

WORSHIP ONLINE

Sunday, June 7, 2020



This Sunday:

Today is Pride Sunday. The United Church of Canada dedicates this Sunday to the LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit community. Have you encountered the queer Jesus? The strange Jesus? You will this Sunday, along with stories of allies. Come celebrate all of us and all we are.

Prelude: MV 28 “God of the Bible (Fresh As the Morning)”

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1995 © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
Music: Tony E. Alonso, © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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Greeting

Beloved One, your embrace is a refuge from violence and hatred. Those who have been turned away, forgotten, or persecuted find belonging in you. We hope to embody such love in this place. May we be a sanctuary, a shelter, a safe place to turn.

Opening Prayer

Creator, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works.

You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation.

In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from narrow thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us.

May we endeavor to learn from each other and grow together in love that protects and uplifts. Amen.

Hymn: MV 138 “My Love Colours Outside the Lines”

Words and Music: Gordon Light © 1995 Common Cup Company, www.commoncup.com.

Arrangement: © Andrew Donaldson.

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.

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.

Call to Worship

All you who delight in the Sacred Strange, come and worship the queer Creator.

Thanks be to God who blesses the peculiar and rejoices in the uniqueness of every body and being.

The Holy takes on flesh in every gender and sexual orientation, every race and ability, every body size and body type.

Each embodied difference is a unique glimpse of Holy Wonder.

We are people who want to know and be known—

for who we've been, who we are, and who we are becoming.

We honour identities in transition.

We delight in authentic self-expression.

Whether trans or intersex or other, God moves in our becoming.

How wonderful are the many works of God's creative hand!

May all who long for Love's embrace feel their holy worth.

Blessed are those who receive with joy the gifts of God enfleshed among us.

Hymn: MV 178 "Who Is My Mother (Kindred in Spirit through Jesus Christ)"

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, © 1992 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Music: Ron Klusmeier, 2002 © 2005 Ron Klusmeier. www.musiklus.com.

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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.

Scripture

Mark 9:38–41

³⁸ John spoke up, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to expel demons and we stopped him because he wasn't in our group."

³⁹⁻⁴¹ Jesus wasn't pleased. "Don't stop him. No one can use my name to do something good and powerful, and in the next breath cut me down. If he's not an enemy, he's an ally. Why, anyone by just giving you a cup of water in my name is on our side. Count on it that God will notice."

John 15:12–14, 17–19

¹¹⁻¹⁵ "I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Holy One."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Reflection - Rev. Ken DeLisle

On June 10, 1925, The United Church of Canada was born after much consultation, compromise, and listening for the Spirit. In 1988, The United Church of Canada decided that sexual orientation would no longer be a barrier to membership in the United Church and hence to candidacy for ministry. In 2009, gender identity was added to that decision. Today we celebrate Pride in many United Churches across the country.

This worship service is one of two commissioned for Affirming PIE Day 2020 by AU/SE and Affirming Connections from en fleshed, which has its roots in the United Methodist church in the USA and beyond. Pie stands for a Public, Intentional, and Explicit welcome of gender and sexual-diverse people into the sacred space of community worship. Thank you to all in the wider affirming movements across northern Turtle Island/Canada for all you have and will offer in worship, and for creating safer sacred spaces.

So often people who are trans, non-binary, gender queer, queer, Two-Spirit, intersex, and many more identities are made invisible in worship. We become part of a generic welcome to everyone, or are cast as being welcome “regardless” or “despite” our diversity, not because of it. This is especially true for many racialized and Indigenous LGBTQ Plus people, as well as LGBTQ Plus and Two-Spirit people with disabilities.

The gospel of John reminds us that we are to love as Jesus loved. This is different than the world we live in, where hatred and injustice thrive as we try to love.

The world is the order of dominance, social hierarchy, and all the forms of control that live in and through systemic, institutional, and ideological powers. To be strange (which is the definition of queer) is to be out of alignment with the world’s order of things.

And it means being hated, because it threatens the order.

Strangeness breaks open possibilities for the world of living and loving differently. The LGBTQ Plus and Two-Spirit community have long modeled this in the world—especially for each other. However, everyone is called to be strange in some form—to deviate from complicity with the world’s order and break open new possibilities for love and life. We are all called to be strange like Jesus was strange.

Likewise, we are called to be in solidarity with the strange of the world, abandoning no one to the hatred that comes with refusing to “belong” to the hierarchy or comply with its temptations or threats.

In Mark, the disciples were concerned that someone who was not like them, not part of their group, who did not fit a mold they had in mind, dared to act in Jesus’ name. This was more important to them, in the moment, than the fact that someone’s suffering had been relieved. That God’s work had been done. That a life had been changed. This is not so different from how the church has approached LGBTQ Plus and Two-Spirit people’s gifts in the world. But Jesus offers a correction. The person who acts in love through Jesus’ name is not an enemy, he is an ally! And thank God for allies.

In a few months, Prairie Spirit will begin to look into becoming an Affirming Ministry. You will have a chance to be an ally to the Queer Community.

Are you ready to be as strange as Jesus was and welcome all? Are you ready to be changed by strangers?

God bless you on your journey.

Hymn: VU 568 “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.

Offering Invitation

Since its beginning, the church was meant to be a place of chosen family—a community of outcasts and outlaws, dreamers, prophets, and humble disciples of Love. In the company of Divine Presence, we create belonging and nurture justice. With gratitude for the sacred labours of love in this place, let us bring our offerings to God and one another.

Prayer of Dedication

God of Justice, as we bring our offerings, we bring also a renewed commitment to interrupting prejudice and practicing solidarity. We press on together until people of every sexual orientation and gender identity can live freely and without fear, receiving the love and support all people deserve. Thanks be to you, our guide and our help in making it so. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Beloved One, even as we celebrate your love for the LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit community today, we remember the church has not always done so. We acknowledge the harm that continues to be done in your name today. We offer our thanks for the holy witness in the lives of LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people. In the faith of those who have been persecuted by the church, Christ is revealed. In gratitude for these and all the sacred gifts of the LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit community, we give our thanks and offer these prayers.

We remember holy days and holidays celebrate by Christian churches and people of all faith. Today is Pentecost for Orthodox Christian and Trinity Sunday for other Christian Churches.

Prayers of the People (cont.)

The 9th is the feast of St. Columba of Iona for Celtic Christian and the 11th is the feast of Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ, for Catholic Christians.

Through the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we name Botswana and Zimbabwe and all nations dealing with the COVID-19 virus.

Through the Regional Prayer Cycle, we pray for Raymond Flett Memorial United Church..

A New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: VU 678 "For the Healing of the Nations"

Words: William Watkins Reid, Jr. 1958 © 1968 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.
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Music: Henry Purcell, ca. 1682. Public Domain.

Descant: Darryl Nixon 1986 © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People.

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For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.

Commissioning & Benediction

With a renewed commitment to solidarity with God and all LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people, may the Spirit lead us from this place with peace.

Beloveds, let us go with hearts full of courage,
that we might practice love that disrupts bigotry.

**Let us go with minds open to experiencing God
in ways strange and unexpected, in ways ordinary and every day.**

And let us go with joy, for the Creator of all life goes with us.

Amen.

Postlude: MV 48 "I Can Feel You Near Me God (Jump For Joy)"

Words and music: Pat Mayberry, 2000; arr. Margaret Stubington, 2006.

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Announcements

PSUC responds to COVID-19

The provincial government has moved into Phase 2 of implementing reopening of businesses and some non-essential services as of June 1st. 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 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 to receive instructions on how to join in.

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 or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

If you are experiencing technical issues, please email 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.

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

Here is your chance!! We have decided to provide cookies for West Broadway and St. Matthews-Maryland Community Ministry for the next three months. The dates are Monday June 8, July 13, and August 10. 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!

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

If you would like to help on any or all of these dates or to arrange for pickup, please contact the church office. To contact the church office, email 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 or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

Participate in Our Online Services

Video Recordings for the Indigenous Day of Prayer (June 21)

We have selected an Affirmation of Faith to include in our online worship service for the Indigenous Day of Prayer. If you are able, we would like you to record a video of yourself reading it. A final edited video will show each person reading a different line. If you would like to participate, email PrarieSpiritUC@shaw.ca or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1. The deadline is Wednesday, June 17.

What’s Your Favourite Hymn?

Do you have a favourite song of praise, faith, or comfort? We want to know! Please let us know the name of your favourite hymn by Thursday, June 18. Email 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 service, please contact the church office. Email 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 or call 204-832-1000. To leave a voice message, please press 1.

Announcements (cont.)

Share Your News

If you have an announcement or life celebration you'd like shared in our Weekly Update, let us know. Email PrairieSpiritUC@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.

Urban Retreats Virtual Garden Tour

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Matthews-Maryland Community Ministry will not be able to host their annual Garden Tour fundraiser. Volunteers have helped to create a Virtual Garden Tour for 2020.

Every year, the Urban Retreats Garden Tour raises significant funds, \$19,000 in 2019, that support vulnerable families in the West End of Winnipeg. Cancelling the Garden Tour will reduce funds to help those in need. St. Matthews-Maryland Community Ministry invites you to their Virtual Garden Tour and is asking you to help meet the increased need in the community by buying a "Virtual Ticket".

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

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