September 26th, 2021

18th Sunday after Pentecost

National Truth and Reconciliation Sunday

**Good News: Much of what you see, hear, and experience during our worship is Metaphorical and Symbolic.**

We are called to be an encouraging and compassionate

faith community, committed to sharing with all, a joyful

and Christ-like spirituality

**Trinity Memorial & Aldergrove United Churches**

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Words of Welcome and Announcements

**Procession of the Bible**

**Hymn – “Open Our Hearts” MV 21**

*Open our hearts, open our minds.*

*Open our lives to you O loving God. (2x)*

*Open our hearts.*

**Acknowledgement of the Peoples and the Land**

**Lighting the Rainbow Candle**

One: The Light of Christ shining into our world.

**All: God is Good. Thanks be to God.**

**Call to Worship: “My Heart Soars” by Chief Dan George**

**Hymn: “Each Blade of Grass” MV 37**

*Each blade of grass, ev’ry wing that soars,*

*the waves that sweep across a distant shore, make full the circle of God.*

*Each laughing child, ev’ry gentle eye,*

*a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky, make full the circle of God.*

*Each silent paw, ev’ry rounded stone,*

*the buzz that echoes from a honey’d comb, make full the circle of God.*

*Each fire brimmed star, ev’ry out-stretched hand,*

*the wind that leaps and sails across the land, make full the circle of God.*

*Each icy peak, ev’ry patterned shell,*

*the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells, make full the circle of God.*

*Each cosmic hue, ev’ry creature’s way,*

*all form the beauty of this vast array, making full the circle of God.*

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn: “There is Room for All” MV 62**

*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! 2x*

**Learning with Our Children** (Christine Schaufert)

**Hymn: “Evening Rise”** (A Capella, with actions)

*Evening rise spirit come, sun goes down the day is done.*

*More Earth awakens me, with the heartbeat of the sea.*

**We Respond in Love and Action**

**Scripture Readings:**

**Hebrew Scripture:** Psalm 124

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side  
    — let Israel now say —  
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,  
    when our enemies attacked us,  
then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
    when their anger was kindled against us;  
then the flood would have swept us away,  
    the torrent would have gone over us;  
then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.  
We have escaped like a bird  
    from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

**Greek Scripture:** Mark 9: 38 – 50

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someonecasting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me,it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**All: Thanks be to God**

# Song of Reflection: “We Won’t Forget You”

# N'we Jinan Artists, Sk'elep School of Excellence, B.C.

**Sermon:** “Partnering in Justice and Compassion” Rev. Tracy Fairfield

**Hymn: “In Loving Partnership We Come” VU 603**

*In loving partnership, we come, seeking, O God, your will to do.*

*Our prayers and actions now receive; we freely offer them to you.*

*We are the hands and feet of Christ, serving by grace each other's need.*

*We dare to risk and sacrifice with truthful word and faithful deed.*

*Loving community we seek; your hope and strength within us move.*

*The poor and rich, the strong and weak are brought together in your love.*

*In loving partnership, O God, help us your future to proclaim.*

*Justice and peace be our desire, we humbly pray in Jesus' name.*

# We Respond in Love and Action

**Prayer of Reflection**

One: Servant God, we are not always willing to partner with and offer compassion and fight for justice others in fear of standing out and drawing unwanted attention upon ourselves. However, you call us to discipleship which is not always easy and requires us to make our actions and faith visible.

**All: Open our hearts in the midst when we see the sorrows and struggles of others. Help us to find the courage to humbly serve You by extending a compassionate partnership of justice to others. Help us to let go of judgement that limits our willingness to offer compassion. Free us from our fears and make us whole. We gather and pray in the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

One: You are called and equipped with all you need to serve God and others with compassion and justice here and all over the world. Show you compassion and all will be well. Your loving Creator walks with you. Redeemed and loved we are renewed.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gathering our Prayers and Online Prayers**

After each prayer request, we will respond with:

One: Loving God,

**All: Hear the prayers of your people**

**Prayer Intro: “Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary” MV 18**

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy*

*tried and true; with thanksgiving,*

*I’ll be a living sanctuary for you. (2x)*

**Prayers of the People for the World**

Prayers today are a silent time of reflection as you offer the prayers of your hearts and mind and soul while music and a video are playing – prepared by Chief Dan George. Please remember all the lost and forgotten and discovered First Nations children as well as those still in care, those still suffering, and the change has yet to occur.

**Coast Salish Anthem: Chief Dan George’s Prayer Song**

**The Lord’s Prayer** (Spoken 921)

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 those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen

**Offering and Response**

**Offertory/Doxology: “We Praise You, O God” VU 218 vs 1**

*We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;*

*in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.*

*We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name,*

*glad praises we sing.*

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Hymn: VU # 586 “We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection”**

*We shall go out with hope of resurrection;*

*we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;*

*we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;*

*tales of a love that will not let us go.*

*We’ll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;*

*we’ll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;*

*we’ll weave a cloth of all the world united*

*within the vision of new life in Christ.*

*We’ll give a voice to those who have not spoken;*

*we’ll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;*

*we’ll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,*

*expressive love alive in e very heart.*

*We’ll share our joy with those who still are weeping,*

*raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,*

*we’ll leap and dance the resurrection story,*

*including all in circles of our love.*

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Sung Response: “We are Marching in the Light of God” VU 646**

*We are marching in the light of God, We are marching in the light of God,*

*We are marching in the light of God, We are marching in the light of God,*

*(the light of God.)*

*We are marching,*

*(marching, we are marching)*

*oo-oo, (marching,)*

*we are marching in the light of God.*

*(the light of God.)*

*We are marching,*

*(marching, we are marching)*

*oo-oo, (marching,)*

*we are marching in the light of God.*

*(the light of God.)*

Postlude

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Music Director: Christine Schaufert

Choir Director: Ron Schaufert

Organist: Donna Poncelet

Song Leader: Jerry Johnson & Edie Hayden

Tech. Support: Logan Schlosser & Jeremy Wright

Preaching today: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Presiding: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield & The Rev. Bill Booth