

# WORSHIP ONLINE

Sunday, June 21, 2020



## This Sunday:

June 21, Summer Solstice, is a special time in the Indigenous community, a time to celebrate identity and culture. It is also a time for us as non-Indigenous Christians to ponder systemic racism, the breakdown of cultural relationships and reconciliation, in the context of Matthew's instructions to disciples.

## Prelude: Songs Without Words, op. 19 no. 4, "Confidence", by Felix Mendelssohn

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Welcome to Prairie Spirit United Church!

As we gather, I want to remind you that next Sunday, June 28 will be Ken Delisle's last Sunday at Prairie Spirit. Many of you will want to join us to say "Thank you" to Ken for the ministry he has shared with us. There will also be Zoom coffee afterward for some real time conversation.

This Sunday, June 21 is the Indigenous Day of Prayer, celebrating National Indigenous Peoples' Day. It is 5 years since the Calls to Action were shared by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and 1 year since the release of the Final Report on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

So although every day is a day to think about and act on the challenges of forging Right Relationships between white settlers and Indigenous peoples, this is a day that these things must not be ignored.

So it is time for us, in a formal way, to acknowledge the land we are on, and the treaties that have shaped and formed who we are.

A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous people and their traditional territories.

The Treaties are tools to ensure that the goals set out for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, could be achieved – both at the time of the treaty making and into the future. The treaties were essentially about peace and friendship, and are as relevant today as they were when they were signed.

As participants of those treaties, we are all treaty people.

So today, we acknowledge the land that we are gathered on today is Treaty 1 territory... the traditional lands of the Anishnaabe Swampy Cree and Ojibway people, homeland and heart of the Metis Nation, who for thousands of years, walked gently on this land with deeply rooted gifts of spirituality, culture and ways of knowing.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and give thanks for the stewardship of this land – in times past and also in the present day.

Today we are called to seek a new relationship as Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, creating one based on friendship, built on respect, and one that produces peace, remembering that we are all treaty people.

Wherever we are, we dwell on land that has been inhabited for many thousands of years. As we worship today, let us remember that we are part of a tradition of habitation and stewardship of land that we have inherited.

## Land Acknowledgement

**For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked on this land. The relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives. We acknowledge the first peoples and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. The land we worship and live on is part of Treaty 1. Our water comes from Treaty 3 and our hydro from Treaty 5 territories.**

And as we light the Christ Candle, symbolizing the presence of the sacred Fire in our midst, we do so in solidarity with all people and all creation.

Whoever you are, know that you are embraced by the love of God that enfolds us all.

Let us offer a prayer for this day.

God, Creator and Great Mystery, we praise you for the Sacred Fires that burn today and for the prayer-filled smoke that you receive and bless. We offer our deep gratitude that the Fire's light informs and guides our journey. We pray, just as the Elders prayed, for renewal and for the restoration of beauty to the land and its people.

We acknowledge the diverse and abundant gifts of Canada's Indigenous Peoples. We recognize that their knowledge and wisdom have benefited generations past and present, and that this blessing will continue for generations to come. We remember the many who are committed to the healing of family, community, and nations.

We pray for Mother Earth, the waters, the winds, for our siblings the animals, birds, and fish, and all of life that surrounds us. We pray that we will walk the good Red Road of life, and that we will walk with courage, honesty, humility, love, respect, truth and wisdom.

We offer this prayer in humility and hope, and in the name, of our brother Jesus, the one who lights our path to wholeness, justice and peace. Amen.

*- A prayer for Indigenous Day of Prayer by the Rev. Maggie Dieter, former Executive Minister, Aboriginal Ministries and Indigenous Justice; and Bill Snow, Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Alberta, member of the Indigenous Justice and Residential School Committee, March 12, 2019*

## Hymn: VU 409 "Morning Has Broken"

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Music: Gaelic melody. Public Domain.

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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!

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!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dew fall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

## Scripture

Today, we continue reading from Matthew's Gospel, the Manual for Disciples.

There is offered in the midst of this reading a series of "Don'ts".

- Don't think of yourself as greater than you are, you are enough!
- Don't hide anything, be honest and transparent.
- Don't forget you are loved by God, and are more precious than you know!
- Don't be naive, the road ahead will be hard!
- Don't be surprised, your greatest opposition may come from members of your own tribe!
- And most important of all: "Don't Be Afraid!"

### Matthew 10:24-39

10:24 "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master;

10:25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

10:26 "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.

10:27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

10:28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

10:30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

10:31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

10:32 "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven;

10:33 but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

10:34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

10:35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

10:36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

10:37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;

10:38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

10:39 Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

## Reflection: “In a Changing World Will We Go the Next Step?”

- Rev. Paul Duval

Today we mark National Indigenous Day of Prayer, and National Indigenous Peoples Day. This season has been marked in one form or another since the early 1970's to celebrate and honour the unique culture and history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, and is aligned with the summer solstice, a milestone in the changing seasons and a special time for Indigenous culture and celebration. Many of us who are non-Indigenous have learned much about the wisdom and tradition of Indigenous peoples, including the importance of the Sacred Fire, the Seven Sacred Teachings, and the importance of relationship with the land.

Sadly, we are also aware that we live in a fragmented community where not all are able to access the opportunities that are available. Where poverty and racism set limitations on the chances of many to succeed.

As we look around today our news connects us with stories of Indigenous people killed by police while in the midst of mental health crisis. Indigenous people beaten up by police for minor infractions. Last week a “tent city” just off Main Street, and populated largely by Indigenous people was dismantled in downtown Winnipeg.

Niigaan Sinclair, the head of the Indigenous Studies Department at University of Manitoba and a Free Press columnist writes:

*Tent city is, obviously, not ideal but it is a home for our relatives. Period.*

*Now, a fence surrounds the Henry Avenue site, with a sign reading, "closed due to COVID-19." (Note to whomever put that there: Manitoba has been "opening up" for weeks. No one believes you.)*

*City officials argued tent city had become a fire hazard. Arguably, this is true, with several fires due to residents trying to keep warm or cook food. However, it's not as if residents weren't aware and took precautions. For example: when offered new fire-retardant tents by Main Street Project, many took them. So, instead of providing warmth and warm food, city officials decided to just remove tent city, yet again. What a waste of taxpayer dollars. All the city did last week was force residents to move to three new sites nearby.*

*Granted, these sites are not in view of commuters on Disraeli Freeway.*

*So, as tent city continues — and grows — due to provincial cuts to emergency rooms, mental health services, and reduced Manitoba Housing units, city officials did nothing last week except force an Indigenous community to move off their homelands.*

Sound familiar?

*Meanwhile, the same forces that are hurting our relatives remain unchanged, unaltered, unaddressed.*

*Nothing has changed, except now the city can pretend tent city is gone. It's not.*

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<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/tent-city-dismantled-only-to-rise-again-571274832.html>

When confronted with large, controversial, overwhelming, issues, we are tempted to back away in despair, and pretend the problem is not ours. Or to do something, anything, just so we can't see the issue anymore. Or to delegate someone, the City, or the police, to solve the problem, or at least make it go away. Matthew's Jesus suggests another way. It is ordinary people motivated by love, disciples if you will, following certain approaches, who can proclaim the in breaking of God's presence, and lead the way to a new future.

The first rule for disciples is “Don't pretend!” Longstanding difficult problems don't go away overnight. Be honest about what you know to be true.

Another rule (not explicit in Matthew) is know what you are talking about. Do your homework, and be prepared to respectfully dialogue with those who disagree with you.

And the most important rule is this: “Do not be afraid!”

Now I don't believe it is possible to never be afraid, and fear is a positive tool that alerts us to threat and helps us avoid danger. Yet it is also true that fear and anxiety can paralyze us from thinking clearly and acting calmly, and a key to finding our voice and responding to challenge, is to overcome fear, fear of the unknown, fear of the other, fear of getting involved, in order to understand, and find compassion and love.

If we at Prairie Spirit, who are mostly non-Indigenous, want to be disciples of Jesus, if we aspire to offer healing, and tame evil spirits, and proclaim that the Shalom of God is breaking through in our midst, then we have work to do. And it is first and foremost work on ourselves. So our privilege, and our blind spots, and our fear, do not continue to be barriers to change, and conversation and reconciliation. Amen.

## Hymn: MV 90 “Don't Be Afraid”

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995

Music: John L. Bell, 1995

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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 Are All Treaty People

- Treaty People's Creed (2011), The All My Relations Network of Saskatchewan Conference

We are, all of us, Treaty People:

original inhabitants

and those who came later—

inheritors of a diverse history,

dwellers in a common land,

travellers toward a better day.

We have known friendship and animosity,

cooperation and oppression,

blessing and pain.

And now we embrace the sacred covenant

that heralds a new beginning:

that softens the heart

and dismantles the prisons of the present

and the past.

We joyfully claim

our rights

and responsibilities

as Treaty People.

Amen.

## Offering Invitation

In treaty we offer and we receive, and all are stronger. In God's world of abundance we are all blessed and we all share, and we are stronger together. The resources of the world are not shared fairly, but we can lead and set an example for those around us in giving what we have and what we are.

## Prayer of Dedication

It is our privilege, Creating One, to share from our individual bounties. On these plates and in these bodies are our gifts to the world: money, commitment, and thanksgiving. We pray over these offerings in the name of the One who shared his all. **Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

God our Creator, we give thanks that you have given and provided for us this beautiful land.

We look to the east and give thanks for the direction where the sun rises each day. As the sun rises for a new day, let the grace of Jesus also rise in our hearts.

We look to the south, give thanks, and respond to the land and waters that are our Mother Earth. She provides us with the medicines and life force that allow us to be a part of your Creation. May we always give her the respect she needs as we are people of the land and are always reminded of that simple but sustainable purpose.

We look to the west and give thanks for the winds and the air that help move our seasons and celebrate the time we are in now—the season of summer. With the change in the air and temperatures, we are able to appreciate the beauty and nourishment of the breath of life that is within each one of us.

## Prayers of the People (cont.)

We look to the north and give thanks for the great wisdom of all that you give us. We appreciate the wisdom of our peoples, the elders, and the many ancestors and loved ones who came and left before us, and whom are with us still. For they are your wisdom and knowledge, and teachers of livelihood. All of your teachings, the good and the bad, are great. They make us the loving and blessed people we are today.

### Prayer of Creation

Creator God, Great Spirit, whose compassion has been known in our lives more times than we can count, we open our hearts and souls to the needs of this world. On this Indigenous Day of Prayer, we acknowledge the great injustices perpetrated against those who lived on and cared for this land long before our ancestors arrived. We pray that with compassion and determination we will continue to make ourselves aware of the impact of Residential Schools, the Sixties Scoop, and the suppression of Indigenous culture and tradition so that the legacy of colonization is acknowledged by each of us.

Creator God, Great Spirit, you call us to relationships rooted in equality and respect. This day we covenant to be more aware of the racism that the Indigenous, Métis and Inuit people of this country experience. We commit ourselves to raise our voices when we hear prejudiced comments, to guide others in the sacred direction of celebrating diversity that is Your gift to humanity.

Creator God, Great Spirit, in the quiet of our hearts and through the witness of our beings we pray thanks for Your accompaniment on the journey toward individual and communal wisdom and understanding. Let us who are the Church stand in solidarity and true to Jesus' call to reconcile with sisters and brothers.

Creator God, Great Spirit, hear our prayers and guide our actions from this moment on. We pray using Jesus' words:

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Mother - 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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## Hymn: VU 567 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

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Music: Scottish traditional. Public Domain.

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Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and  
sound  
in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps  
show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

## Commissioning & Benediction

Surround yourself in the Spirit;

God is with you.

Surround yourself in the Light;

God is with you.

Surround yourself in the Wisdom;

God is with you.

Surround yourself in the Love;

God is with you.

Be brave. Be strong. Be humble.

Be God.

Peace be with us.

In Jesus name, Amen.

## Postlude: The Watchman's Song, by Edvard Grieg

Public Domain.

*- Some of the prayers in this worship service were created by Murray Pruden. Murray is a graduate of the Vancouver School of Theology's Masters of Divinity program through the Indigenous Ministries program at the University of British Columbia. He also attends Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Beausejour, Manitoba. Murray is Cree from the Goodfish Lake and Saddle Lake First Nations in central Alberta. He is a direct descendant, fourth generation, of Rev. Henry Bird Steinhauer. Murray believes in connection, respecting all paths of spirituality, and honouring each other with our gifts.*

# Announcements

## PSUC responds to COVID-19

Although the provincial government will be moving to Phase 3 next week, at Prairie Spirit we will await the report from the Ad Hoc Committee prior to making any further changes. The Oversight Council, under the direction of the Prairie to Pine Region, created an Ad Hoc Committee which is developing protocols and procedures for gradual re-opening of Prairie Spirit United Church. Some of our building partners and rental groups have expressed interest in returning and since their numbers are typically under 25, we are making arrangements to accommodate their requests while honouring government direction and our PSUC protocols. Essentially, the building continues to remain closed until further notice. This includes the suspension of in-person worship services and all mid-week groups/meetings.

While our church building is closed, staff will continue working from home. Our ministers Rev. Ken DeLisle and Rev. Paul DuVal are available. Emails and voice messages are being monitored regularly. To contact the church office, email [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca) or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

## Online Coffee Time

This Sunday, grab a cup of coffee and join us at 11 am (after our online worship service) for our Online Coffee Time with video and audio using Jitsi Meet. This is a chance to connect in real time with your PSUC community.

Email [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca) to receive instructions on how to join in.

### Here are a few highlights from our Online Coffee Time last Sunday:

- We discussed how Matthew is an interesting character.
- One participant shared how the line “compassion fuels hope” from Rev. Paul’s reflection resonated with them.
- Participants commented on how they enjoyed the creativity in the music.
- We shared our favourite hymns and why they are our favourite.

### Test Your Technology

If you haven’t used Jitsi Meet before and would like to test your technology ahead of time, please contact [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca) or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

If you are experiencing technical issues, please email [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca) and we will try to help you.

*For security reasons, we will not be sharing the link publicly on our website or social media.*

## Deadline for Newsletter Submissions - Monday, June 22

Please email your submissions to [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca).

## Have you been missing baking for Prairie Spirit? Do you want to?

We have decided to provide cookies for West Broadway and St. Matthews-Maryland Community Ministry. These inner city ministries have continued during the pandemic to provide bag lunches for large numbers of people. This is one way we can support their efforts in the community!

The next date is Monday, July 13.

Please bring your cookies to the church parking lot at noon. We need them wrapped in saran wrap, lunch bags, or tin foil in groups of 3.

If you would like to help or to arrange for pickup, please contact the church office. To contact the church office, email [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca) or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

## Announcements (cont.)

### West Side Story

When Prairie Spirit United Church inherited the former Sturgeon Creek UC building, we also inherited the jungle that was the west side (Thompson Drive) front of our church. It was overgrown with weeds, shrubs, trees and wildly unruly lilacs. We hired many people over the years to “tame” it, but the area proved untameable.

So, late last fall we ripped it out. The job didn't quite get finished due to the surprisingly winter-like October weather and the remediation continued this spring. We are pleased to announce that the job is now finished. Ta da!

How does it look? It looks... like a bunch of dirt! You call that finished? No – it's just begun. We now have a 3 x 18 metre clean slate to work with. We can do anything we want with it. All we need is you.

Do you have some ideas of what the front of our church should look like? Would you be willing to share them? We need some thinkers, some planners, some gardeners, some “green-thumbs”. Could that be you? “But”, you might say, “I can't dig and plant and weed and water!” That's ok. Those jobs we hire out. What we need are supervisors. “This goes here and that goes there” – those kinds of people. Are you interested? Contact the church office now and play a part in our West Side Story.

To contact the church office, email [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca) or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

### What's Your Favourite Hymn?

We are planning a special musical online mini-service. Do you have a favourite song of praise, faith, or comfort? We want to know!

Email [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca) or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

### Are You Musically Inclined?

Do you play an instrument or sing? We are looking for instrumentalists and vocalists of all ages who want to share their gifts with us. If you are interested in being part of our online worship services or a special musical online mini-service, please contact the church office.

If you would like to sing or play your favourite hymn or a hymn of your choosing, you are welcome to do so! If you prefer to sing, Renate is able to provide the piano track for you.

Email [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca) or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

### Submissions of Daily Reflections

Rev. Ken DeLisle has been writing Daily Reflections that are posted on our website. After June 30, we would like to have people keep this up by providing a short written reflection on a verse or story in the Bible or on their own faith journey.

If you're interested in participating or for more information, contact the church office.

Email [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca) or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

### Share Your News

If you have an announcement or life celebration you'd like shared in our Weekly Update, let us know. Email [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca) or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1. Please note that we would like all submissions by Wednesday each week.

# Announcements (cont.)

## Ways to Continue Giving

Although we are unable to worship at the church, our expenses are continuing. Your continued financial support is welcome, needed, and encouraged. There are a number of ways in which you can continue to contribute financially to Prairie Spirit.

- Donations can be dropped off at the church mailbox or mailed in.
- If you'd like to go on PAR, the form can be found at:

<https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/par-brochure.pdf>

Please complete this form and mail it along with a voided cheque to Prairie Spirit United Church.

If you'd like to change your PAR givings, please email [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca).

- You can make a donation to Prairie Spirit online through CanadaHelps.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/prairie-spirit-united-church/>

(For step-by-step instructions on how to donate through CanadaHelps, visit our website:

<https://prairiespirituc.org/giving/>)

- You can also send an e-transfer to [PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca](mailto:PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca). You will need to create a security question. In the message box, please indicate which fund(s) you'd like your contribution allocated to.

## Prairie Spirit United Church

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