

**Sunday, June 15, 2025 -Trinity Sunday, Father's Day
Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada
Opening of the Wallacetown UCW Time Capsule**

WELCOME, SERVICE OUTLINE & ANNOUNCEMENTS It is a very special day!

CREATION CONNECTION The reading from Proverbs reminds us that Wisdom and creation are linked. This partnership is an example of how we should and must always coexist. Creation is infused by the ongoing breath of God (ruah in Hebrew).

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

L: "As we light this Christ candle, we remember that Jesus is the light of the world, and we are called to let our light shine before others, bringing hope and love into the darkness."

All: We will let Christ's light shine through us in all that we say and all that we do. Amen

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We recognize that we are worshipping on the lands that were once occupied by the Haudenosaunee, the Lenae-Lenape, the Anishinabe and the Chonnoton. We are privileged to live and play in this area, and we are indebted to those groups for being good stewards of the land. We especially recognize the Chippewa of the Thames, the Oneida of the Thames and the Munsee-Delaware Nation - our closest indigenous neighbours. May we aspire to be equally as good at stewardship of the land, and may we strive for peace with all nations.

GATHERING HYMN O Holy Spirit, Root of Life, VU # 379

O Holy Spirit, root of life,
Creator, cleanser of all things,
Anoint our wounds, awaken us
With lustrous movement of your wings.

Eternal Vigour, saving one,
You free us by your living world,
Becoming flesh to wear our pain,
and all creation is restored.

O Holy Wisdom, soaring power,
Encompass us with wings unfurled,
And carry us, encircling all,
Above, below, and through the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Oh Lord, we enter your presence, fully aware of the celebrations and challenges which are our and Your church's reality. Let us join our hearts, minds and voices,

P: We come into this sacred space to celebrate the fathers in our midst, and all those who have gone before; to honour the Holy Trinity which wraps around us, creates us, and loves us; to honour the one-hundred years of the life of this, the United Church of Canada, and all who have lived faithful lives of service and devotion.

L: As an important aspect of the observance, we will open the Time Capsule created and stored by the Congregation of Wallacetown United Church, created and buried twenty-five years ago, in the year of our Lord 2000.

P: Now, twenty-five years later, on the one-hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the creation of Wallacetown United Church, former members of that congregation will open it up, so that we all may view, honour and remember that congregation's life, service, and hopes for the future, by remembering their past.

All: We gather in God's Holy name to honour fathers, our Holy Trinity, our church today, our church of the past, and look forward with great hope to the church of our future. Come in, come in, and sit down, for we are all part of the family!

HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy, VU # 315

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God
almighty!
Early in the morning our song
shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and
mighty,
God in three persons, blessed
Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints
adore thee,
Casting down their golden
crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling
down before thee;
Which wert, and art, and
evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the
darkness hide thee,
Though the eye made blind by
sin thy glory may not see;
Only thou art holy, there is
none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and
purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God
almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy
name in earth and sky and
sea;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and
mighty,
God, in three persons, blessed
Trinity!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Excuses!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Band-Aids and Tissues: Loving and healing each other in Jesus' name.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *spoken*
Children leave for Sunday School

PASTORAL PRAYERS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Spirit of God, you hovered over the waters before the first days of Creation, and you hovered over the disciples on the first day that Christ's church came alive. You were present to our ancestors in faith 100 years ago as they came together to form The United Church of Canada.

You were present in all those who continued to build a uniting church in the generations that followed, and we believe that you are still present with us today. Open our hearts to you in this time so that we might know your wisdom, trust in the ways you proclaim, and live into them with hope!

We think and pray this day for all in our extended faith community who suffer, who have and are enduring losses of any kind, those who are lonely and isolated, those who mourn, live in fear, or who have lost their way from Jesus' loving arms and path. Grant us healing hands and hearts so that we may turn to you to heal our own hearts and minds, while then reaching out in brotherly and sisterly love to our neighbours' grasp.

We give deep thanks for all of our fathers, grandfathers, and all who have served as surrogates or other fathering figures in our lives, and the lives of our family, our church and our community. Their devotion and dedication are deeply appreciated, respected and understood, as far as our feeble human minds and hearts can imagine and grasp.

We are blessed and sheltered in our church and human families, and through Your grace we extol thank you, thank you, thank you. All this we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN We Praise You, O God, VU # 218

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| We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator, in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing. | We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers, Through trial and tempest, companion and guide. When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us, But faithful to your promise, you walk by our side. | With voices united our praises we offer And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing, To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise! |
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OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER Let us open our hearts and live without fear. Let us give without thought of what we may receive in return, share without restriction, and live in the certainty that our gifts will be multiplied in our ministry here, and across the world through Mission and Service. Let us now present our gifts.

O God, we give thanks for this community of faith, for the wider church, and for all those who live and give boldly. Bless these gifts, that we may be a church that lives in generosity. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 - Wisdom's part in creation

Doth not wisdom cry and understanding put forth her voice? She stands in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. She cries at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills were brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

John 16:12-15 - The Spirit of truth

I have yet many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatever he hears, that will he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

Message

The gospel speaks of the "Spirit of Truth." There is wonderful truth as we gather in community. Together we experience the power and delight of the risen Christ. Yet, many of us are frightened by current events and the current state of the church. Some may find community a scary place. We are tempted to take shortcuts and look for easy answers. We are tempted to try to keep things the same. We fear the power of true community. However, for reconciliation, truth must be spoken and then dreams and visions become power and hope. The recovery of Indigenous languages is an example of the importance of the process of reconciliation in community.

You can make trying to understand the concept of the Trinity into a gordian knot which can never be unraveled, and innumerable theologians have debated and disputed the concepts for millennia! I, and every minister to whom you have ever listened, has tried to dissect and explain this theological construct, to make clear this idea on one God in three distinct parts, but also remaining one at the same time. I prefer the KISS approach, Keep It Simple, Silly! God exists for all time, in all places, knowing all, past, present and future. Our human understanding is limited and is only a mere shadow of God's powers. God's Son, Jesus, was sent among us to be one of us while remaining divine and a part of God. He was much more than a prophet, a messenger or a friend. He was holy and human in a manner that is unique in all of recorded history. Jesus died and rose from the dead, leaving his teachings, his commandments, and love behind. On Pentecost the fiery Spirit descended upon all people who would believe and is literally the fire of God's Spirit imbued into our very essence and beings. God claimed and named us before we were born, Jesus loves and is with us through eternity, and motivates, enlivens and propels us into the world to love others, and as I spoke about several weeks ago, to love ourselves, healing all with whom we share the spirit. God in Three Persons, the Holy Trinity. Praise be to God!

Focussing exclusively on the human, worldly plane, we all have fathers, most of whom, but not all, have been with us all of our lives, or who now live on in our hearts and memories. Our basic biology necessitates that we all have a biological father, the contributor of one-half of our DNA, and who, if we are blessed, plays a tremendously significant role in our learning, our attitudes, and all aspects of our upbringing. Those of us who have been alive for more than a half century grew up in a time when the roles of mothers and fathers were distinctly outlined in our society, with mothers taking the largest hands and hearts-on role in our rearing. We gained our unique personalities as a blend of our parental influences and perhaps are still keenly aware of their presence and their influence, and I hope that we can be thankful each day for some elements of their sacrifice, love, and complicated role in guiding we at times very challenging kids into the wonderful beings that we are today. And so, we give thanks with every fiber for their impact on our formation, in every sense of the word!

We may all have a blend of happy and sad memories, of regrets, grudges, or anger, balanced out with joyful remembrances, gratefulness, and love, but always brought to mind with greater empathy and understanding as our logical understanding of parenting and child development have grown, as we too have experienced the parental roles, and as we have continued to spiritually form, become more Christ-like in our love for life, for parents, and for the need to let go of those things which do not make us better people or Christians.

We need to be humbled by the awesome task which everyone and the Trinity of which I have been speaking, filled with wonder at their love and their attempts to balance all the aspects of their lives while raising a family.

We thank you for the church, for all churches, for the rich heritage of the UCC and our predecessors in our spiritual ancestors. We are the present generation, and these celebrations are a call to action, to follow our church's motto into Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice. May God bless us all on this journey and in this call. Amen.

A New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PARTING HYMN Spirit, Open My Heart, MVU # 79

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| Refrain | God, replace my stony heart | Write your love upon my heart | May I weep with those who |
| Spirit, open my heart | With a heart that's kind and | As my law, my goal, my story. | weep, |
| to the joy and pain of living. | tender. | In each thought, word, and | Share the joy of sister, brother. |
| as you love may I love, | All my coldness and fear | deed, | In the welcome of Christ, |
| in receiving and in giving, | To your grace I now surrender. | May my living bring you glory. | May we welcome one another. |
| Spirit, open my heart. | Refrain | Refrain | Refrain |

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he guide you into kind, loving and generous pathways, upon which you cherish the beauty of God's natural beauty, and the beauty in others. May God bless you all until we meet again.

CHORAL BENEDICTION Make Me a Servant

Make me a servant
Humble and meek
Lord let me lift up
Those who are weak
And may the prayer

Of my heart always be
Make me a servant
Make me a servant
Make me a servant today!

CHORAL AMEN

BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

THE OPENING OF THE WALLACETOWN UCW TIME CAPSULE