

WORSHIP ONLINE

Sunday, June 28, 2020



This Sunday:

Through scripture and promises, we end the work of the Transition Team and of our Intentional Interim Minister, Rev. Ken DeLisle. We step forward into tomorrow with confidence and a solid foundation of faith and identity. "For all that has been – Thanks! To all that shall be – Yes!" - Dag Hammarskjold, first Secretary General, United Nations

Prelude: "And To You Be Peace"

© L. Campbell, composer

Greeting

"For all that has been – Thanks! To all that shall be – Yes!"
- Dag Hammarskjold, first Secretary General, UN

Call to Worship

Today we honour a turning point in the journey of Prairie Spirit United Church. In our tradition, endings and beginnings have scriptural significance.

We remember how Abraham and Sarah set out to a new country and a new life, not knowing where they were being led.

We remember how Jesus left his carpenter's tools, went into the wilderness, and there began his new vocation.

We remember how the fishermen left their boats and how the women broke tradition to follow Jesus in his nomadic ministry.

For almost 2 years, we have been blessed with new ideas, and new styles of preaching. Now we are stronger and prepared to face our future.

For all that has been – Thanks! For all that shall be – Yes!

We can look back at strong ministries, strong social consciousness and strong sense of humour. Now we will look ahead with open minds, new focus and increased faith. We cherish the time we have had with our staff. Through their ministry we are eager and more able to meet our future.

The Prairie Spirit of tomorrow will be dedicated to social justice, community outreach and communion with God.

For all that has been – Thanks! For all that shall be – Yes!

Hymn: VU 558 “We Gather Here to Bid Farewell”

Words: Margaret Clarkson © 1987 Hope Publishing Company.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music: Musikalisches Handbuch. Harmonized by William Henry Havergal.

Music, Harmony: Public Domain.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-734854. All rights reserved.

We gather here to bid farewell
to friends who leave for other parts;
our prayers we pledge, our love we tell,
and lift to God our grateful hearts.

In friendship's bonds our souls unite
in prayer and praise and holy vow:
to God's great heart of love and light
your friends in Christ commit you now.

We bless the hand that brought you here
and richly blest us all in you:
as now you leave for wider sphere
God's covenant mercies we review.

God guide you, keep you, lead you on
from hope to hope, from strength to strength,
until, in God's all glorious dawn,
we meet before the throne at length.

Our scriptures for today have been chosen by the Transition Team. Each team member will read scripture, remind us of the work we did on a goal of our transition and introduce the next speaker.

Scripture & Reflection

Our first reading is from Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.

Transitions first goal was:

To develop a common understanding of “Who we are now”.

In bulletins and newsletters, we had “Did you know...” inserting facts and interesting tidbits, i.e. number of givers, numbers in attendance, disability parking, names of the rooms, etc.

At a Leadership meeting, when the discussion was on advertising an event, a member, not on Transition, stated we could put in one of those “Did you know...” items. The phrase has been claimed!

We also had a Question Box and all were answered in public worship. The Box was also referred to at a Leadership meeting. We suggest that it be mounted and permanent.

We extended invitations to join discussions with various groups, committees and events.

This goal is ongoing and will be dealt with through the Oversight Council and Congregational Life Team.

Our second reading is from Psalm 133:1

*How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!*

Our second goal was:

To engage and co-ordinate congregational events and programs aimed at unifying Prairie Spirit United Church.

Our team offered the first Lenten Bible study and hosted a free BBQ with folks mixed in table groups.

We also offered workshops on governance and worship.

Goals were discussed over a free lunch and our work with the worship questionnaire also brought us together.

All of these were encouraged from the pulpit, which help them succeed.

This goal is ongoing through the Congregational Life Team.

Our next reading is Isaiah 61:1

*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;*

The third goal was:

To develop a mission and vision statement for Prairie Spirit United Church.

On May 23, 2019, we had a free BBQ and discussion on what Prairie Spirit could do or be, other than Sunday worship. The ideas were then shared with the Leadership team about possible programs. They were also used by Transition to frame a Vision/Mission Statement.

A draft Mission Statement was offered for input in the bulletins of September 15th, 22nd and 29th.

The comments we received lead to a second draft in the bulletins on October 6th and 13th.

Those suggestions lead to a third draft in the bulletin October 20th.

The statement was approved October 27th at a congregational meeting.

Together, let us read the statement.

Mission Statement

Prairie Spirit United Church is an inclusive community of faith, walking the path of Jesus as we worship God. We do this by engaging with our community, by offering our gifts to aid where we can and by telling our faith stories to all generations.

The work from this goal is ongoing through the Oversight Council.

Before we continue our readings, we will first sing Verses 1 and 2 of “Deep in Our Hearts”.

Hymn: MV 154 “Deep in Our Hearts” - Verses 1 & 2

Words: © 1995 by John Wesley Oldham.

Music: © 1996 by Ron Klusmeier, www.musiklus.com.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-734854. All rights reserved.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal,
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Our next reading is from John 4:24

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

The fourth goal of the Team was:

To develop and explore with the congregation the worship style/styles for Prairie Spirit United Church with the staff and worship team.

The worship services on February 10 and 17, 2019, were about worship and a 13 page questionnaire was distributed. 117 questionnaires were taken and 64 returned. That is a 54% return rate which is unusually high. We were pleased.

The Transition Team broke into 4 teams to deal with the questionnaire and then produced a summary and then a summary of the summary.

On September 8, 2019, a 32 page summary was submitted to the congregation.

The Worship Committee took over the report and has reshaped the order of worship and has held workshops on items that needed more discussion such as applause, announcements and silence.

This work is ongoing through the Worship Team.

The next reading is from 1 Corinthians 12:28

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

The next goal was:

To develop through the Transition Team, the Prairie Spirit United Church constitution and governance model in consultation with the Leadership Team and others.

Representatives of Transition met with all the committees to discuss their work and their ideas.

On June 23, 2019 a workshop on governance models was presented. Congregation members had until July 14 to vote on the model they preferred.

Drafts were shared by the sub-committee on governance with the full Transition committee. A draft was then sent to all committees for comments and changes.

On November 16, a draft was presented to all those in the congregation who were interested. All committees had representation.

Changes were recorded and there was a need for a discussion with the United Church Women (UCW). They were under a committee. Did they want to be their own group with their own representative on the new Oversight Council?

Changes were made, including the role of UCW and the Governance Model was approved January 5, 2020 by the congregation. The model was then approved by Prairie to Pine Region on January 23, 2020.

This work is ongoing through the Oversight Council.

Our last reading is from 2 Maccabees 2:24 – 25

For considering the flood of statistics involved and the difficulty there is for those who wish to enter upon the narratives of history because of the mass of material, we have aimed to please those who wish to read, to make it easy for those who are inclined to memorize, and to profit all readers.

The final goal of Transition was:

To acknowledge and celebrate the history that forged us.

On September 29, 2019 a service was held on the history of the three churches and a Memorial Wall was dedicated.

A new banner was dedicated the next week on the first anniversary of Prairie Spirit. This is the first thing that was “ours”.

This goal is completed.

Please join in singing Verses 3 and 4 of “Deep in Our Hearts.”

Hymn: MV 154 “Deep in Our Hearts” - Verses 3 & 4

Words: © 1995 by John Wesley Oldham.

Music: © 1996 by Ron Klusmeier, www.musiklus.com.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-734854. All rights reserved.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Offering Invitation

In celebration and thankfulness for all we have received, we now share through our offerings to continue your ministry here and around the world through the Mission and Service Fund. Our offerings will now be received.

Prayer of Dedication

We dedicate the time, talent, and labour represented in our gifts today.

May they be used to continue God's work in our time and place. For all that has been – Thanks! To all that shall be – Yes! Amen.

The Decovenanting

We are gathered here to offer thanksgiving for those who have ministered and administered to Prairie Spirit.

This team ceases to be on June 30. We pray for the new journeys about to begin for all of them.

You had been appointed by God to work together here at Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge. Now that Ken and others are unable to continue as staff leaders with the charge, will you release each other from your team commitment, pray for each other and greet each other as a friend?

Staff members: **We will.**

Transition Team members, for almost 2 years you have served this Pastoral Charge with your gifts of wisdom, creativity, faith and hope as members of our Transition Team. As per the motion of the Oversight Council, today you complete this task.

With much appreciation and deep gratitude, we ask, are you prepared to let go of this work and to take up and continue your Christian ministry with Christ's people in other ways, as you feel called?

Transition Team members: **I am.**

Ken, you have responded as Intentional Interim to serve Christ within the Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge. Your appointed time has ended. On behalf of the congregation, I thank you, and ask are you prepared to take up and continue your Christian ministry with Christ's people in another place?

Ken: **I am.**

Ken, will you release Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge from its covenant with you, honour the work you have completed, respect the leadership of Paul and others that follow you and greet members of the Pastoral Charge as friends?

Ken: **I will.**

Will you, members, adherents and friends of Prairie Spirit United Church, release Ken, the Transition Team and staff team from their work, pray for them and greet them as friends?

Members: **We will.**

Declaration

In the name of Jesus, the Christ and by the authority vested in me by the congregation of Prairie Spirit, I declare that the covenant between Ken DeLisle, and Prairie Spirit United Church has been duly completed and is now dissolved.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response

My time with you has ended and God calls us to new visions. When Paul and I covenanted with you, we received from you symbols of our working together in team to be all that God called us to be. My piece of that task is over and I offer to Paul my responsibilities of that team. I entrust the symbols of water, bread, wine, scripture, music, children's stories and others, to him to share with new ministers, new staff and the lay leaders of Prairie Spirit.

Prayers of the People

Hear our prayers, O God. May they drop like stones into a pool; rippling beyond ourselves beyond our friends, families, and communities; across boundaries of location, time, and space; further, then we can know.

We pray for Christian churches who celebrate the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul June 29.

Through the Regional Prayer Cycle, we pray for Bowsman and Knox United Church in Minitonas who form the Hillsvie Pastoral Charge, and through the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we lift up Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and the Council of Churches of Western Australia.

And in this moment, we lift up names of those of whom we are mindful...

God, grant that all those named and unnamed may recognize your presence in their lives.

We pray all this in the name of the one who came to bring love.

Hymn: VU 959 “The Lord’s Prayer”

Music: David Haas © 1986 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Words: Public Domain.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-734854. All rights reserved.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.

Closing Prayer

As our last prayer, we ask you all to pledge to continue the ministry that is yours.

We will continue to study scripture and other works, seeking the wisdom of our Creator.

We will continue to celebrate new life in baptism.

We will continue to break the bread and share the cup.

We will continue to serve others, by working for justice, equality and peace throughout our city, country and world.

We will continue to offer care, challenge and encouragement to one another, sharing all that we are and all that we have with all who enter our doors and hearts.

For all that has been – Thanks! To all that shall be – Yes!

Hymn: MV 209 “Go, Make A Diff’rence”

Words and Music: © 1997 by Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek.

Published by spiritandsong.com ®.

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.

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.

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

Commissioning & Benediction

Friends, depart in the spirit of the gospel.

We go in peace.

We go as we came – followers of the Christ and loved by the Creator.

For all that has been – Thanks! To all that shall be – Yes!

And so, we pray:

May the grace of Jesus, the love of God and the friendship of the Spirit be with you, and remain with you, now and always. Amen!

Hymn: VU 644 “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”

Words, Music: © 1985 John Ylvisaker, P.O. Box 321, Waverly, IA 50667, USA.

Announcements

PSUC responds to COVID-19

Although the provincial government has moved to Phase 3, 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 minister Rev. Paul DuVal is available. Emails and voice messages are being monitored regularly. To contact the church office, email PrairieSpiritUC@shaw.ca or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

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 PrairieSpiritUC@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 PrairieSpiritUC@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

207 Thompson Drive Winnipeg, MB R3J 3E2

PrairieSpiritUC@shaw.ca • 204-832-1000

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday • 9 am - 2 pm

prairiespirituc.org



facebook.com/
[PrairieSpiritUC](https://www.facebook.com/PrairieSpiritUC)



instagram.com/
[PrairieSpiritUC](https://www.instagram.com/PrairieSpiritUC)



twitter.com/
[PrairieSpiritUC](https://twitter.com/PrairieSpiritUC)