**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster of the**

**United Churches of Canada**

**August 16th, 2020**

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**Words of Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Announcements**

**from Each Congregation**

**Thank you for Connecting for Worship**

**Today’s Leadership included**

Preacher: The Rev. Bill Booth

Presiding: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

The Rev. Tim Bowman

Musician – Donna Poncelet

Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Lighting the Christ Candle for Each Congregation Tim

*People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.*

Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation: Tim

This is the time; this is the place, wherever we are,

to come before God, to name our joys and sorrows,

our hopes and our fears.

If we were meeting the Queen, we would be on our best behaviour;

If we were meeting the Prime Minister, we would wear our best suits and dresses.

How should we come before our God?

**Come laughing! Come shouting!**

**Come dancing and crying and arguing!**

**Come in your suits and pajamas,**

**your swimsuits and parkas!**

**Come daring, child of God.**

**Come as you are, bring who you are,**

**for this is your place, this is your time, this is your God.**

**Hymn: VU 395 – “Come in, Come in and Sit Down”**

***R. Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.***

***We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.***

*You know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain;*

*so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,*

*for we are a part of the family.* ***R***

*God is with us in this place, like a mother’s warm embrace.*

*We’re all forgiven by God’s grace,*

*for we are a part of the family.* ***R***

*There’s life to be shared in the bread and the wine;*

*we are the branches, Christ is the vine.*

*This is God’s temple; it’s not yours or mine,*

*but we are part of the family.* ***R***

*There’s rest for the weary and health for us all;*

*there’s a yoke that is easy, and a burden that’s small.*

*So come in and worship and answer the call,*

*for we are a part of the family.* ***R***

Learning With Our Children: Tracy

Song: ‘I Am a Child of God’ MV 157 vs 1 & 5

*I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God’s new creation.*

*I am a child of God, I am a child of God.*

*I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,*

*I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.*

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD**

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 15:21-28 (NRSV):

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’

But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

Musical Offering: Musician – Donna Poncelet

Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Sermon: Bill

**Hymn: VU 619 – “Healer of our Every Ill”**

***R) Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,***

***Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.***

*You know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness*

*Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.* ***R)***

*In the pain and joy beholding, how your grace is still unfolding.*

*Give us all your vision, God of love****. R)***

*Give us strength to love each other,*

*Every sister, every brother. Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.* ***R)***

*You who know each thought and feeling,*

*Teach us all your way of healing. Spirit of compassion, fill each heart****. R)***

**WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION**

Prayer of Grace: Bill

There are so many labels, God. We are too Black, too Queer, too White, too poor, too privileged, too Indigenous, too young, too plain-spoken, too old to speak to you. There are so many fences with which people would protect your dignity and parcel out your love. These are the same labels and the same fences that protect and restrict the power and resources of society.

There are so many problems, God. The world and its people are too foolish, too angry, too divided. Climate change is too big, politics is too corrupt, economic oppression too complex and entrenched to leave any room for hope. These are the fears and despairs that blind us to your dream.

Those who proclaim your love and justice are, too often, your most ferocious gatekeepers.

Silent prayer

Words of Assurance: Bill

But you are the God of outcasts, of shepherds, of unwed mothers, of scoundrels and nomads and fishers.

**You are the God whose very Incarnate Word was surprised and corrected by a desperate mother.**

**You are not remote and dignified: you are close and loving, grimy and bloody and real.Thank you. Amen.**

Sung Response: “Listen to Your Children Praying.” VU 400

*Lord, listen to your children praying,*

*Lord, send your Spirit in this place;*

*Lord, listen to your children praying,*

*send us love send us power, send us grace!*

Prayers of the World: Tracy

Prayers of the People: From Chat shared prayers. Tracy

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we sing together the words that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer [Sung] VU 960

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God: Tim

Prayer of Dedication: Tim

These are the gifts of God, given for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn: MV 120 – “My Soul Cries Out**

**(Canticle of the Turning)”**

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,*

*and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.*

*You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,*

*and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west*

*shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

***Refrain) My heart shall sing of the day you bring.***

***Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears,***

***for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.***

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,*

*and your mercy will last from the depths of the past*

*To the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame,*

*and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might,*

*put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.* ***Refrain)***

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,*

*not a stone will be left on stone.*

*Let the king beware for your justice tears ev’ry tyrant from his throne.*

*The hungry poor shall weep no more,*

*for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread,*

*ev’ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.* ***Refrain)***

*Though the nations rage from age to age,*

*we remember who holds us fast: God’s mercy must deliver us*

*from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.*

*This saving word that our forebears heard*

*is the promise which hold us bound, ‘till the spear and rod*

*can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.* ***Refrain)***

Commissioning and Benediction: Tracy

**Sung Response:** “Go on your way in Joy”

Go on your way in joy, my friends, Go on your way in joy my friends.

Go on your way in joy my friends.

Let your left foot say “Glory” and your right say “Amen” X 2

**Postlude**

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