

Sunset United Church



June 20th, 2021 – Indigenous Day of Prayer

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)



Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory, is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements.

Centering Music

Lighting the Christ and Affirming Candles*

Hymn: MV#62 There is Room for All **

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;

There is room for all, sheltered in God's love.

And I rejoice and sing,

"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."

There is room for all, there is room for all!

Acknowledging our Kin-ship

Creator, we come together today
As diverse, united peoples
To give thanks to you,
Maker of Heaven and Earth.

**We come to listen, to learn
To sing, and pray
To consider our place in
The order of things
You have created and are creating.**

It is right and good to give thanks
For the land on which we stand,
For this is wisdom we learn from
Indigenous peoples of this land –
That we are one with the earth,
Its waters, air, animals, and plants.

**Such wisdom,
Our interdependence with all life,
Is something too easy to forget
In our busy lives!
It is a gift and a challenge to us
To remember.**

And so we take time to acknowledge the lands
On which we now live and work and worship.

**Many of us come from other places,
Arriving from distant shores,
Our families arrived years ago
Or some of us more recently.
When settlers came,
They were met by others
who were already here,
already knew these lands,
already lived rich and full lives**

based on ancient and proud cultures.

Let us take time to name the peoples of this land now.
We speak aloud the names of the peoples
Who traditionally and still call these lands home.
This community of faith is located on Treaty 4 lands,
The lands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota,
Nakota, and Lakota peoples,
And the homeland to the Metis Nation.
O God, as we acknowledge the peoples
Who have lived on and stewarded these lands
Since time immemorial,
And their continued claims to the lands,
Help us to become better neighbours
So that we might live together in better ways.

**For we are all kin in Christ,
“All my relations” with each other
And this earth, its waters, air,
Animals and plants.**

Hymn: MV#92 Like a Rock

*Like a rock, like a rock,
God is under our feet.
Like the starry night sky
God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon
God is ever before.
Like the river runs to ocean,
our home is in God evermore.*

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 62)

Be still my soul and wait for God:

From God comes my salvation

God alone is my rock;

I shall never be shaken.

On God rests our deliverance and our honour

My mighty rock, my refuge,

My strength is in God,

Trust in God at all times, O People

In love,

We pour out our hearts

Before the Lord our God.

Prayer of Approach

Holy One, you are our rock,

A foundation upon which we stand.

Fill our hearts now with joy

At your deep, abiding presence.

Encourage us by the teachings of Christ,

To live with care and compassion

For self, friend, and neighbor.

Bless us now as we reflect on our relations

With Indigenous peoples -our kin –

As diverse yet united peoples.

Amen.

Hymn: MV#135 Called by Earth and Sky



*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,*

called by earth and sky.

1. Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing,
rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

2. Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit,
blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

3. Precious these mountains,
ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our waking,

rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

4. Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Free of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.

*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky,
Called by earth and sky.*

Sharing the Story

Hymn: VU#701 What Does the Lord Require of You ^{^^**}

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.*

We Encounter the Sacred Story

Genesis 1:26-27

Matthew 22: 34-40

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn: VU#578 As a Fire Is Meant for Burning ^**^

- 1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming
flame,
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of
care,
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbours
everywhere.*
- 2. We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions, we should show that Christ is
light.
In a humble, listening Spirit, we would live to God's delight.*
- 3. As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness mid earth's people's many hues.*

*As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.*

Prayers of the Community and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU#308 Many and Great, O God, Are your Works
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1. *Many and great, O God, are your works,
Maker of earth and sky.
Your hands have set the heavens with stars,
Your fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at your word the waters were formed;
Deep seas obey your voice.*
2. *Grant unto us communion with you,
O star-abiding one.
Come unto us and dwell with us,
With you are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
Eternal life with you.*

Benediction

Amen

Postlude



**this service was created with the express intent for congregations to use on this day. Read Sherman, who created the service, is minister of Trinity United Church in Montreal and participates in right relations work in Conseil regional Nakonha:ka Regional Council.*

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