority to proclaim good news, bring healing

where there is pain, and counter the forces of evil. God, in your mercy,
Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

For the earth and all its creatures, we pray. Equip farmers, farm workers, and all who labor on the land to produce a harvest. Nourish crops with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Restore lands ruined by pollution or misuse. God, in your mercy,
Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

For those who govern, we pray. Empower those who seek peaceful solutions to conflict and embolden those who advocate for all who are oppressed. Work through systems of government to establish justice throughout the world. God, in your mercy,
Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

For those who suffer, we pray. Accompany those who feel helpless, alone, or abandoned. Embrace any who long for successful treatment for mental illness or freedom from addiction. Heal those who are sick (especially). God, in your mercy,
Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

For fathers and father figures, we pray. Console all who long to be fathers, children estranged from their fathers, anyone grieving the death of a father, and fathers who have lost a child. Draw near to all for whom this day stirs up difficult emotions. God, in your mercy,
Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

For all the saints, we give thanks. Receive into your eternal care all those who have died and fill us with hope that does not disappoint. God, in your mercy,
Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Lord Listen to Your Children Praying
Amen.

Sharing 'The Peace'

May a heart of peace rest with you.

All: And also with you.

You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours

AFFIRMING

A Celebration of Faith

In response to the word reflected on let us stand and share together a celebration of our faith as we are people of all ages who enter this safe space.

For ourselves, for those named or remembered, and in solidarity with those who have not the freedom to express their concern or celebration.

In all our joys and in all our concerns, may we be ever mindful of the presentness of the sacred among us, and to see the new possibilities of the now

The Lord's Prayer:

You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer in a language of your choice

Offerings

Offering Song - Give Thanks

Offertory prayer

Let us pray: We give thanks, generous God, because we owe you more than we can ever repay. Bless all givers because we need to be generous in order to be whole. Amen

SENDING

Parting Words

The presentness of God reaches beyond this place...

May we go forth in the certainty of faith,
in the knowledge of love, and in the vision of hope.

**All: And in our going, may we be blessed
with all good things on this day and forever more.**

Words of Blessing

May the God who dances in creation,
who embraces us with human love,
who shakes our lives like thunder,
bless us and drive us out with power
to fill the world with justice, mercy and an abiding peace

All: Amen. May it be so.

Closing Song - The River

Sending - Go Go Go go go