

July 4, 2021 Worship Service

Song: If One Child Sings

Welcome and Opening Words

We are welcomed into this service by the Triune God, Father, Son and Spirit. We come before this God as many parts of a single body; people drawn from every tribe, nation and language; some indigenous-peoples of the land, some refugees, immigrants, pilgrims, people on the move.

Some hosts, some guests; some both hosts and guests:

All of us searching for an eternal place where we can belong.

Call To Worship

We gather today to worship and also to acknowledge the 154th anniversary of our country Canada.

We gratefully celebrate our freedoms and opportunities, the natural beauty of her vast landscape, the richness of her resources, and the beauty of her people.

As we gather, we also recognize that a history of a people is not all glory.

The history of Canada has both joy and sorrow, triumph and tragedy.

We have much to celebrate, much to lament, and much to dream.

Come, let us gather in the presence of God, our Creator, who is forgiving, restoring, recreating and making all things new.

Song: O Come to the Altar

God's Greeting

We greet one another

Song: I Want to Sing (Rob Luymes)

Time of Confession

We come believing in our emptiness,
believing that we will never have enough,
believing that what we have is unworthy.

Creator, forgive us.

We come fearful of sharing,
fearful of losing our tenuous grip on security,
fearful of touching and knowing the pain of others.

Creator, forgive us.

We come overwhelmed by the hunger and sadness of our world,
overwhelmed by the suffering of children, of immigrants and refugees, of
those marginalized, the visible minorities, and those recently targeted for
their faith,
overwhelmed by the endless tales of senseless violence, greed, and death,
and especially the deaths of indigenous residential school children in our
country Canada.

We come aching from the weight of the responsibility,
aching from the chilling challenge of knowing our abundance,
aching from the gnawing awareness that we have much to share.
We come clinging to our meager lunches.

**Great Giver of All,
who overrides scarcity in abundance,
who overrides tightfistedness in generosity,
we are among the 5,000
we are dazzled by 12 baskets left.
Forgive us for living in our scarcity instead of your abundance.**

Song of Lament: Psalm 126 (Isaac Wardell)

Assurance of Pardon

The God of the most magnificent story of all—the story of love and grace in
the death and resurrection of Jesus --this God can change every story we
tell and every story we hide so we can be shaped into a people who can offer
love and grace to a hurting world.

Unity Prayer

**May God's Spirit hover over our chaos, our hatred and indifference,
descend in our hearts with love and blow us out into the world
to listen and serve and set us ablaze to forgive and reconcile,
for we are all welcome at the table of God:
every man, woman, and child.
Amen.**

Song: I Am Not My Own (Jeremy Benjamin)

Children's Blessing

Prayer of Illumination

Reading of Scripture: Mark 6:30-44

Sermon: Scarcity or Abundance?

Song of Response: Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

Prayers of the people

Generosity Creed

God's parting blessing

Song: The Blessing

Offerings at the door