



Sunday, February 07, 2021
~ Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ~
Virtual Service

Theme: How is it we are celebrating Black History Month.
Where are the roots of slavery and why was it so attractive to our religious ancestors?

Worship Team: Rev. Pirie Mitchell, Dan Leaver, Keely Melville
Music Team: Karen Schuessler
Girls Choir (previously recorded video)
Hymn Leaders (previously recorded videos)

VU = red hymnal Voices United
Please sing along at home; we have provided the lyrics!

<i>Prelude:</i> Morning Has Broken	Karen Schuessler (previously recorded on June 28, 2020)
<i>Welcome and Life and Work of the Church</i>	Rev. Pirie Mitchell
<i>Lighting of the Christ Candle</i>	Dan Leaver
<i>Indigenous Land Acknowledgement</i>	Rev. Pirie Mitchell
<i>Call to Worship</i> (responsively)	Dan Leaver
Dan: Today we celebrate those men and women of African lineage who are citizens of Canada.	
Cong: We celebrate knowing that the past history for these Canadians has not been as happy and equal as it should have been.	
Dan: Canada is now on a journey of reconciliation with our neighbours who are different than the majority.	
Cong: O God, give us the courage to see our toxic ways of neighborliness,	

and forgive us for not following your son's admonition of loving our neighbour.

Dan: We have much to celebrate! Let us put our old ways of segregation past us and recognize our fellow citizens as children of God.

Cong: Let's do so willingly and lovingly!

Prayer of Approach (in unison)

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Oh God, our forefathers and mothers developed, at a time in history when they should have known better, a social system which discriminated against certain people in society. It was a system where some had more power and felt that they were more chosen than they were. That form of thinking is still with us today. Help us at this time to remove that uncertainty of mind so that all of us can see each other as equals and walking the journey of life together. Amen.

Hymn: Morning Has Broken

VU 409 all verses
(previously recorded by Tony Haworth on April 19, 2020)

1. Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
3. Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Learning with Children

Dan Leaver

Lord's Prayer (in unison) (VU page 921)

Keely Melville (YouthQuest)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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
forever and ever. Amen.**

Scripture: Secular Reading: A United Church reading addresses African-Canadian slavery in Canada
Dan Leaver

Special Music: Ain'a That Good News?
Girls' Choir
(You-tube video, previously recorded 2015)

Message: Let My People Go (Part One)
Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
VU 593 all verses
(previously recorded by Linda Olson on June 7, 2020)

*Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them.
<i>Refrain</i> | 3. These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love,
all are neighbours to us and you.
<i>Refrain</i> |
| 2. Neighbours are rich and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours are near and far away.
<i>Refrain</i> | 4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.
<i>Refrain</i> |

Offertory Prayer Rev. Pirie Mitchell

O God, we are a church congregation dedicated to doing what is good in society. We dedicate these our gifts to your son's work in our community and the wider world. Accept them we pray as well as our collective energies in completing the work Jesus started in his time and place. Amen.

Prayers of the People Rev. Pirie Mitchell

O God of all peoples be with us we pray. In this time and age, we are finally and slowly realizing that we, who are of the convenient skin colour, owe much to those of African descent. We have discriminated against your people of colour for years and we ask for forgiveness, from you and them. Help us chart a new path of brotherhood and sisterhood from the people who are superficially different from us. Help us chart that course today and give us the courage and stamina to walk that walk.

We know, O Lord, that yesterday's values were wrong when it comes to shunning and hurting our neighbour because of their skin colour, religion, heritage or community status. This residue of Canadian slavery has lasted long enough and we commit ourselves today to a new and healthier course of human interaction. Yesterday's prejudices have no place in the Christian Canadian fabric.

Let us look for ways we can build bridges to a new relationship with our neighbours. Not only have African Canadians suffered from the racism reflected in Canadian society but so too our indigenous Canadians, Muslim Canadians, French Canadians, folks from parts of the world we do not understand or know. If we are to complete our life change to be complete followers of Jesus of Nazareth we need to change. We ask for your help in becoming Canadian disciples of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: In Christ there is no East or West

VU 606 verses 1, 2, 3
(previously recorded by Linda Olson on June 7, 2020)

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
3. Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

Commissioning & Blessing

Rev. Pirie Mitchell

Let us now go out into the world without prejudice to members of the family of God. We can live in harmony one with another as Jesus taught us in his time.

Go where you are called armed with love and acceptance. Amen.

Congregational Response (in unison)

VU 298
(previously recorded by Tara Pegg on August 2, 2020)

**When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care.**

Postlude: Ain-a That Good News? (arr. Hayes)

Karen Schuessler
(previously recorded on August 9, 2020)

WK Coffee Time This week, Glen speaks with Kate Young (MP for London - West)

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