

Trinity Memorial United Church

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Affirming Ministry Celebration

Prelude

We Approach

Welcome and Announcements

Acknowledgement of the Peoples and the Land

We light this candle to acknowledge that we are blessed to live on the ancestral and unceded land of the Stó:lō people, the People of the River. Specifically the Matsqui and Sumas Nations who have nurtured and cared for this area from time immemorial along with the people of the Fraser Valley Métis Association. As an uninvited guest I am humbled to share this land with them. May all of our thoughts and actions lead to a better understanding of each other and reconciliation for the systemic racism that has and continues to affect our indigenous siblings.

Lighting the Rainbow Candle

Many people suffer injustice and access to places because of who they love, how they look or who they are. Sexual orientation, gender identity, color of our skin, physical and cognitive abilities and limitations are integral parts of our person and should never lead to abuse, exclusion or oppression. By lighting this rainbow candle we vow to create a safe space for everyone who does not conform to societal norms and to advocate for their equal rights.

Hymn: VU 395 Come In, Come In and Sit Down (Part of the Family)

Refrain:

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.

Refrain:

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.

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.

Refrain:

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.

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 a part of the family.

Refrain:

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.

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.

Refrain:

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.

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Procession of the Bible

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

One: What does the Lord require of you?

**All: To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

One: What does God command of us?

**All: To love God with all our heart,
and all our soul,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

One: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

All: But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.

One: Let us worship the God who believes in us,
and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**All: Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,
but will be beside us every step of the way***

Hymn: MV 178 Who is My Mother (Kindred in Spirit through Jesus Christ)?

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!

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Opening Prayer

Hymn: MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, No one stands alone,
Standing side by side, Draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle,
'Round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever,
In God's gracious arms.

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, No one stands alone,
Standing side by side, Draw the circle wide.

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
So encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders,
Faithful to God's call.

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, No one stands alone,
Standing side by side, Draw the circle wide.

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
Than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us,
Open every door.

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, No one stands alone,
Standing side by side, Draw the circle wide.

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Learning with Our Children

Recognition of Affirming Ministry Members

Luella Ryan	Jerry Johnston	Dylan Symons
Sarah Symons	Lauren Palmer	Hannah Ryan

Hymn: MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

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Let the dream of Christ be in us,
Open every door.

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Standing side by side, Draw the circle wide.

We Listen to the Word

Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 30 15:20
Matthew 22 36 - 40
John 13 34 - 35

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God

Solo: The Family of God

- Bill and Gloria Gaither

Sermon: Love is a Verb

Hymn: MV 138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines (Outside the Lines)

My love colours outside the lines,
Exploring paths that few could ever find;
And takes me into places where I've never been before,
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines,
Turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
And takes me into places where I've never been before,
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,
Body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die,
And realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
Tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
Where I've never been before,
Throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,
Body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die,
And realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
Tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
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Throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

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We Respond in Love and Action

Gathering the Prayers of the People

Prayer Introit: MV 90 Don't Be Afraid

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. (2x)

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995; French translation: David Fines, 2005.

Music: John L. Bell, 1995. Words and music © 1995, 2007 by WGRG, Iona Community, admin GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used under OneLicense.net #A605530

Prayers of the People **

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Loving God, in whom is heaven, may Your name be honored everywhere.

May Your kingdom come.

May the desire of Your heart for the world be done, in us, by us and through us.

Give us the bread we need for each day.

Forgive us.

Enable us to forgive others.

Keep us from all anxiety and fear.

For You reign in the power that comes from love which is Your glory

forever and ever.

Amen.***

Our Offering and Response

Offertory/Doxology: VU 506 Take My Love and Let it Be Verse 5

Take my love: and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store;

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal 1874, alt. Music: unknown; desc. John T. Wilkinson 1980

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Prayer of Dedication

Hymn: MV 28 God of the Bible

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,

Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,

You are our centre, daylight or darkness

Freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain:

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,

God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,

God always faithful, you do not change.

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,

Suffering with us, taking our part,

Still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,

Feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Refrain:

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

Those without status, those who are nothing,
You have made royal, gifted with rights,
Chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
Birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Refrain:

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

Not by your finger, not by your anger
Will our world order change in a day,
But by your people, fearless and faithful,
Small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Refrain:

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
Through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
Bonding us gladly one to the other,
Till our world changes facing the Cross.

Refrain:

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1995. Music: Tony E. Alonso 2001
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Commissioning and Benediction

Closing Hymn: MV 209 Go Make a Diff'rence

Refrain:

Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see
The love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Refrain (2x):

Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need,
The face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Refrain (2x):

Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Refrain (2x):
Go make a difference. We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference. We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.

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Postlude

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Message Leader:	Heather Autio
Choir Director:	Ron Schaufert
Organist:	Donna Poncelet
Pianist:	Christine Schaufert
Song Leader:	Jerry Johnson, Edie Hayden & Barb Goyer
Soloist:	Jerry Johnson
Participants:	Luella Ryan, Dylan Symons, Sarah Symons, Lauren Palmer, Hannah Ryan
Scripture Reader:	Lorna Marchuk
Tech Support	Nate Donnelly & David O'Neill

Trinity Memorial is a member church of Affirm United



Current Announcements

Office Volunteers

Volunteer needed in the office, Tuesdays to Fridays 9am – 1pm

Door Greeters:

More greeters needed. Speak to Don Strangway.

Board and Committee Members

2023 Board and committee members needed. Speak with Heather Autio.

Sundays:

Book Study: A Fair Country by John Ralston Saul. Lounge after coffee.

UCW Valentine’s Day Fundraiser & Bake Table for Archway.
Today during coffee following the service. Baked treats for sale.
Cash donations accepted.

Reminder: Daylight Savings Time: March 12, 2023. Time goes forward one hour at 2am.

Tuesday:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Fundraiser Dinner – UCW Friendship Unit for UCW charities and CHES student, Debora, in Tanzania. Pancakes, sausages, and beverages. Church Hall, February 21, 2023. 5:00p – 9:00p. Cost: \$25 / family of 4, \$10/adult, \$5/child 6 – 12 years. Under 6 years is free.

Memorial Service – Earl Colpitts. Grace Church, 2087 McMillan Road, Abbotsford, February 21, 2023, 3:00pm.

Wednesdays:

UCW – Harmony Meetings. Last Wednesday of every month. Next meeting: Lounge, February 22, 2023. 1:30p – 4:00/4:30p.

Thursdays:

Starfish Backpack Program More volunteers needed. Lounge, February 16, 2023, 9:15am – 10:00am. Facilitator: Linda Garrett.

Fridays:

ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Every 2nd. Friday, 7:00am, Jo Jo's Restaurant. Next ROMEO Breakfast: February 24, 2023.

Saturdays:

Messy Church. Crafts. Light lunch of hotdogs and veggies. Last Saturday of the month. February 25, 2023, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

Cluster Companion Churches Announcements

Aldergrove United Church: 10am Sunday worship. Office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am-noon.

Gladwin Heights United Church: Sundays 9:30am. Broadcasting service live via Facebook.

St. Andrew's United Church: United Church calendars are still available for sale. Contact Angela Darychuk.

Mt. Lehman United Church: No announcements.

BILLETS - PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGION AGM: This year the Regional Annual General Meeting will be held in Abbotsford, and every year we receive a few requests for billets. If you are willing to offer a bed and breakfast from the evening of Thursday, June 1 to the morning of Sunday, June 4, please contact Rev. Tim at bowmantimothy@gmail.com. Thank you!

Book Study: Homosexuality for Progressive Christians by Donald Schmidt Facilitated by The Rev. Tim Bowman

Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM, starting this evening, the Rev. Tim Bowman will be conducting a book study on the Book: Homosexuality for Progressive Christians by Donald Schmidt. For further information and the Zoom link for the study session, contact Don Strangway.



Spiritual Path to Awakening (SPA)

See <https://abbyspa.com> for more details.