

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster of the
United Church of Canada
The Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost / Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2020**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership includes

Preacher: The Rev. Bill Booth

Presiding: The Rev Tracy Fairfield

& The Rev. Tim Bowman

Musician – Donna Poncelet

Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation and Land Acknowledgments

Lighting the Christ Candle for Each Congregation

We light this Christ candle knowing that Christ's love shines, like a beacon for those of us who are troubled, who are anxious, who are unsure, welcoming us into the presence of our God, who loves us into fullness.

Call to Worship: Tracy

"The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood."

[John 1:14 - *The Message*]

If that's so, then we are neighbours.

Not by our own choice, but by an act of God in Jesus Christ.

Come, neighbour, let us form the Table together,

share and eat good food and drink, and worship God.

Sung Response: "Open Our Hearts" MV 21

Open our hearts, open our minds. Open our lives to you, O loving God.

Open our hearts, open our minds. Open our lives to you O loving God.

Open our hearts.

Opening Prayer: Tracy

Great and loving God, find the place in our souls
that needs your touch of grace.

Find the way for our words to echo your call
and bless us with the ability to receive your message.

Give us faith that makes the world pause and ask:

How is it you know such love, such blessing?

May our witness of faith, in action as well as in trust,
bring the vision of your kingdom so close

that we glimpse your life in us as Christ's life,

reforming and renewing us, each day in your image. Amen.

Written by Wendy MacLean, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2020. Used with permission.

Hymn: "Love is Your Way" (Shirley Erena Murray / Per Harlin)

Love is your way, love is your nature,
blessing each creature, lighting each day;
 grace is your sign, gift of forgiveness,
 chalice that changes water to wine--

**Refrain: God, in your grace, God in your mercy,
 turn us to you to transform the world!**

Pathways we choose, undeserved freedom,
earth as our kingdom, still we abuse;
 much we have done, gross human error,
 misuse of power darkens the sun-- **Refrain:**

Terror and tears, wounds without healing,
hearts without feeling mirror our fears:
 life without trust, greed and high prices,
 conflict and crisis grind us to dust-- **Refrain:**

Let us stand still, look at each other,
sister and brother thwarting your will:
 teach us good care, grace to seek pardon,
 reclaim your garden, riches to share-- **Refrain:**

Prayer of Confession: Tracy

Today is Reformation Sunday.

It is a day for truth: to focus on the Word of God,
to be moved by it,
to judge and to love ourselves and our world in light of it.

And so, author of our life,

we confess that we do not always love the truth.

It is easier to pretend we do not know our history:

the benefits it grants us and the obligations it lays upon us.

The Church, Reformed, must always be reforming;

Breath of Change and New Life,

we confess that it is more comfortable to cling to familiar truths,
to use them as weapons and as shields.

**We are sometimes slow to realize that even the truth
must be spoken in love and renewed with courage.**

Silence

Sung Assurance: "Don't Be Afraid" MV 90 2x

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Learning With Our Children: Tim

Hymn: "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" VU 575

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms.

Scripture Readings:

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

19The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²"What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Called to Active Loving" **Bill**

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Hymn: MV 178 - "Who Is My Mother?"

Who is my mother, who is my brother?

All those who gather round Jesus Christ:

Spirit blown people born from the Gospel sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Differently abled, differently labelled, widen the circle round Jesus Christ:

crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,

all come together round Jesus Christ.

Love will relate us colour or status can't segregate us

round Jesus Christ: family failings,

human derailings, all are accepted round Jesus Christ.

*Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen!*

Prayers of the People and all the World Tracy

Prayers Shared from the Chat Bill

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

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: VU 595 - "We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song)"

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travelers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.*

*Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

Commissioning and Benediction Tim

Sung Response: "May God's Sheltering Wings" MV 214

May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.

May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,

And hold you in her love and hold you in her love.

Postlude

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