

Sunday, June 14, 2026 - Order of Service - Indigenous Day of Prayer

Hymn Sing

All Things Bright and Beautiful, VU # 291

Who Is My Mother, MVU #178

I Am Walking a Path of Peace, MVU # 221

Amazing Grace, VU # 266 (Doug Schell will sing in Mohawk, the language of his Mother)

Light the Christ Candle & Welcome

The United Church of Canada has set aside the Sunday before the National Indigenous Peoples Day as a holy day that is a celebration of the languages, cultures, and histories of Indigenous People. The Church asks how might we, as the Church, celebrate and utilize the gifts that are in our midst? How might the church acknowledge with intention and gratitude the gifts we've been given? On this day, the United Church of Canada invites all peoples to gather, celebrate, and pray. You are welcome here.

Announcements – please see the Weekly Bulletin

Call to Worship -by Rev. Emma Seamone, *Untwisting into Reconciliation: A Settler Service for National Indigenous Day of Prayer, 2025*

L: We come together as one in Christ

P: We are not all the same

L: Our diversity is our blessing

P: We are all welcome here, no one better than the other

L: All gifts from all cultures treasured

P: We are one and many, Let us worship God.

Ministry of Music *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Opening Prayer

-by Rev. E. Seamone, *Untwisting into Reconciliation: A Settler Service for National Indigenous Day of Prayer, 2025*

Mystery that surrounds us, untwist us, bring us clarity today; help us to recognize the image of Creation in us all. Help us to understand the depth and richness of many cultures. Soften our hearts so that we never again confuse our ways for the full breadth, length, and height of Christ Jesus. Journey together with us in the Spirit of Christ so that all your peoples may be blessed and the fullness of creation healed. Amen.

Gathering Hymn *Called by Earth and Sky*, MVU # 135

Refrain	Precious these	Precious this gift,	Precious these	Precious the fire
Called by earth and	waters, endless	the air we breathe;	mountains, ancient	that lights our way,
sky,	seas,	Wind born and free.	sands;	Bright dawning day.
Promise of hope	Deep ocean's	Breth of the Spirit,	Vast fragile land.	Fire of passion,
held high.	dream,	blow through this	Seeds of our	sorrows undone,
This is our sacred	Waters of healing,	place,	wakening, rooted	Our faith and justice
living trust,	rivers of rain,	Our gathering and	and strong,	one.
Treasure of life	The wash of love	our grace.	Creation's faithful	Refrain
sanctified,	again.	Refrain	song.	
Called by earth and	Refrain		Refrain	
sky.				

Children's Ministry *Rose's Garden, by Peter H. Reynolds*

A little bit of God goes into everything that is created, just like when we create something, we put a little bit of ourselves in it: our imagination, our time, our experience, our talent. This is how we know that God is always with all his creation: in us, in nature, in each other, and in ourselves.

Prayer O Holy God, our loving Creator God, help us listen carefully to your teachings and live our lives in a good way. Help us honour you by using our time and talents to benefit others. We look to your wisdom for guidance on living on your great creation, Mother Earth, and we ask that you give us the right gifts and knowledge to care for her. This we ask in your son's name, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Children Leave for Sunday School

Prayer of Confession -by Samantha Miller, *40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism, 2025*

Creator, forgive us for when we have fallen short in missing the mark in our daily lives both here and at home. Lord, forgive us for when we either unintentionally or intentionally quieted the voice of our youth and Elders so that they feel they are only present as a "tick in the box." Lord, forgive us for when we've allowed fear of being seen to limit our expression and praise for you. Lord, forgive us for when we sought out our own desires instead of yours. Lord, forgive us for the times we spoke before we sought understanding. Creator, continue to remind us that we cannot work alone without you. Creator, I ask that you please give us the strength to leave our desires aside so that we allow you to flourish in our hearts.

Words of Assurance Let us pray. Our Creator of heaven and of the universe, We thank you for working continuously, courageously, and diligently within each of the lives present on Mother Earth today. We thank you for your loving protection that has kept us all safe throughout our time so far here on Mother Earth. We thank you for guiding the space that is held in allowing us all to share, learn, and grow together in you. We thank you for providing the people of our church with the courage and dedication to learn how to travel together in your name.

Offertory Prayer

-by Rev. K. Roy & Student Minister W. Monague, Co-Chairs of the National Indigenous Council

Loving Creator, help us to think about others when we come to this time of giving. Some of us only have a dollar or two or an hour or two to share, but others have so much more. Remind us when we have heaps of love, of time, or of special talents to share that we shine the love of God when sharing them widely. Amen.

Hymn *Deep in Our Hearts*, MVU # 154

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision; Deep in our hearts there is a common song; Deep in our hearts there is a common story, Telling Creation that we are one.	Deep in our hearts There is a common purpose; Deep in our hearts There is a common goal; Deep in our hearts There is a sacred message, Justice and peace in harmony.	Deep in our hearts There is a common longing; Deep in our hearts There is a common theme; Deep in our hearts There is a common current, Flowing to freedom like a stream.	Deep in our hearts There is a common vision; Deep in our hearts There is a common song; Deep in our hearts There is a common story, Telling Creation that we are one.
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Prayer of Illumination -by Rev. Agnes Melinda Spence, *National Indigenous People's Day Service*

May Creator God, add His blessing to these readings and teachings and lead us and guide us to understanding.

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 8, VU # 732

L: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth! From the lips of infants and children your praises reach up to the heavens. You have set up a stronghold against your foes, To quell the enemy and the avenger.

P: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

L: When I look to the heavens, the work of your fingers, The moon and the stars you have set in their places, what are we mortals that you should be mindful of us, Mere human beings that you should care for us?

P: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

L: You have made us little less than divine and crowned us with glory and honour. You have made us rulers over all your creation, and put all things under our feet, all sheep and cattle, all creatures of the wild, the birds of the air and the fish in the sea, And all that make their way through the waters.

P: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

Hymn *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*, VU # 375

Refrain	You moved on the	You swept thro the	You sang in a	You call from
Spirit, Spirit of	waters,	desert,	stable,	tomorrow,
gentleness,	You called to the	You stung with the	You cried from a hill,	You break ancient
Blow thro' the	deep,	sand,	Then you whispered	schemes,
wilderness	Then you coaxed up	And you goaded	in silence	From the bondage
Calling and free,	the mountains	your people	When the whole	of sorrow
Spirit, Spirit of	From the valleys of	With a law and a	world was still;	The captives dream
restlessness,	sleep;	land;	And down in the city	dreams,
Stir me from	And over the eons	And when they were	You called once	Our women see
placidness,	You called to each	blinded	again,	visions,
Wind, Wind on the	thing:	With their idols and	When you blew thro'	Our men clear their
sea.	Wake from your	lies,	your people	eyes,
	slumbers	Then you spoke	On the rush of the	With bold new
	And rise on your	thro' your prophets	wind.	decisions
	wings.	To open their eyes.	Refrain	Your people arise.
	Refrain	Refrain		Refrain

Prayer Let us give thanks to our Creator for the Creator is always with us. God is with us in the call of a loon and in the flight of an eagle. Our Creator is with us in the changing of the seasons. God is with us when we gather together and when we are alone. Our Creator is with us in our giftedness and in our search for new understandings of ourselves, new visions of our communities. Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.

Scripture Reading

John 3:1-17- Jesus Teaches Nicodemus, (NIV)

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still, you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things, and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Reflection *We join creation in praising the wonder and mystery of God.*

In God's Creation (nature, environment, and whole universe) there are images, symbols, or creations of our own that reminds us of how we experience God in the world.

The Creator of the universe still cares about mere human beings, even though we are doing so much to harm His creation. We must do our part in keeping God's creation in the same supreme spectacular condition as was created. In doing so we can experience God in the world as our ancestors did and how the children of the future will also experience that beauty.

In our gospel story today, we hear that Nicodemus is born again.

The scripture points to starting over in life, grounded in faith and grace (the great gift of God). Every day is a challenge to be born again; a spiritual beginning to work with the spirit and adjust and readjust our spiritual lives.

We can do this in many ways, by personal prayer, by going to church, singing, etc. There are countless other ways of being born again, such as journeying in nature, going up the mountain, spiritual water cleansing ceremonies in lakes; holy water, anointing oil blessings. Cleansing, healing, a sense of being born again.

The way the Indigenous people have a celebration of being born again, by entering a prayer lodge, (which is often called a sweat lodge). The sweat lodge is a low-profile hut, typically dome-shaped or oblong, and made with natural materials. The structure is the lodge, and the ceremony done within the structure may be called a prayer lodge, purification ceremony or simply a sweat. Traditionally the structure was constructed of saplings covered with animal skins nowadays more modernly use blankets and tarps as coverings.

Since time immemorial, the prayer lodge (sweat lodge) is considered a prayer ceremony - it is for prayer, healing, blessing, teaching, and thanksgiving, always praising and honouring God. The ceremony is only led by Elders who know the language, songs, traditions, and safety protocols.

After a ceremony, with much prayer and healing, when one comes out of the sweat lodge (prayer lodge), there is an overwhelming feeling of being physically and spiritually, emotionally and mentally renewed.

In the story from John's gospel, we are told about how the Spirit is expressed in one specific relationship. Two men who love God and scriptures, discuss and explore how the Spirit is ever renewing our lives, our faith traditions, and our communities of faith (so we are born again).

In our community of faith, we have questions and challenges in our ever-changing faith journey. One-on-one conversations that our congregational people have with one another and with church Elders that nourish them when wrestling with new concepts, just as Jesus ministers to Nicodemus's wrestling.

Let's celebrate the spirit and the love of God by sharing the gospel of the lord at anytime, anywhere and at all times in our lives.... Praise be to God. Amen.

Hymn *O Beautiful Gaia*, MVU# 41

Refrain	Soil yielding its	Waves crashing on	Pine bending in	Loon nesting in
O beautiful Gaia,	harvest,	granite,	windstorm,	marshland,
O Gaia, calling us	O Gaia, calling us	O Gaia, calling us	O Gaia, calling us	O Gaia, calling us
home.	home.	home.	home.	home.
O beautiful Gaia,	Soil yielding its	Waves crashing on	Pine bending in	Loon nesting in
Calling us on.	harvest,	granite,	windstorm,	marshland,
	Calling us on.	Calling us on.	Calling us on.	Calling us on.
	Refrain	Refrain	Refrain	Refrain

Prayers of the People -by Bill Snow, Stoney Nakoda First Nation, AB, member of the Indigenous Justice and Residential School Committee, & Rev. Maggie Dieter, Executive Minister, Aboriginal Ministries and Indigenous Justice, The United Church of Canada

Prayer is one precious gift the church has to offer the world. Prayer deepens our communion with God and with all Creation. It nudges us to examine who we are as individuals, as a community, and importantly it asks us also to examine who we seek to become. Through this intimate connection we can pour out our gratitude, our concerns, and our hopes. In reflection of the Elders' wisdom, we offer this prayer:

God, Creator and Great Mystery, we praise you for the Sacred Fires that burn today and for the prayer-filled smoke that you receive and bless. We offer our deep gratitude that the Fire's light informs and guides our journey.

We pray, just as the Elders prayed, for renewal and for the restoration of beauty to the land and its people.

We acknowledge the diverse and abundant gifts of Canada's Indigenous Peoples. We recognize that their knowledge and wisdom have benefitted generations past and present, and that this blessing will continue for generations to come. We remember the many who are committed to the healing of family, community, and nations.

We pray for Mother Earth, the waters, the winds, for our siblings the animals, birds, and fish, and all of life that surrounds us. We pray that we will walk the good Red Road of life, and that we will walk with courage, honesty, humility, love, respect, truth and wisdom.

We offer this prayer in humility and hope, and in the name, of our brother Jesus, the one who lights our path to wholeness, justice, and peace. Amen.

Parting Hymn *On Eagle's Wings*, VU# 808

You, who dwell in the shelter of our God, Who abide in this shadow for life, Say to the Lord: "My refuge, My Rock in whom I trust!"	Refrain "And I will raise you up on eagle's wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of my hand."	The snare of the fowler will never capture you, And famine will bring you no fear: Under God's wings your refuge, God's faithfulness your shield Refrain	You need not fear the terror of the night, Nor the arrow that flies by day; Though thousands fall around you, Near you it shall not come. Refrain	For to God's angels is given a command To guard you in all of your ways; Upon their hands they will bear you up, Lest you dash your food against a stone. Refrain
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Benediction We give thanks that you are continuing to create among us, the skies continue to bless us with rain that restores, sun that warms, and clouds that lead to wonder. Your mysteries never cease to amaze us, and your ways never cease to confound us. For the glimpses of your greatness, we perceive and the unknowns that lead us toward faith - we give thanks. We thank you for being with us and opening us to the fullness of the divine image through all of creation and peoples.

Choral Amen

Extinguish the Christ Candle