

*We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.*

*This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.*

## **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **Pentecost 6**

**JULY 9, 2023**

**Red Dress Day**

#### **PRELUDE and WELCOME**

*We take time for walking among the art offered for this experience. We hold these images and questions and the journey of the Red Dress in our minds and hearts as we begin our worship.*

- + What do you notice?**
- + How do you feel?**
- + What does it make you think?**
- + What does it make you want to do?**

#### **PRAYER**

Creator God, we come to you with humility, courage, respect, and honesty as we seek to right the wrongs done to Indigenous women and girls, and to members of the Two Spirit community.

We seek truth. We listen to the stories of family and friends who have lost a beloved grandmother, mother, daughter, auntie, sister, cousin, friend. Help us to face this difficult truth and to make much needed change.

We seek love. We pray for all who lives have been impacted by this trauma of death and disappearance.

We seek honesty.

May those with information about these murdered and missing women and girls have courage to come forward.

We seek wisdom. May our leaders and police continue to lead and search with speed and compassion, love and concern.

We pray for healing. May those impacted by these murders and disappearances, as well as those who face bigotry and violence, continue to hold their loved ones in care and love. May our hurting nation seek to offer support, generosity, and love to all affected by these tragic losses. May we seek to listen to stories, to look at photos, and to offer our resolve.

We ask for courage. For all families and friends who offer testimony, stories, tears, and anger. For those who continue to search. For Indigenous Peoples' who fear for the women and girls of their communities. For our nation as we face the ugly truth before us. For the Christian Churches of Canada to be people who follow the example of Jesus by welcoming all and offering peace, love, and friendship in these difficult times.

We seek to be welcoming. For all people, regardless of their race, culture, orientation, beliefs, or any other category we place one another into, may we be kind, friendly, interested, and loving to all your peoples.

Creator God, you are present within us and all around us. Bring about a change in our collective hearts that transforms fear into hope, apathy into genuine concern, tragedy into a transformed society. Help us to hold Indigenous women and girls, and all easily exploited and ignored people, in our care.

Be with us, Creator God, as we do the difficult work of righting the wrongs done. Give us courage, give us honesty, make us humble, open our hearts to love more fully.

AMEN.

*Written by Rev. Rob Wiesner*

**HYMN ELW # 611 I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast!"**

**I came to Jesus as I was, so weary worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live!"  
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright!"  
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that Light of life I'll walk, till trav'ling days are done.**

## 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.**

GENESIS 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' ..... "I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.' "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left." ..... And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?"

The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*It may be disturbing to think about Rebekah as property. And we ought to. However our culture treats women as objects and monetizes the role of a woman in sex and in childbearing. It is easy for us to say, "that was then," and it was, but the text reminds us how we share some very human qualities with ancient peoples and cultures.*

*This story is about how God leads and the role of humans in God's work. It is a story about the servant's prayer and his attentiveness to notice whether and how God is answering. Genesis 24 begins with Abraham's assurance that God would send an angel ahead of the servant. There is a grace here that precedes our acts and that is completely the work and way of God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN ELW # 172 HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah**

**Hallelujah**

**Hallelujah**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." .....

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN ELW # 777 COME TO ME ALL PILGRIMS THIRSTY**

**Come to me all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give.**

**If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live.**

***Refrain* Jesus, ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well.**

**In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.**

**Come to me all trav'lers weary; come that I may give you rest.**

**Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest. *Refrain***

**Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place.**

**Come receive the gift I offer, turn to me and seek my face. *Refrain***

**Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame.**

**Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name. *Refrain***

**Come to me, distressed and needy; I will be your trusted friend.**

**Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend. *Refrain***

**Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam.**

**Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home. *Refrain***

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.  
God, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### **SINGING INTO PEACE "COME O LORD AND SET US FREE"**

Come, O Lord, and set us free. **Come, O Lord, and set us free**

Give your people peace. **Give your people peace.**

Come, O Lord, and set us free. **Come, O Lord, and set us free**

Come, Lord Jesus, come. **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE and OFFERING

#### MEAL

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things.  
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness  
in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our lover, our keeper,

For the universe beyond our knowing,

For lands and seas and all their animals,

And for friends and strangers and family,

For homes, and grocery stores and schools.

We praise you for your covenant people,

For Abraham and Sarah, Moses, and Miriam.

For centuries of faithful Christians,  
For Mary and Mary Magdalene, Peter, and Paul  
and all who speak truth to power in our day.  
We praise you for your Son Jesus Christ,  
Who saves us from sin and from evil,  
Who bids us to love our neighbour.  
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, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**  
We pray for your Holy Spirit,  
Your breath, your fire, your wisdom.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Christ,  
Inspire us for service.  
And renew the world with your mercy,  
With your healing, your justice, and your peace.  
We praise you, all-holy God, our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sustainer,  
Today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.  
Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All people are called to Christ's table, come, eat what is good.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words*  
*“the body of Christ given for you”      “the blood of Christ shed for you”*

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is your dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

### HYMN ELW # 790 DAY BY DAY

**Day by day your mercies, Lord, attend me,  
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.  
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me  
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.  
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,  
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;  
Saviour, lead me to the home I treasure,  
Where at last I'll find eternal rest.**

**Day by day, I know you will provide me  
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;  
I will seek your loving will to guide me  
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.  
I will fear no evil of the morrow,  
I will trust in your enduring grace.  
Saviour help me bear life's pain and sorrow  
Til in glory I behold your face.**



**O what joy to know that you are near me  
When my burdens grow to great to bear;  
O, what joy to know that you will hear me  
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.  
Day by day, no matter what betide me  
You will hold me ever in your hand.  
Saviour, with your presence here to guide me,  
I will reach at last the promised land.**

#### DISMISSAL

*We return to the art walk and revisit the questions*

- + **What do you notice?**            + **What does it make you think?**
- + **How do you feel?**            + **What does it make you want to do?**

#### PRAYER

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the centre of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. **Amen**

*Written by Mark MacDonald*

Go in peace, share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE