



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS  
DAY OF PRAYER

June 21, 2020

***St. Stephen's is a Christian community in the making.***

At the intersection of what was and what will be, we invite you to gather with us around prayer, food, and the simple conviction that nothing is wasted in God's economy.

***All are welcome at St. Stephen's.***

Whether you come with great faith or great doubt,  
regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation or marital status,  
whatever your financial status or housing situation –  
we hope you can find a home with us  
as we explore together what it means to follow Jesus.

**Ministry Team**

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**ST. STEPHEN'S**

ANGLICAN CHURCH, MAPLE

## Preparation

*Whether you participate in worship in a small group or alone,  
know that you are joined together with the whole St. Stephen's community  
and the wider church as we offer our prayers and praise to God.*

*Consider setting a candle or two out in the space you're using for worship,  
as a reminder of God's presence. Light the candles, and say:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.

Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Seek the Lord

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;  
call upon him when he draws near.  
Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the evil ones their thoughts;  
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion,  
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens  
and return not again, but water the earth,  
Bringing forth life and giving growth,  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,  
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;  
it will not return to me empty;  
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,  
and prosper in that for which I sent it. *(Isaiah 55.6–11)*

## Collect of the Day

Creator God,  
from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name.  
You have rooted and grounded us  
in your covenant love,  
and empowered us by your Spirit  
to speak the truth in love,  
and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness.  
Mercifully grant that your people,  
journeying together in partnership,  
may be strengthened and guided  
to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ,  
who is our light and our life.  
**Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 40:25-31

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,  
'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'?  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

## Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
**Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;  
**yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.  
**Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
**the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;**  
the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
**the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;**  
the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever;  
**the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
**sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.  
**But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.  
**Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,  
**O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

## Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## Gospel: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## Reflection – Jeff+

*The following reflection can be watched online [by clicking here](#)  
or can be read in full below.*

*Please feel free to engage with either or both options,  
and know that whatever you choose  
will enable you to fully participate in the worship of our community.*

In the Anglican Church of Canada, we mark this day as the National Indigenous Day of Prayer. This observance has come out of an ongoing recognition that the church has much to repent of when it comes to dealing with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. A long history of colonization and exploitation continues into our current time with innumerable examples of racism, human rights abuses, and structural barriers to equal citizenship both socially and within the church.

Today, churches across the country seek to acknowledge this, and to commit and recommit to finding a new way forward. As Bishop Donald Phillips writes, the goal is to “find intentional ways to bring forward, in repentance, our participation in the sins of colonization both historically and presently, asking for God’s mercy, forgiveness and transformative power to act in all our lives as we seek to be reconciled to one another and to participate in the redemption of the world.”

Which is to say that, no matter who we are or what our heritage may be, this conversation involves us. Because we believe in the God who made all things, blessed them, and called them good. And who invites us all to live in loving, self-giving relationship with one another, that we might work together with God to build up the kind of world that God has always intended.

This is the nothing less than the mission of the church.

And it has always been so. We've just had trouble recognizing it.

Years ago, when I began my studies at Wycliffe College, I took a course called Gospel, Church and Culture. It was, essentially, about the ways in which the story of salvation that we have inherited is affected by the structures we've built, and the society we live in. And about the ways in which our faith can become distorted, and made to serve the demands of our culture or our country.

We read a book called Christianity Rediscovered, written by a Roman Catholic priest named Vincent Donovan in the late 1970s, after being sent to work among the Maasai people in northern Tanzania. One of the central points of the book is that Donovan learns that his job is not to 'bring' Christian faith to the Maasai people, but to recognize the ways in which God is already at work in their midst.

Which is a stunning thing to realize. It's important to see that this is only a revelation because the church had somehow gotten the notion that we have some kind of monopoly on truth. The realization that God is already at work in the world, outside of the apparent boundaries of the established church and, frankly, outside of white Euro-centric culture, was only arrived at because of how dangerously narrow-minded our collective thinking was. And, if we're honest, still is.

Over the years, I've read countless theological and missional books that all arrive at the same conclusion, just in different contexts and through different means – that God is at work in the world. And it isn't up to us to try to control God, limit God, or try to bind God to our particular cultural preferences. But we still manage to do it, over and over again.

St. John begins his account of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by reminding us all that God has been at work in every area of the world from the beginning. For in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And not one thing came into being but by the Word.

God speaks us all, everything that is, into being as an act of Divine love and joy and creativity. And that same God dwells among us in our humanity and shows us what is to love and serve one another and live in right relationship with God. The hallmarks of his way of life are humility, self-giving love, and a willingness to see that we most truly find ourselves as we encounter those around us. Which might even sound a bit like the idea of the Trinity.

On this day, especially, we would do well to meditate on the words of St. John. Because the introductory words to his Gospel make clear that wherever we find beauty, joy, truth, or goodness – we find God at work.

Racism, colonial expansion and conquest, the work of building up empire and exploiting other people, the ongoing systematic degradation of indigenous ways of life, the continued support of a system that magnifies the gap between rich and poor – these are things that are incompatible with the mission of God in our world. God is not white. Or English. Or Canadian. Or Anglican. And the kingdom we are called to build is God's, for the benefit of all God's creation.

Today we pray a litany for the healing and restoration of our church. Together, we pray:

Touch our eyes, that we may see the sacredness of all creation.

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth of every peoples the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

Touch our lips, that we may speak the beauty of every tongue and dialect proclaiming the wonderful works of God.

Touch our hearts, that we may discern your mission in which you call us to be immersed, particularly in partnership with the First Peoples of this land.

Touch our minds that we may witness to your good news in our neighbourhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

Touch our hands, that we may forever shun violence and embrace the work that you give us to do.

Amen.

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

*As a community of people made one in Christ, we offer our prayers to God for ourselves,  
our community, and the world. Feel free to adapt these prayers as you like,  
and to make use of the spaces indicated to add your own prayers and petitions.*

Holy Creator, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Risen Christ, through whom the whole creation is reconciled to God,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Life-giving Spirit, whose love and truth fills the world and searches the depths of our lives,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,  
**Have mercy on us.**

From our failure to recognize and respect the revelation of your truth and love  
in the First Peoples of this land,  
**Saviour, forgive and heal us.**

From our participation in the systematic oppression of indigenous sovereignty,  
language, culture and spirituality,  
**Saviour, forgive and heal us.**

From our role in the Indian Residential Schools designed to eliminate the unique society,  
wisdom and beauty of the indigenous peoples of this land,  
**Saviour, forgive and heal us.**

From our complicit tolerance of the decimation of Indigenous family structures  
leaving children vulnerable to abuses of every kind,  
**Saviour, forgive and heal us.**

From our continued acceptance of unjust legal, educational, health and social structures

that continue to oppress and destroy the lives of many indigenous people,  
**Saviour, forgive and heal us.**

O God, we pray for the gifts of your grace and your love which never gives up on us and is forever faithful.  
Inspire our minds with a vision of the reconciliation of your kingdom in this time and place.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Touch our eyes, that we may see the sacredness in all creation.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth of every peoples  
the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

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Touch our minds that we may witness to your Good News  
in our neighbourhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Touch our hands, that we may forever shun violence and embrace the work you give us to do.

**Hear us, O Christ.**

Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples,  
together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life,  
together serving you in your mission in the world,  
and together witnessing to your love on every continent and island of your creation.  
We ask this in the name of the Risen Christ in whom we are one.

**Amen.**

Let us now name before God those for whom we offer our personal prayers.

*A period of silence is kept as we offer silent prayer  
and listen for the leading of the Spirit.*

Let us remember before God our selfish ways, the things we have done wrong,  
the sorrows we have caused, the love we have not shown.

**Most merciful God, forgive us our sins against you and against each other.**

**Strengthen us to overcome our weaknesses,  
that we may live in love as you would have us live,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

**Grant that we may walk in your presence  
and experience the present truth of resurrection:  
your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds,  
your strength in our wills, until, at the end of our journey,  
we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**Our 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, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Blessing**

May joy and nothing less find us on our way.  
May we be blessed and be a blessing.  
And may light guide us, and countless others, all the way home.  
**Amen.**

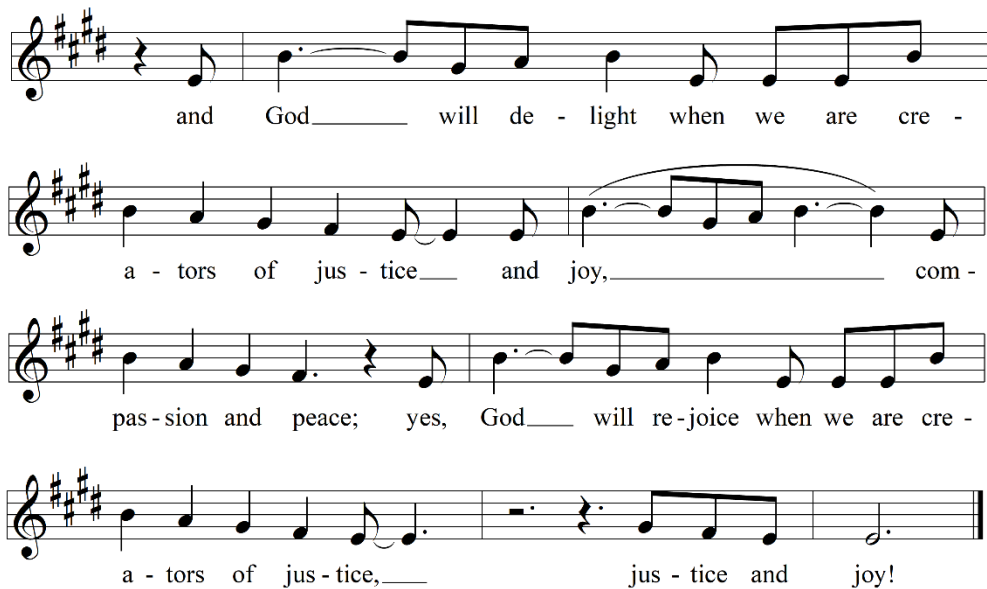
May we go in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good,  
return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted,  
support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# MUSIC

Following are several hymns that you may want to sing and/or listen to.  
Music and texts, as well as sample YouTube links, are provided.

## For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
For everyone born, clean water and bread,  
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
For everyone born, a star overhead.



and God\_\_\_\_\_ will de - light when we are cre -  
a - tors of jus - tice\_\_\_ and joy,\_\_\_\_\_ com -  
pas - sion and peace; yes, God\_\_\_ will re - joice when we are cre -  
a - tors of jus - tice,\_\_\_ jus - tice and joy!

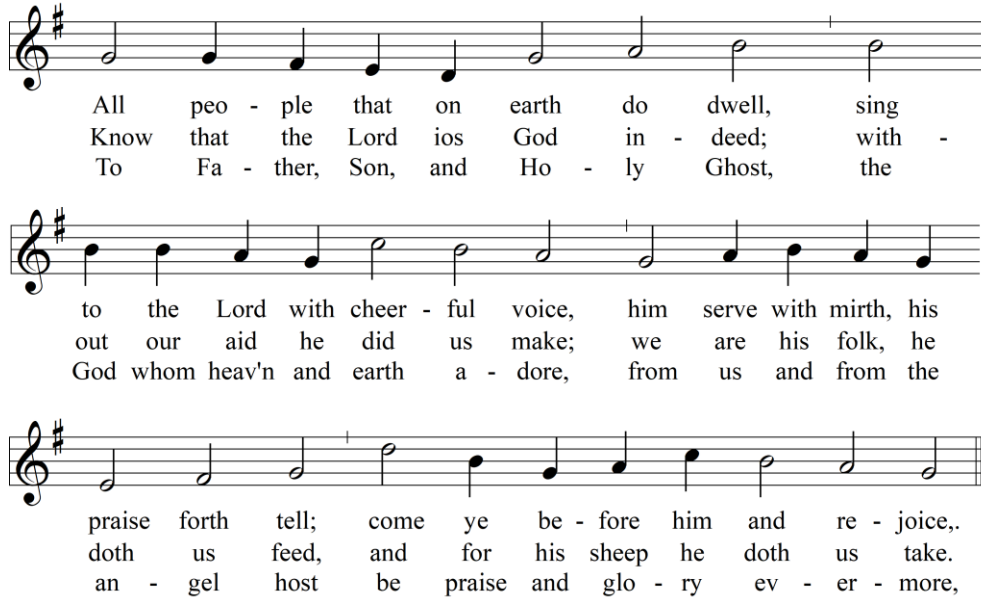
For woman and man, a place at the table,  
Revising the roles, deciding the share,  
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
For woman and man, a system that's fair. **Refrain**

For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
A voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
For young and for old, the right to belong. **Refrain**

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
To live without fear, and simply to be,  
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
For everyone born, the right to be free. **Refrain**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYp7xEJ\\_AbU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYp7xEJ_AbU)

## All People That on Earth Do Dwell



All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing  
Know that the Lord ios God in - deed; with -  
To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the  
to the Lord with cheer - ful voice, him serve with mirth, his  
out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he  
God whom heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the  
praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice..  
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mc4gEC2InU>

For other hymns, check out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGLVPtOYRgM>



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