

Sunday Worship Service – June 21, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
***ELWB* (red book) – Holy Communion – Setting 8 (p.184-192)**

Welcome by the Pastor

Land Acknowledgement Statement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to Indigenous Peoples Day

National Indigenous Peoples Day, a day to recognize and celebrate the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis across Canada.

Call to Worship*

On this Indigenous Day of Prayer, we gather in solidarity with the First Peoples of this land.

We celebrate their wisdom, culture, and spirituality.

Come, let us join in worship, embracing the beauty of Indigenous heritage and strength.

With open hearts, we seek to journey together on the path of healing and reconciliation.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle*

O Great Spirit, Creator of all light and life, as we gather in this sacred space to celebrate the Indigenous Day of Prayer, we now light the Christ candle as a symbol of your divine presence among us.

We remember the words of Christ, the Light of the World, who calls us to be beacons of hope, healing, and reconciliation.

As we kindle this flame, may it remind us of the wisdom and resilience of the Indigenous Peoples who have cherished and nurtured the land we share.

We pray that the light of this candle will guide us in our worship, illuminate our hearts, and inspire us to walk together in the footsteps of Christ. May we be bearers of this light in a world yearning for peace, justice, and reconciliation.

In the name of the Creator, the Great Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness¹

Compassionate God, we come before you with humble hearts.
**There are times in our lives: when we stray from your ways;
 when we bring conflict to our loved ones;
 when we flee from your presence;
 when we allow fear to govern our decisions and our actions;
 when we choose the ways of the world instead of the ways of Christ.**
**Forgive us, God of life. Bless us with faithfulness and courage,
 that we may walk in the ways of Christ.**
We ask these things in your holy name. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness*

Beloved community, receive these words of assurance:
 The Great Spirit, our Creator, is a God of mercy, compassion,
 and unconditional love. As we come before the Creator with sincere hearts,
 seeking forgiveness and transformation, know that we are embraced by
 divine grace and offered the opportunity to begin anew.
 In this sacred space, let us find strength and courage to journey together on
 the path of healing, reconciliation, and unity, guided by the wisdom of
 Indigenous Peoples. As we journey together, may we become agents of
 hope, love, and justice, embodying the spirit of Christ, who calls us to break
 down the walls that divide and to build bridges of understanding and
 compassion. In the name of the Creator, the Great Spirit, we are forgiven,
 renewed, and empowered. Amen.

#819 Gathering Song “Come, All You People”

1. **Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
 come now and worship the Lord.**
2. **Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
 come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
 come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;**

¹ The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017 Compilation © 2016 Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

come now and worship the Lord.

- 3. Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come now and worship the Lord.**

p. 184 Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

#152 Kyrie

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy, have mercy.**

p.185 Canticle of Praise "Glory to God"

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

- 1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**
- 2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

- 3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Final Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Prayer of the Day*

Great Spirit, Creator of all, as we come before you in humility and reverence, we give thanks for your loving presence. You have brought us together to celebrate Indigenous Day of Prayer, uniting us in our shared journey of healing, reconciliation, and celebration.

O God, help us seek to honour the wisdom, spirituality, and strength of the Indigenous Peoples of this land. Open our hearts to receive your guidance and grace. Help us to embrace the beauty of diversity, to listen with respect and compassion, and to learn from the teachings of Indigenous peoples. May we be filled with your Spirit, that we might journey together on the path of understanding and love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Romans 6:1b-11

The reading from Romans for today will be read from the First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament. The First Nations Version New Testament was birthed out of a desire to provide an English Bible that connects, in a culturally relevant way, to the traditional heart languages of the over 6 million English-speaking First Nations people of North America. The First Nations Version is a retelling of Creator's Story from the Scriptures, attempting to follow the tradition of the storytellers of the indigenous peoples' oral cultures. It is not a word-for-word translation, but rather it is a thought-for-thought translation, sometimes referred to as dynamic equivalence translation.

In this reading from Romans we hear that in baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

A reading from Romans, the 6th chapter:

Should we continue to walk in our broken ways so that Creator will show us even more kindness? This kind of thinking takes us nowhere! How can we who have died to our bad hearts and broken ways continue to walk that path? Or have you forgotten that we who have participated in the purification ceremony of “Creator Sets Free” (who is Jesus) the Chosen One have ceremonially died with him?

This ceremony shows that we have been buried with him in death, so that in the same way the Chosen One was raised from the dead by the power of our Father the Great Spirit, we should walk this new road of life to bring honour to him. If we have joined with him in his death, then, like him, we will also rise again to new life. For we know that our old self was nailed to the cross with him, killing the evil desires in our bodies, so that our broken ways will not rule over us. For dead people can no longer follow their bad hearts and broken ways.

I will say it another way. If we have died with the Chosen One, we believe we will also live with him. For we know that once the Chosen One was raised to life from the dead, he would never die again. Death no longer has the power to rule over him. He died once for all, to bring an end to humanity’s broken ways. The life he now lives is a life that brings honor to the Great Spirit.

So think about yourselves in the same way, dead to broken ways and alive to the Great Spirit in harmony with the Chosen One, “Creator Sets Free,” who is Jesus.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

p. 188 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:24-39

In the gospel reading, Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, Jesus assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“Disciples aren’t greater than their teacher, and slaves aren’t greater than their master. It’s enough for disciples to be like their teacher and slaves like their master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, it’s certain that they will call the members of his household by even worse names.

“Therefore, don’t be afraid of those people because nothing is hidden that won’t be revealed, and nothing secret that won’t be brought out into the open. What I say to you in the darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, announce from the rooftops. Don’t be afraid of those who kill the body but can’t kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Aren’t two sparrows sold for a small coin? But not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it already. Even the hairs of your head are all counted. Don’t be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

“Therefore, everyone who acknowledges me before people, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. But everyone who denies me before people, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

“Don’t think that I’ve come to bring peace to the earth. I haven’t come to bring peace but a sword. I’ve come to turn a man *against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. People’s enemies are members of their own households.*

“Those who love father or mother more than me aren’t worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren’t worthy of me. Those who don’t pick up their crosses and follow me aren’t worthy of me. Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

#798 Hymn of the Day “Will You Come and Follow Me” (v.1-2, 4-5)

1. “Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”
2. “Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”
4. “Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

p.105 **Apostles’ Creed** (*inside back cover of red hymn book*)

Prayers of the People*

Great Spirit, Creator of all, we come before you in gratitude and reverence, lifting up the prayers of our hearts. We join our voices in this sacred space with humility and love, seeking your guidance, wisdom, and strength. Prayer petitions will end with “Great Spirit,” and the congregation is invited to respond by praying, “Receive our prayer.”

For the healing of the land and the renewal of our relationship with Mother Earth, we pray. Great Spirit, **receive our prayer.**

For the wisdom of Indigenous leaders and Elders, that their teachings may inspire us to travel together in unity and respect, we pray:
Great Spirit, **receive our prayer.**

For the survivors of residential schools and their families, that they may find healing, comfort, and justice, we pray: Great Spirit, **receive our prayer.**

For the ongoing work of reconciliation and the building of strong, respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, we pray: Great Spirit, **receive our prayer.**

For the courage to confront and dismantle systemic racism, colonialism, and injustice, and for the wisdom to create a more equitable and compassionate society, we pray: Great Spirit, **receive our prayer.**

For the churches and faith communities seeking to be instruments of peace, justice, and reconciliation, that they may be guided by your Spirit and sustained by your grace, we pray: Great Spirit, **receive our prayer.**

For peace and healing for those in hospital. For comfort and hope for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.
We pray: Great Spirit, **receive our prayer.**

Great Spirit, hear the prayers of your people, spoken and unspoken. May we be bearers of your love, justice, and compassion as we travel together on this journey of healing and reconciliation. In your holy name, we pray.
Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

We offer our gifts to you, as well as our lives, loving God, so they might find their way to those who need your grace, your hope, your joy, and your peace in their lives. Amen.

p.190 Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you.

As you gave our ancestors in faith food and water in the desert,

even when they turned away from you,
 you have promised to free us from all divisions and to give us eternal life.
 And so with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.190 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and holy is Jesus, your anointed one,
 who invites us to place our trust in you, rather than in earthly treasures.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,
 Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the covenant in my blood,
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 May they remind us that we are one in Christ,
 no longer divided by race or country or any other earthly sign.
 For all these gifts, we give our thanks and praise. Amen.

An Indigenous Lord's Prayer

**Great Spirit, our Creator, who is in all places,
 Sacred is your name.**

**May your wisdom guide us,
 Your will be done in our lives, as it is throughout Creation.
 Provide for us today the nourishment we need,
 And forgive us our wrongs, as we forgive those who have wronged us.
 Lead us on the path of understanding and respect,
 And protect us from ignorance and harm.
 For you are the source of all power, beauty, and love,
 From generation to generation, forever and always. Amen.**

Communion Distribution

p.191 *Lamb of God*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

#781 Communion Hymn “*Children of the Heavenly Father*”

- 1. Children of the heav’nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e’er was given.**
- 2. God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.**
- 3. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.**
- 4. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne’er forsaketh,
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.**

Communion Blessing

Prayer after communion²

Thank you, Divine Spirit, for this meal of remembrance, and for coming to us as we have shared it. May the love we find at this table be reflected in our lives; May the power we receive at this table make us peacemakers and healers; And may the Spirit who fills us again at this table lead us to be

² <https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/a-communion-liturgy-for-pentecost-sunday/>

those who proclaim God's Reign in every word we speak and in everything we do. Amen.

Announcements

Benediction*

May the Creator, the Great Spirit,
fill your hearts with love,
your minds with wisdom,
and your spirits with courage.
May you be inspired to seek healing and reconciliation for all. Amen.

#810 Sending Hymn "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

- 1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**
- 2. Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.**
- 3. Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.**
- 4. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.
Thanks be to God!

Sources:

Those parts of this worship service marked with an asterisk (*) are from:

© 2023 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice.