

WELCOME TO ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, June 7, 2020

Presiding: Debbie Stockdale

We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this place. Come as you are -- and be.

Prior to the service the Affirming candle was lit to affirm that all humanity must be respected and valued. The Treaty 7/Metis Region 3 candle was lit to show respect for the land and to affirm our continued commitment to live into right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters.

SEED FOR MEDITATION

Today I write as a Black Canadian.

The events of the past few weeks have been deeply traumatizing. I have been cycling through three main emotions – intense anger, immense exhaustion and deep pain. These emotions are not new to me – they are part of what it means to live in a Black body with the reality of racial injustice. ...

Some have asked where God is in the midst of this. Of course God is present, and I believe that Jesus would be among those who are rallying and calling for change. Jesus often aligned himself with people on the margins and those experiencing oppression. Plus, we have just celebrated Pentecost, when God's Spirit is poured out to the church. I believe that God's Spirit is moving among the privileged and comfortable and is prompting, disrupting, prodding and urging. I believe that God's Spirit is moving among us who are wounded, and is soothing, comforting and encouraging.

The work of racial justice is ours to do along with God's. I need you to partner with God in actively doing this work, and not to leave it for God only to do.

Adele Halliday, Team Leader for Discipleship and Witness, United Church's General Council Office

Welcome and Announcements

Centering our Hearts:

Affirmation: The spirit within me is the One Spirit that lives in all.

Let's light our candles:

May the light of Christ inspire us to live lives full of justice and compassion, spreading the light of love far and wide.

Sing: The Spirit in Me Greets the Spirit in You (3x)

The spirit in me greets the spirit in you, Alleluia.

God's in us and we're in God, Alleluia.

Focusing our Hearts:

May the God of grace be welcome in our midst.
May we receive the power and peace of divine love.

Come, find your home in the spacious and accepting heart of God
We come to find a home for our soul's longing and hope.

Come let us worship with our hearts and minds and bodies.
Let us become one seeking justice and compassion.

Opening prayer

God of grace, we gather in the hope and beauty of this day to be further opened along
the pathways of faith set before us.
(repeat after me) Holy One, be our journey and destination.

Walk beside us in the paradox of wholeness and of devastation in our world
as we seek to walk the way of compassion, justice and love.
(repeat after me) Holy One, be our journey and destination.

Sing: Spirit of the Living God (#376, VU)

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, move among us all. Spirit of the Living God, move among us all.
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing. Spirit of the Living God, fill our lives with love.

Food for the Body

One of the gifts of worshiping together from our homes is the ability to come together just as we are. We can sit
down in our own home with a cup of tea or coffee or water or juice and a snack, just as we wish, to worship
with our family of faith.

Let's take a moment now to bless the gift of food and drink as we pray together a repeat after me prayer:

Holy Peace-Giver, ...
We gather in your name...
invited by Jesus...

bound together with your Spirit...
in union with each other...
Feed our bodies and our spirits...
with your compassionate presence...
so that we might enfold others in your compassion
Bless this food...
and break open our hearts...
Bless this drink...
and pour out your love... Amen...

Food for the Mind

Readings:

2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 (*The Inclusive Bible*) The apostle Paul bids farewell to the church in Corinth:

And now brothers and sisters, I must say goodbye. Mend your ways. Encourage one another. Live in harmony and peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones send greetings to you. The grace of our Saviour Jesus Christ and the love of God and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A moment of silence

In reaction to the death of George Floyd at the hand of police brutality - *Steven Charleston, a Native American elder, author, and retired Episcopal bishop of Alaska.*

One man dies in the street, pleading for his life, and overnight those streets erupt in anger at the injustice, not only for that dreadful moment, but for a lifetime of oppression. One hundred thousand die from a virus, all innocent victims of a heartless disease, but a balance of color shows more die from one community than others. Racism breeds death, either visibly for all the world to see, or silently, hidden beneath the statistics and the excuses. May the Spirit empower us to face this reality and not turn away: racism is as virulent as covid-19, infecting people who seem to have no outward symptoms, until behavior reveals their disease. The vaccine for racism is justice, the cure is equality, and the prevention is love.

Silence

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. *Martin Luther King Jr.*

Silence

The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it's the only way forward.
Ijeoma Oluo

Silence

Sing: Breathe on me, Breath of God (VU 382, verse 1 and 2)

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until my will is one with thine, to do and to endure.

Reflection: Pray. Preach. Protest (and repeat).

Part 1 - What I need from white people right now - It's way past time to confront anti-Black racism
By Adele Halliday | June 3, 2020 as published in Broadview Magazine

Musical Meditation: What does the Lord require of You?

Part 2 – Our Response

Sing: What does the Lord Require of you (VU 701)

What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?
Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.
To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.

Food for the Soul

Prayers of the Heart

Sing: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (VU 400)

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Benediction

Sung Benediction: When you Walk from Here (VU 298)

When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
Walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble Care.

Postlude