

National Indigenous Day of Prayer Holy Eucharist Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 10:30 AM



The Church of the Redeemer:

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WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

We are in the heart of downtown Toronto, and we gather to celebrate on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Our beautiful building connects us to the rich heritage of our city while also drawing us deeper into the roots of our Anglican tradition. Just as the streetscape around us has evolved over the years, our members have changed to reflect the growing, vibrant and progressive Christian community found at the Redeemer today. We come from a variety of faith traditions (and sometimes no faith tradition at all), and we like it that way. We are students, workers, retired, homeless, not limited by sexual orientation, gender identity or personal history. We are at the very beginning of our life with Jesus, and we are deeply steeped in a life complicated by faith. We open our doors to worship God and to learn about Jesus, and how all of this might just transform our lives.

If you would like to stay up to date with our news and events, please feel free to subscribe to our eNewsletter by going to <u>https://theredeemer.ca/post-17524</u>.

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Today, along with Anglicans across Canada, we are celebrating National Indigenous Day of Prayer. This day is an annual reminder for people across Canada to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations people. Inuit and Métis. We invite you to join us as we pray, listen, and reflect.

Pronounced "CALL-ect", the Collect of the Day is the prayer that unites or "collects" us in worship and praise.

Welcome

The Gathering: Andrew Wesley

We are grateful to Andrew Wesley for gathering us in worship this morning through smudging. Smudge is the ceremonial process of burning sage in an abalone shell or container. The smoke that comes up from the burning medicines is called "smudge" where we draw the smoke over our bodies in sacred reverence and gratitude. It set, our intention while connecting to the Creator while visiting within the Creator's creation.

Collect of the Day

Priest:	Creator God,
1 / /05/	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.
All:	Amen.

✤ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Please be seated

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.*All*: Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 40.25-31 A moment of silence is observed



Although almighty and unknowable, the Creator is present with us in nature and in history.

Pronounced "sahm", the psalms are a collection of ancient poetry, prose, and song that cover everv theme and human emotion. In this Psalm, as creation praises the Creator and as the Creator's law revives our souls, we too praise the Creator for healing our hearts and giving us the gift of reconciliation.



The fear of God is clean and endures <u>for</u> ever; the judgments of our God are true and righteous al<u>tog</u>ether. More to be desired are they than gold, more than much <u>fine</u> gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in <u>the</u> comb. By them also is your servant <u>en</u>lightened, and in keeping them there is great <u>re</u>ward. **Refrain**

How can I tell how often I <u>offend?</u> cleanse me from my se<u>cret</u> faults. Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion o<u>ver</u> me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great <u>off</u>ence. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in <u>your</u> sight, O God, my strength and my <u>re</u>deemer. **Refrain.**

Second Reading:

Reader: A Reading from Small Man to the Sacred Family in Village Of Horses.

Always dance with joy before our Honored Chief! I will say it again: dance with joy! Let everyone see how kind and thoughtful you are. Our Honored Chief is close at hand. Do not let your hearts be weighed down with anything. Instead, with every step you take, send your voice to the Great Spirit, asking him for the things you need. And in all your prayers remember to give him thanks. Then the peace and harmony of the Great Spirit, which goes far beyond our small and weak ways of thinking, will watch over your hearts and minds through the Chosen One, Creator Sets Free (Jesus).

Last of all, my sacred family members, if anything can be seen as good and honorable, think deeply about these things. Things that are true and noble, upright and pure, full of beauty and worthy of respect. Follow the way of life you have seen in me, the things you have learned from me, heard from me, and received from me. Keep walking in the traditions I have passed on to you. Then the Great Spirit of Peace will continue to walk with you on this road.

Reader:Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.All:Thanks be to God.

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 honorable, 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.

> Philippians 4.4-9 A moment of silence is observed

Today the second reading and the Gospel will be from the First Nations New Testament. The text from the New Revised Standard Version will also be provided.

If one walks the good road and is guided by the Great Spirit, then the joy, peace, and harmony of Creator Sets Free will live in our hearts and shine out to those around us. Sequence Song: #736 (Gather) "Many Are the Lightbeams"

All rise and sing

The



Text: De unitate ecclesiae, Cyprian of Carthage, 252 A.D.; trans. by Anders Frostenson © Verbum Forlong AB. Tune: Olle Widestrand ©; acc. by Marty Haugen (1950-), © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

We turn and face the Gospel as it is processed to the midst of the gathered community. We do this as a sign of respect and to symbolize that its message is at the centre of our lives and its truth is always before our eyes.

The Gospel



In Creator Sets Free, the Creator pitches his sacred tent amongst us. Guided by the Great Spirit we are led to the light of new life. Long ago, in the time before all days, before the creation of all things, the one who is known as the Word was there face to face with the Great Spirit. This Word fully represents Creator and shows us who he is and what he is like. He has always been there from the beginning, for the Word and Creator are one and the same. Through the Word all things came into being, and not one thing exists that he did not create.

Creator's life shined out from the Word, giving light to all human beings. This is the true Light that comes to all the peoples of the world and shines on everyone. The Light shines into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it or put it out.

Into the wilderness of the Land of Promise (Judea) came a man named Gift of Goodwill (John). He was sent by the Great Spirit to tell what he knew about the Light so everyone could believe. He was not the Light but came to speak the truth about the Light. The true Light that shines on all people was coming into the darkness of this world. He came down into this world, and even though he made all things, the world did not recognize him. Even his own tribe did not welcome or honour him.

But all who welcome and trust him receive their birthright as children of the Great Spirit. They are born in a new way, not from a human father's plans or desires, but born from above by the Great Spirit. Creator's Word became a flesh-and-blood human being and pitched his sacred tent among us, living as one of us. 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. We looked upon his great beauty and saw how honourable he was, the kind of honour held only by this one Son who fully represents his Father-full of his great kindness and truth. Gift of Goodwill (John) told what he knew about him and cried out with a loud voice, "The one I have told you about is here! He comes after me, but is much greater-my elder! He has more honour, for even though he is thought to be younger, he existed before I was born." From the fullness of his being we have all had many gifts of kindness poured out on us. Drawn from the Water (Moses) gave us our tribal laws, but the gift of great kindness and truth came from Creator Sets Free (Jesus), the Chosen One. No one has ever seen the Great Spirit, but the one Son, who is himself the Great Spirit and closest to the Father's heart, has shown us what he is like.

Priest:The Gospel of Christ.All:Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily: Andrew Wesley

We pause for music and meditation.

Prayers of the People

Prayers for the East

Leader: Holy God, God of many names. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the east; the spirits of all people of the east who have gone before us, the spirits of those who are yet to come. We pray for all people who now live to the east of us.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box

We thank you for the colour yellow, the sacred colour of the east, the colour of the rising sun. When the sun rises we offer our prayers to you, thanking you for the new day, for new opportunities, for new beginnings, for hope. Each new day reminds us of your faithfulness to us, your people. We thank you for the medicine of the east, tobacco. When we offer the tobacco, we thank you for our children, those who carry the future of our people in their lives. Tobacco, like children, needs protection, nurture and cultivation in order to grow. Help us, Creator God, to care properly for the lives of the children which you have entrusted to us; to honour and respect them, to protect them, and to learn from them. We thank you for Jesus, your son, whom we honour at the beginning of each new day. We thank you that he lived among us as a baby, a child, a youth and a young man.

All: Awaken in us new dreams and hopes never before imagined. Let us behold the miracles that are born with each new dawn. Creator of hope, hear our prayers.

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.

John 1.1-18

The homily (from Greek "homilia", meaning "conversation") or sermon, gathers the themes of the readings and articulates what they meant for the ancient audience, and what they mean for us today.

In the prayers of the people, we offer to God our cares and concerns, our joys and hopes, praying for the church. the needs of the world around us, the sick, the suffering, and those whom we love but see no more.

Prayers for the South

In the prayers, we turn to the four directions. We name the colours, symbolic of the teachings and peoples of those directions, and the healing medicines, reminding us that through our prayers, we need to hold all directions, peoples, wisdom teachings, and healing gifts in harmony, wholeness and balance.

Leader: Holy God, Creator of all. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the south; the spirits of all those to the south of us who have gone before us, the spirits of those who are yet to come. We pray for all the people who now live to the south of us.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box

We thank you for the colour red, the sacred colour of the south, the colour of warmth and love. We thank you for all the emotions you have placed in our hearts; emotions which you share with us and ask us to share with each other. We thank you for the medicine of the south, cedar. When we offer the cedar, we thank you for all who nurture the youth among us. We remember these people when we see the green boughs of the cedar throughout the seasons of the year. We thank you for Jesus, your son; for Mary his mother, and for Ann his grandmother. We thank you that he befriended and ministered lovingly to women during his life, and that he first appeared to women at his resurrection.

Warm our lives as roots deep in the soil of your earth, and stretch out our hearts as branches to be places of nurture and protection. Sower of life, hear our prayers.

Prayers for the West

All:

Leader: Holy God, God of darkness and of light. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the west; the spirits of all those to the west of us who have gone before us, the spirits of those yet to come. We pray for all people who now live to the west of us.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box

We thank you for the colour black, the sacred colour of the west, the colour of wisdom and knowledge. As the sun sets in the west and the darkness of night comes upon us, we thank you for all we have learned during the day, all the insight we have received from you so that we might share it with others when daylight returns. We thank you for the medicine of the west, sage. When we offer the sage, we thank you for our elders who carry within them the experience gained through life. Help us, Creator God, to respect our elders, to seek out their knowledge and to make use of it for the good of our people. Help us to care for our old people and to include them in the lives of their families and communities. We thank you for Jesus, your son, who as a young man carried within himself the wisdom and knowledge given by you, God for all times and ages. We also thank you that Jesus will meet us at the darkness at the end of our earthly life and lead us to the brightness of the eternal life.

All: Guide our steps through all ending-times. Fill us with your peace as you enfold us with the great mystery of night until morning calls us forth again. Creator of kindness, hear our prayers.

Prayers for the North

- *Leader*: Holy God, Mysterious One. We honour you through the Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the north; the spirits of all people to the north who have gone before us, the spirits of those who are yet to come. We pray for all people who now live to the north of us.
 - A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box

We thank you for the colour white, the sacred colour of the north, the colour of the blanket of snow which covers mother earth while she sleeps. We are reminded of the purity of the white snow, the purity you expect in the lives of your people, the purity which comes when you forgive our mistakes. We thank you for the medicine of the north, sweetgrass. As we offer the sweetgrass we thank you for our spiritual elders who teach us of your forgiveness.

Leader: We thank you that as we burn the sweetgrass we are purified from uncleanness and are then able to find your presence in our lives.

Help us, Creator God, to respect our spiritual leaders and to assist them in their journey among us. Help those of us who are spiritual leaders to be conscious of the responsibility given to us by you and by our people. Help all your people to turn to you for forgiveness and purity of life. We thank you for Jesus, your son, by whose blood we are washed clean of our sins and made as white as the snow.

- *All*: Teach us to use with care your gifts; to love with tenderness all our relations as gifts from your heart. Creator of wisdom, hear our prayers.
- *Leader*: Creator, Great Spirit, Gchi Minidoo, steady in wisdom, prophetic in struggle, constant in kindness, courting us with hope, guiding in revelation, be with us and help us to be with each other.
- All: Miigwech. Nya'weh. Inishic. Yau. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- Priest: Come, let us return to the Lord and say:
 All: Creator God, in our sin we have avoided your call.
 Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
 like the dew that goes away early.
 Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgment;
 bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- Priest: The Lord enrich you with grace, and nourish you with many blessings; the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Peace

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.*People:* And also with you.

Confession (from Latin "confiteri" meaning "acknowledge") is a time when we can address and let go of all things we hold on to, and the actions which separate us from God, our world, and our neighbour. Absolution (from Latin "absolutus" meaning "set free") sets us free to restore those broken relationships.

When Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection. his first words to them were "Peace be with you." We share the peace with our neighbour as a sign that we are reconciled with one another and with God. You can share the peace through a nod, a handshake, or by raising your hand in the peace symbol.

The offering is our opportunity to worship God by giving back out of the abundance from which we have received. It is not obligatory, but the opportunity is there for all who wish to express their love to God through the giving of monetary gifts.

The Eucharist (Greek for "thanksgiving") is a sacramental act of worship where we share bread and wine. A sacrament is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." Also known as "Communion" it is central to our faith and is practiced in most Christian churches in different forms. In the Eucharist we recall who Jesus Christ was, and the sacrifice he made for us on the cross.



Your support of the ministries of the Church of the Redeemer allows us to be witnesses to God's love on our corner of Bloor Street and Avenue Road. Donations can be made through the QR code or by placing your offering on the plate as it is passed. Thank you for your gift and for joining in worship today.

Offertory Hymn: #583 (Common Praise) "When God Restored Our Common Life" All sing



Text: Psalm 126; para. Ruth Duck (1947-). © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: RESIGNATION. Melody The Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012) ©.

✤ The Holy Eucharist

Prayer Over the Gifts

Priest: Creator, you bless us with many good gifts returned to you from your creation. Feed us with the Bread of Life, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. The Great Thanksgiving



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest: God the Creator, our Great Spirit, from the depths of our hearts we give you thanks.
We say thank you, now and forever.
From the place of the rising sun in the East, to the South where the warm winds blow, from the West where the soft rain comes, to the coldness of the North.
We unite with all creation from the four directions to join in the everlasting thanksgiving and praise for the gift of Jesus Christ.
With hearts lifted, we join with the angels, the guardian spirits, the saints, and all our ancestors as we sing:



The Sanctus (from the Latin word "holy") is an ancient hymn that is sung during the Eucharistic Prayer. It is adapted from Isaiah's vision of the greatness of God, and from Matthew. where the people called out "Hosanna!" when Jesus entered Jerusalem.

The Eucharistic Prayer today is from Worship in the Vision of New Agape (2004).	Priest:	O Great Spirit, our Creator from whom all holiness comes, we come before you again today. Just as in generations past, like our grandmothers and grandfathers, we come to worship you and acknowledge your greatness. We marvel at your creation. You sent Jesus into creation because people had turned away from you and no longer loved each other, bringing death and destruction. Sharing our living and dying, Jesus opened our eyes and our hearts to understand that we are all relatives and that you are our Great Spirit the Creator. Stretching out his arms upon the cross, he became a perfect offering for all, uniting in beauty all that is, with all that has been, and with all that ever will be.
		On the night Jesus was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; gave thanks, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
	All:	Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
	Priest:	In this ceremony which Jesus gave us, we celebrate our salvation. In our offering of praise and thanks, we stand in the memory, strength, and love of Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Remembering, we make our offering. By your Holy Spirit, make our gifts holy, so that they may be spiritual food and drink. Make us holy, so that we respectfully receive this feast and serve you in each other.
		Surrounded now by our ancestor saints, and all saints and all angels, with the heavenly community which gives you worship forever. May we also live in unity and live as relatives to all. United in Christ with all who stand before you on earth and heaven, we worship you, God the Creator, our Great Spirit, in songs and dance of infinite praise. Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever.
	All:	Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



MUSIC: McNeil Robinson © 1979, Theodore Presser Co.

The Breaking of the Bread

Priest:	Whoever comes to me shall not hunger.
All:	and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
Priest:	The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Agnus Dei (pronounced "On-yoose Daye") is a Latin phrase meaning "Lamb of God," and has been sung since the late seventh century. The phrase was spoken by John the Baptist in reference to Jesus.

Jesus' life given for others inspires us to see our own lives as a gift to be shared. The resurrection affirms that in letting go of what we are afraid to lose, we are transformed and made new.



The Giving and Receiving of Communion

Priest: Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be,

to receive Christ, in communion with the saints,

and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now.

For those of us participating at home, it is a strange experience to be invited to Communion – not through the physical bread and wine we can touch and taste – but a Spiritual Communion with the God who comes to meet us wherever we are.

There are no special words or prayers for this, all the Church has ever thought necessary is genuine true desire, lively faith, and genuine love. Come honestly before God the way you know how. You may wish to pray quietly this prayer to help you:

One: Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock.You wait for me and only I can let you in.I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence.Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood,

that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.

The Communion



All in the church are invited to come forward to receive communion. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please indicate this to the priest.

If you would like to receive a blessing rather than communion, please cross your arms as shown in the picture and the clergy will be pleased to offer you a blessing.

Intinction is the practice of dipping the bread or wafer into the wine when receiving communion. This practice is not allowed in churches in the Diocese of Toronto, including the Church of the Redeemer, for health and safety reasons.

Communion Song: #663 (Gather) "As a Fire is Meant for Burning" All sing 1. As fire is With meant for burn ing а а 2. We teach We learn are ers; we are ers; are 3. As the Is a green bud in spring _ time a bright and warm - ing flame. So the church is meant for pil grims the way. We are seek on ers; we are sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of mis sion, Giv - ing to God's name. Not glo ry to -We are sels made of clay. giv ers; ves -By our 'Mid earth's As _ ples, man - y hued. one ness peo a preach creeds or build our But to bridge of cust oms. а gen tle. lov - ing We would show Christ ac tions. that is lights the When a rain bow heav - ens storm is past and σ hands We join Find - ing care, а _ cross the na tions, We would ble. lis - t'ning light. In а hum -Spir it, Of God's lives flect the diance gone, May our re ra -0. 0 0 neigh bours ev 'ry where. God's de light. live to _ new and glor - ious dawn. Text: Ruth Duck (1947-2024), © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc. Tune: BEACH SPRING; The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. by Marty Haugen (1950-), © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.

Communion Song (Carolyn McDade)

We are One One Human family One Earth community A common destiny for all

Prayer after Communion

Priest: Great Creator, you have fed us with bread from heaven.
Continue to renew us in your truth,
to give light to our minds strength to our bodies,
and seal us with your Holy Spirit.
We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

The Doxology

Priest:	Glory to God,
All:	whose power working in us
	can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
	Glory to God from generation to generation,
	in the Church and in Christ Jesus
	for ever and ever. Amen.
1	

Announcements

Concluding Hymn: "Abundant Life" (Ruth Duck)

1. We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild flow'rs grow-ing, 2. When bod-ies shiv - er in the night and wea - ry, wait morn-ing, for 3. God calls hu-man - i - ty to join part - ners in a - ting as cre of with - in life's for we are part all that is riv - er flow-ing, no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing, when chil-dren have fu-ture free from want or fear, life's good-ness cel - e - bra-ting, a with o - pen hands re-ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, God calls hu - man - i - tv to join in com - mon la-bour, to wake. that new world beck - ons from a - far, in - vites our shared en - dea-vour, a - bun-dant life that all may have in ev - 'ry earth - ly na - tion. that all may have a - bun-dant life one-ness with their neigh-bour. in that all may have a - bun-dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

Text: Ruth Duck (1947-2024). Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING. Attrib. Robert Lowry (1826-1899).

comes from the Greek word "doxalogia" meaning "words of glory." This expression of praise proclaims that worshipping God together has made a difference in our lives.

"Doxology"

Please rise as you are able

Please be seated

All rise and sing

The Dismissal

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!*People:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Service Notes

Smudging:

This is the ceremonial process of burning sage in an abalone shell or container. The smoke that comes up from the burning medicines is called "smudge" where we draw the smoke over our bodies in sacred reverence and gratitude. It sets our intention while connecting to the Creator while visiting within the Creator's creation.

May your hands be cleansed, that they can create beautiful things. May your eyes be cleansed, that you might see the signs and great wonders of God's world. May your ears be cleansed, that you bravely hear the truth. May your throat be cleansed, that you might speak rightly when words are needed. May your feet be cleansed, that they might take you where you are most needed to be. May your heart be cleansed, that you might hear its messages clearly. May the people and this holy worship space be washed clean by the fragrance smoke of this sage. May that same smoke, when spiralling to the heavens, carry our petitions to our Creator.

The Drum:

The drum is significant to many First Nations. The gift of the drum is our connection to the Creator. There are various teachings about the drum, but the main teaching is to give the community the opportunity to come together in prayer and song of thanksgiving. The first drum was given to a girl during her vision quest for peace during the time when there was grave hardship during wartime. It was the responsibility of the drummer or drummers to be the channel (s) of peace for the community.

The drum carrier has a responsibility of taking care and feasting the drums every season. The drum is alive because our connection with the Creator is alive. Depending on the song, it is customary to stand when an honour song is sung to show a sign of respect to the covenant with the Creator that the drum is the connector and bringer of peace.

When a drum starts drumming with four honour beats, the purpose is to request that the Creator stop and bend an ear for the beginning of the prayer song. During this period, the Creator will listen and send the Spirit (Spirit helpers) to give visions, answers, or messages to all of Creation.

Usually the songs throughout the ceremony (service) is to give thanks for peace and prosperity by giving thanks and praises for the bountiful gifts that Creator gave while traveling in a peaceful loving way of life. At the end of the service the drum song is given to thank the Creator for providing the community the opportunity to share and move in our lives in a good way.

In the dismissal (from the Latin "dimittere" meaning "to send awav") we are charged to go out beyond the four walls of the church to serve the Lord in a world that desperately needs God's peace and love.

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

The Collect, Prayer over the Gifts and Prayer after Communion are from the Propers for the BAS Calendar of Memorials and Commemorations New Testament readings are from Terry M. Wildman, First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament. Prayers of the People Prayers of the People are from Lenni Lenape, Algonkian, Iroquoian Council of the Diocese of Huron (Huron LAIC). Cover image is from Jesse Imagine Images (Canva).

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday June 22 (National Indigenous Day of Prayer)

4:00 PM – Celebration of Ministry (in the Church and on Zoom)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Sunday June 29 (Pride Sunday)

9:00 AM – Spiritual Communion (on Zoom only)

10:30 AM – Holy Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

7:00 PM – Be Still (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)