

Jun 18/23 Prop 6 Pen 3 Father's Day First Nations Sunday Lake of Bays United Churches  
 Gen 18:1-15 Rom 5 :1-8 Matt 10 :1-23

## **Welcome**

Welcome to this time of worship. I am happy to be here today as I so much enjoyed my time as your supply minister a little while ago. Today I want to include some prayers and references to our First Nations' brothers' and sisters' ways of speaking of faith. The words and actions of worship are part of our response to our faith experience of connection to our amazing God, made known to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is often helpful to hear different ways of speaking about God... the same God we know and love. Janet Gear, in *Undivided Love*, says, "The language of faith is life." Not just words... but the way we live and respond.

## **Family Life and Work / Celebrations**

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Announcements

Jun 11- July 9 Rev Meg away

June 18 Guest Minister: Rev. Nina Fulford

June 25 Guest Minister: Rev Donna Bowman Woodall

July 2 Guest Minister: Pat Edmonds

July 9 OPEN HOUSE at each church

July 16 Rev Meg back

July 30 5th Sunday Joint Communion at Seabreeze

Note: For pastoral care emergencies when Rev Meg is away, please contact our VAM Rev. Donna Bowman-Woodall at. 705-571-1992.

## **Acknowledgement of the land**

As we prepare to begin our worship, we remember that the land on which we stand has been cared for lovingly by many generations of Indigenous peoples to whom we owe a debt of gratitude as they still teach us to respect God's Creation and know it is not ours, but God's. We also recognize the contributions that Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made, both in shaping and strengthening this community in particular, and our province and country as a whole.

## **Lighting the Christ Candle**

When we light the Christ Candle, we are reminding ourselves that Christ's presence lights up our lives every day... not just Sundays at worship. And we are called to take that light with us everywhere we go. (Light candle)

## **Call to Worship** (in unison)

**Creator, Maker, Sustainer, Chi Miigwetch\* for your powerful transforming Spirit! May we all understand that the truth can be always with us! Worshiping is for every day created.** Brenda

Duckworth Gathering Pent 1/2014 p.27

## **Prayer of Approach** (unison)

**Holy One, please hear our prayer today. Chi Miigwetch for this day.**

**We realize this may be the day for each of us to share everything we have. This life is short. Being with our Maker is forever. We only have this life to learn forever time with you. Amen.**

Brenda Duckworth Gathering Pent 1/2014 p.27

\* Means extra special big thanks.

**Opening Hymn** God Who Gives To Life Its Goodness 260 CD 1.1

### **Invitation To Prayer Of Confession**

We are invited to pray without ceasing.  
 But there are times when the deep pains of life  
 render us speechless before God  
 and feeling nothing but God's absence.  
 But God is with us.  
 We are invited to open  
 the deepest places of our hearts  
 to the gentle presence of the Spirit.

Frances Flook, Gathering Pent 1, 2011 p36

### **Prayer Of Confession** (in unison)

**For all we might have offered and chose not to;**  
**For all we might have risked and were afraid to:**  
**For all we might have loved and held back from:**  
**For all we might have nurtured and withdrew from:**  
**loving God, we ask for forgiveness.** Cindy Randall, Gathering Pent 1/2014 p 33  
 (Silent Prayer)

### **Assurance Of Forgiveness** (in unison)

**God is always ready to forgive the past and offer new opportunities to live with him in new ways. Thanks be to God that we are forgiven in Jesus Christ. Amen** Nina Fulford

### **Theme Time**

First Nations people have great respect for previous generations (the ancestors). There are strong family ties and parents and grandparents act as teachers. Look at this picture of a First Nations' father with his young child.... I want to share with you some writings from Native Spirituality.

### **CREE INDIAN SAYING**

Only when the last tree has died,  
 and when the last river has been poisoned,  
 and the last fish have been caught,  
 will we realize that we cannot eat money.

### **ADVICE FROM A RIVER** (sounds like something from the Native community)

Go with the flow;  
 Immerse yourself in nature;  
 Slow down and meander;  
 Go around obstacles;  
 Be thoughtful of those downstream;  
 Stay current;  
 The beauty is in the journey.

### **A ROLE THAT KEEPS CHANGING**

Being a father is a role  
 which keeps changing  
 with the passing years.  
 At first, your influence is obvious and direct  
 but, as years pass, you move back  
 and allow your offspring  
 more rope  
 more room

more mistakes  
 until they learn confidence  
 in their own abilities.  
 Over the years  
 you provided a strong, loving support system.  
 You are still part of that system  
 even though the support is now  
 a fine network  
 of what look like flimsy cords  
 which would break like gossamer  
 if any strain were applied.  
 Those golden cords are stronger than you think!  
 They provide an important link  
 from your generation  
 to your children.  
 Ultimately, they will be knotted  
 to the communication threads  
 to your children's children.  
 Thank you for braiding  
 love, dependability and trust  
 into those golden family cords.

Nina Fulford

### FATHER'S DAY MEMORIES

You burped them absentmindedly  
 then bounced the toddlers on your knee.  
 You helped build castles in the sand  
 -when walking, held them by the hand.  
 You treated them to icecream cones  
 and shared your skill at skipping stones.  
 You washed and scrubbed their bony knees  
 and boosted them for climbing trees;  
 dropped pennies in their piggy banks;  
 reminded them to offer thanks.  
 You relished every cake they baked  
 - they scattered all the leaves you raked.  
 You never squelched their wildest schemes,  
 instead you listened to their dreams.

Nina Fulford

I hope these thoughts have reconnected you to your father or father figures in your life. For those whose memories are painful... think of the ideal father we have in God who cares for us and has dreams for us.

### **We Listen For God's Word**

#### **Prayer For Illumination**

Open our minds and hearts to your truth. Give us new insights into your law of love for us. Amen

Genesis 18:1-15 Good News Translation  
 A Son Is Promised to Abraham

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham at the sacred trees of Mamre. As Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent during the hottest part of the day, <sup>2</sup> he looked up and saw three men standing there. As soon as he saw them, he ran out to meet them. Bowing down with his face touching the ground, <sup>3</sup> he said, "Sirs, please do not pass by my home without stopping; I am here to serve you. <sup>4</sup> Let me bring some water for you to wash your feet; you can rest here beneath this tree. <sup>5</sup> I will also bring a bit of food; it will give you strength to continue your journey. You have honored me by coming to my home, so let me serve you."

They replied, "Thank you; we accept."

<sup>6</sup> Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick, take a sack of your best flour, and bake some bread." <sup>7</sup> Then he ran to the herd and picked out a calf that was tender and fat, and gave it to a servant, who hurried to get it ready. <sup>8</sup> He took some cream, some milk, and the meat, and set the food before the men. There under the tree he served them himself, and they ate.

<sup>9</sup> Then they asked him, "Where is your wife Sarah?"

"She is there in the tent," he answered.

<sup>10</sup> One of them said, "Nine months from now<sup>[a]</sup> I will come back, and your wife Sarah will have a son." Sarah was behind him, at the door of the tent, listening. <sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah were very old, and Sarah had stopped having her monthly periods. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself and said, "Now that I am old and worn out, can I still enjoy sex? And besides, my husband is old too."

<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Can I really have a child when I am so old?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the Lord? As I said, nine months from now I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

<sup>15</sup> Because Sarah was afraid, she denied it. "I didn't laugh," she said.

"Yes, you did," he replied. "You laughed."

#### Matt 10 :1-23 The Twelve Apostles

10s 1 Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Patriot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

#### The Mission of the Twelve

<sup>5</sup> These twelve men were sent out by Jesus with the following instructions: "Do not go to any Gentile territory or any Samaritan towns. <sup>6</sup> Instead, you are to go to the lost sheep of the people of Israel. <sup>7</sup> Go and preach, 'The Kingdom of heaven is near!' <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, heal those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases, and drive out demons. You have received without paying, so give without being paid. <sup>9</sup> Do not carry any gold, silver, or copper money in your pockets; <sup>10</sup> do not carry a beggar's bag for the trip or an extra shirt or shoes or a walking stick. Workers should be given what they need.

<sup>11</sup> "When you come to a town or village, go in and look for someone who is willing to welcome you, and stay with him until you leave that place. <sup>12</sup> When you go into a house, say, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>13</sup> If the people in that house welcome you, let your greeting of peace remain; but if they do not welcome you, then take back your greeting. <sup>14</sup> And if some home or town will not welcome you or listen to you, then leave that place and shake the dust off your feet. <sup>15</sup> I assure you that on the Judgment Day God will show more mercy to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah than to the people of that town!

#### Coming Persecutions

<sup>16</sup> "Listen! I am sending you out just like sheep to a pack of wolves. You must be as cautious as snakes and as gentle as doves. <sup>17</sup> Watch out, for there will be those who will arrest you and take you to court, and they will whip you in the synagogues. <sup>18</sup> For my sake you will be brought to trial before rulers and kings, to tell the Good News to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> When they bring you to trial, do not worry about what you are going to say or how you will say it; when the time comes, you will be

given what you will say. <sup>20</sup> For the words you will speak will not be yours; they will come from the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

<sup>21</sup> "People will hand over their own brothers to be put to death, and fathers will do the same to their children; children will turn against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup> Everyone will hate you because of me. But whoever holds out to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in one town, run away to another one. I assure you that you will not finish your work in all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

**Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church  
All Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection** Starting something new

### We Respond To God

**Hymn** Will you come and follow me VU 567 CD 3.19

### Call for the Offering

God gives us many gifts. Out of that abundance we are called to share those gifts with others.

### Offertory "In gratitude.." VU# 544

In gratitude and humble trust  
We bring our best today  
To serve your cause and share your love  
With all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us  
In Jesus Christ, your Son,  
Teach us to give ourselves each day  
Until life's work is done.

### Prayer Of Dedication (in unison)

**Eternal God, Jesus directs us to travel light through life but we are weighed down by our precious possessions. We dedicate our offering but we know there is more we need to give. Help us to properly use all the resources that are in our care. Amen** (NF adapted from Lavon Baylor)

**Passing the peace of Christ** "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you."

### Prayers Of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Loving Saviour:

We are here knowing how much we owe to you.  
We are blessed by the beauty of the world around us.  
We are blessed by the gift of life.  
We have been given talents and abilities.  
We are living among a network of friends and neighbours.  
Living in Canada means access to healthcare,  
adequate food, clean clothing and comfortable homes  
- for most of us.

Help us to remember those  
who do not have the things we take for granted.  
Give us the will to make a difference in their lives.

We have freedom to worship in community

- help us to be tolerant of those  
who seek to worship God in different ways,  
for we know that Jesus' mission was for all the world.

We are blessed by the joy we experience  
when babies are born  
and when children graduate to new levels of learning.

Thank you for our joy  
in seeing new relationships begin and grow. In blessing new life in children and babies and youth.  
Especially....

We are blessed because your love and compassion is with us in the dark times of our lives when  
families are torn apart, when relationships become bitter, when violence threatens.

Help us to use the strength we have when we are open to your Holy Spirit  
to spread your good news of acceptance and transformation.

May our own faith, however timid and cautious,  
be sufficient to nourish not only our own journey  
but to feed those who walk with us or whose paths we cross.

We especially pray for all who are troubled by illness whether in hospital, or worrying about surgery or  
therapies.

We think of the on-going work of reconciliation with First Nations and our need to be open to their  
wisdom.

We remember the anguish our forebears created with the residential school system and ask for  
strength to do reconciliation work when and wherever we have opportunities.

We pray for those living amid troubled relationships.  
Bring your healing peace to them and their loved ones.

We pray, too, for all who lack the necessities of life  
- those in our community and all over the world.

Bring your wisdom and guidance  
to all who must make difficult decisions that affect others.

We pray that those enslaved by the power of addiction  
may be able to take hold of your yoke  
which brings liberation and freedom.

We pray for those in the grip  
of mental anguish and pain and depression.

Bring your light into their darkness.

Where there is division; bring reconciliation.

Where there is an unfair distribution of assets;  
move us to sharing and caring.

Loving God, change our lives in unexpected ways  
that bring great joy

just as the lives of Abraham and Sarah were transformed when Isaac was so unexpectedly born.

New beginnings are always possible when we hold your hand.

We pray all this in the name of the one

who showed us a life enslaved by your love. Amen Nina Fulford

### **Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer VU p. 916**

**Hymn**      I the Lord of sea and sky    VU 509      3.8

**Commissioning** (responsively)

As Jesus sent out his disciples

**We are scattered for service.**

Jesus chose ordinary people for his work.  
He tapped abilities they did not know they had.

**May we be ready to serve others  
in unexpected ways.** Adapted from Lavon Baylor by NF

### **Benediction**

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet  
walk beside us on our road;  
may Christ who serves with wounded hands  
stretch out our hands to serve;  
may Christ who loves with a wounded heart  
open our hearts to love;  
and may you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet  
and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.  
Celtic blessing.



## **LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE**

Pioneer Memorial Church, Hillside, 9:00 a.m.

Stewart Memorial, Dwight 10:15 a.m.

Knox United Church, Dorset 11:30 a.m.

### **Sunday Worship, June 18, 2023 Father's Day and First Nations Sunday**

Minister: Rev Meg Jordan (705-789-6600) [jordanm@vianet.ca](mailto:jordanm@vianet.ca)

[lakeofbayspastoralcharge196@gmail.com](mailto:lakeofbayspastoralcharge196@gmail.com)

Bookkeeper/Administrator: Linda Pinkerton

Leadership Chair: Jennifer Parker

Musician, Knox: Cynthia MacLean

### **Hymns**

#### **God Who Gives To Life Its Goodness 260 1.1**

1 God who gives to life its goodness,

God creator of all joy,  
 God who gives to us our freedom,  
 God who blesses tool and toy:  
 teach us now to laugh and praise you,  
 deep within your praises sing,  
 till the whole creation dances  
 for the goodness of its King.

- 2 God who fills the earth with beauty,  
 God who binds each friend to friend,  
 God who names us co-creators  
 God who wills that chaos end:  
 grant us now creative spirits,  
 minds responsive to your mind,  
 hearts and wills your rule extending  
 all our acts by Love refined.

### **Will You Come And Follow Me 567**

- 1 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?
- 2 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?
- 3 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?
- 4 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?



5 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.

**I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky**                      **509**

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
 I have heard my people cry.  
 All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
 I who made the stars of night,  
 I will make their darkness bright.  
 Who will bear my light to them?  
 Whom shall I send?  
     Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
     I have heard you calling in the night.  
     I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
     I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
 I have borne my people's pain,  
 I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
 I will break their hearts of stone,  
 give them hearts for love alone.  
 I will speak my word to them.  
 Whom shall I send? R

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
 I will tend the poor and lame,  
 I will set a feast for them; my hand will save. (cont)  
 Finest bread I will provide  
 till their hearts be satisfied.  
 I will give my life to them.  
 Whom shall I send? R