

Sunday, June 22, 2025 - National Indigenous Peoples' Day

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *-from Mary Grant, Forest Hill UC, Fredericton, NB*

With thankful hearts, we gather here where the doors are wide open to all. We come with open hearts and open minds, thankful that we are all children of the light of Christ. The candle is lit.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Sunday School Children & Teachers invited everyone to join in ***The Butterfly Song***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MESSAGE Rev. Phill Schuyler

Phill introduced himself with a brief bio. He is of the Oneida of the Thames Nation, proudly wearing the Oneida colour of purple. He shared a story of a trip out west last year with his nephew when he stopped at a Lakota Nation on Aboriginal Day. He found a school where the elders teaching the littles how to properly erect a teepee. Being a visitor to their Nation, he was provided with a meal and gifted a blanket and lanyard before his departure.

A brief history of the settlement of Oneida of the Thames was also outlined. Phill's Great Grandfather Moses, also a Chief, led his people to the London area from New York State, just as Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. A memorial is set up at Oneida Nation for his Great Grandfather.

Phill's mother was the first female Chief of Oneida, briefly, but moved to BC where she became involved in Indigenous education. After passing, she was buried with her Grandfather at Oneida.

Phill shared the Seven Grandfather Teaching of his culture and encouraged us to try to follow them: Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility, Truth, Wisdom.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY *Kristi White is a proud Haudenosaunee woman who is an Oneida Nation of the Thames, Bear Clan member. As a mother of four, Kristi has spent many years guiding the establishment and implementation of programs for families and children based around healthy living, healthy relationships, literacy and culturally appropriate content and has worked alongside and consulted with numerous agencies across Canada. Kristi creates a story with books that open the hearts and minds of children from all walks of life, inspiring them to read deeper, search further, and explore their own creative gifts. Taking inspiration from Indigenous cultures, she focuses on themes that encourage independence of spirit, enthusiasm for learning, and acceptance of other languages and cultural traditions. Kristi will share one of her stories.*

GATHERING PRAYER *-from Diane Trollope, Sudbury, ON*

O God, Creator of us all, may our hearts give in to loving and peaceable ways only, never to what is less than you would have us do and be. Remind us that respect needs to be given toward all others. Remind us that we need to claim respect for ourselves. In this time of worship, may we release into your care, into forgiveness and love, all matters that are troubling us, and may we release, for this moment, all those who harmed us in any way. Freed now from angst and ill will, we take in your breath in a healing calm. Let this calm wash us all into the waters that cleanse and allow us to emerge, much as in baptism, knowing love belongs to everyone. You, O God, leave no one out. Every heart belongs to the Creator. Yes, every heart belongs to you, our Creator God. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ***Teach Me, God, to Wonder***, VU # 299

Teach me, God, to wonder,
Teach me, God, to see;
Let your world of beauty capture me.
Praise to you be given,
Love for you be lived,
Life be celebrated,
Joy you give.

Teach me, God, to know you,
Hear you when you speak,
See you in my neighbour when we meet.
Praise to you be given,
Love for you be lived,
Life be celebrated,
Joy you give.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION from R. Laidlaw, Toronto, ON, & E. Feltrin, Chemainus UC, Chemainus, BC

L: Loving God, in peace, we can let your light touch our deepest places.

P: We slip, we err, we lose our way.

L: In quiet moments, we can confess the sin that has harmed us and the sin by which others have been harmed.

P: We often behave as if we are not loved,

L: as if you do not love every other creature,

P: as if we are not loveable at all.

L: Including and all-loving God, we confess there are times we do not gather, but exclude. We do not welcome but ignore. We do not share, but stash and hoard.

P: There are times we close doors and turn our backs, rather than receive and embrace.

L: And other times, we hide ourselves away, frightened and protected, rather than risk reaching out.

P: Give us courage, God, to take chances and be bold where love is concerned, to trust you are with us when we feel vulnerable.

L: Forgive us when we are fearful and uncertain, or simply unaware of the needs of others around us. Embolden us to step up and offer what we have, whether loaves and fish, a listening ear, or a capable skill.

P: You have already graced us with everything we need to love and serve our neighbours. Make us both grateful and generous. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE The generosity of God's abundance goes beyond resources like bread, fish, food, water, and air. God's mercy and forgiveness are wide and deep beyond measure. God's grace and love expand infinitely to include all and provide for all. Even us. We are loved. We are forgiven. We belong! Can you think of any better Good News?!

OFFERTORY PRAYER from Gord Dunbar, Kincardine PC, Kincardine, ON

Bless these gifts we offer, O God, that they may teach us to live as disciples: creating peace, not war, building bridges, not destroying, learning understanding, not division. Bless us with your Spirit's guidance that we may be a living offering for your work in the world. Amen.

HYMN **We Are One In the Spirit**

We are One in The Spirit,	Refrain	We will walk with each other,
We are One in The Lord.	And they'll know we are Christians	We will walk hand in hand.
We are One in The Spirit,	by our love, by our love,	We will walk with each other,
We are One in The Lord.	Yes they'll know we are Christians	We will walk hand in hand.
And we pray that all unity	by our love.	And together we'll spread the news
may one day be restored.		that God is in our land.
		Refrain

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THE LORD'S PRAYER spoken

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 3:23-29 - Children of God

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Luke 10:25-37 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "Love the Lord

your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *from Karen Coogan, Oasis UC, Penticton, BC*

Creator God, we long for you. We experience extreme weather events leading to devastation and loss of life. We notice world leaders unable to reach accords, their actions hampered by global and regional economics. We observe people displaced by wars, political strife, and climate catastrophes. We notice your people tired, overworked, or with no work at all. Creator God, your love is a vast sky of creative ideas. Guide the visions and decisions of our world leaders and the movers and shakers of the world to work for the benefit of all and not just a few. Your love crosses all boundaries, embraces all cultures, and values each individual. We turn to you in hope and prayer. Sustainer God, we are frightened and tired. We long for a time when our worries are behind us and divisiveness and conflict aren't our daily fare, when caregivers are not overburdened, when those who are homeless find shelter, and when everyone has access to clean drinking water. These are problems that circle our thoughts and trouble our sleep. Loving God, we long for your comfort and healing power in caring for ourselves and others. We are aware of people struggling with addictions and mental health challenges. We observe loved ones struggling with sorrow and loss. We listen for the concerns of those around us in this time together.

(Moment of Silence)

Loving God, your love is a vast ocean of sustaining power providing comfort and healing, granting courage and strength, reminding us of your infinite grace. We turn to you in hope and prayer. Amen.

BENEDICTION *from Laura J. Turnbull, Penticton, BC*

Go and continue to be the exceptional followers of Jesus that you are. Take the message of inclusion and justice out into the community and share it boldly. Be among God's beloved wherever you go, and remember you are the only Bible that many people will ever encounter. May the love of God envelop you; the blessing of Christ enfold you, and the wonder of the Holy Spirit embrace you, now and forevermore. Amen.

EXTINGUISHING THE CHRIST CANDLE *from Mary Grant, Forest Hill UC, Fredericton, NB*

L: We extinguish the candle today, but we can never extinguish the light. We each have work to do as we leave this place to be the light of God's presence in the world. Some of us are sent out to be God's eyes.

P: Some of us are sent out to be God's ears.

L: Some of us are sent out to be God's voice.

P: Some of us are sent out to be God's hands.

L: Some of us are sent out to be God's feet. All of us are sent out

P: to be God's heart in this world. With God's blessing, with the love of Jesus, and with the Holy Spirit filling our hearts, our lives become God's presence in the world this week. Amen.

CHORAL AMEN