

National Indigenous Day of Prayer
Spiritual Communion
Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 9 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 <https://theredeemer.ca/post-17524>.

theredeemer.ca

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Welcome

The Gathering: Andrew Wesley
Smudging

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 sets our intention while connecting to the Creator while visiting within the Creator’s creation.



If you would like to support the ministry of this parish with a financial gift, scan the QR code to go to our online donation page. We thank you for your generosity.

Collect of the Day

Andrew Wesley

Priest: 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.

All: Amen.

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Laura Boast

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.

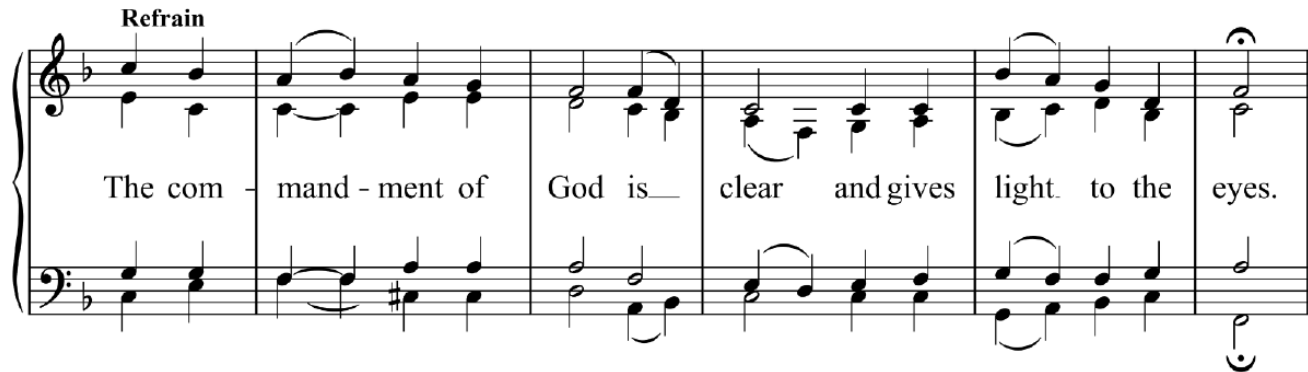
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 40.25-31

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 19 (George Black)

Redeemer Music Team



The heavens declare your glory, O God,
and the firmament shows your handiwork.
One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another. **Refrain**

Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world. **Refrain**

In the deep you have set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber,
and rejoices like a champion to run its course.
It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat. **Refrain**

The law of God is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of our God is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
The statutes of our God are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of God is clear and gives light to the eyes. **Refrain**

The fear of God is clean and endures for ever;
the judgments of our God are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward. **Refrain**

How can I tell how often I offend?
cleans me from my secret faults.
Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offence.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O God, my strength and my redeemer. **Refrain.**

Second Reading:

Laura Boast

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.

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Philippians 4.4-9

A moment of silence is observed

Sequence Song: #736 (Gather) "Many Are the Lightbeams"

Redeemer Music Team



1. Man - y are the light - beams from the one light.
2. Man - y are the branch - es of the one tree.
3. Man - y are the gifts giv'n, love is all one.
4. Man - y ways to serve God, the Spir - it is one;
5. Man - y are the mem - bers, the bod - y is one;



Our one light is Je - sus.
Our one tree is Je - sus.
Love's the gift of Je - sus.
ser - vant spir - it of Je - sus.
mem - bers all of Je - sus.

Man - y are the light - beams from the one
 Man - y are the branch - es of the one
 Man - y are the gifts giv'n, love is all
 Man - y ways to serve God, the Spir - it is
 Man - y are the mem - bers, the bod - y is

light; we are one in Christ.
 tree; we are one in Christ.
 one; we are one in Christ.
 one; we are one in Christ.
 one; we are one in Christ.

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

The Gospel

Steven Mackison

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: He Shows Goodwill tells the Good Story of Creator Sets Free.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

John 1.1-18

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily: Andrew Wesley

We pause for music and meditation.

Prayers of the People

Murray Bryant

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.

Prayers for the South

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.

All: **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

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

Andrew Wesley

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.**

Offertory Hymn: #583 (Common Praise) “When God Restored Our Common Life”*Redeemer Music Team*

1. When God re - stored our com - mon life, our hope, our
2. We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds in hard, un -
3. Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray for all who

lib - er - ty, at first it seemed a pass - ing dream, a
yield - ing soil. With laugh - ing hearts we car - ry home the
are op - pressed. May those who long for what is right with

wak - ing fan - ta - sy. A shock of joy swept o - ver
fruit of all our toil. We praise the one who gave the
jus - tice now be blessed. We pray for those who mourn this

us, for we had wept so long; the seeds we wa - tered
growth, with voic - es full and strong. The seeds we wa - tered
day, and all who suf - fer wrong; may seeds they wa - ter

once with tears, sprang up in - to a song.
once with tears, sprang up in - to a song.
now with tears, spring up in - to a song.

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 Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

Andrew Wesley

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 Doxology

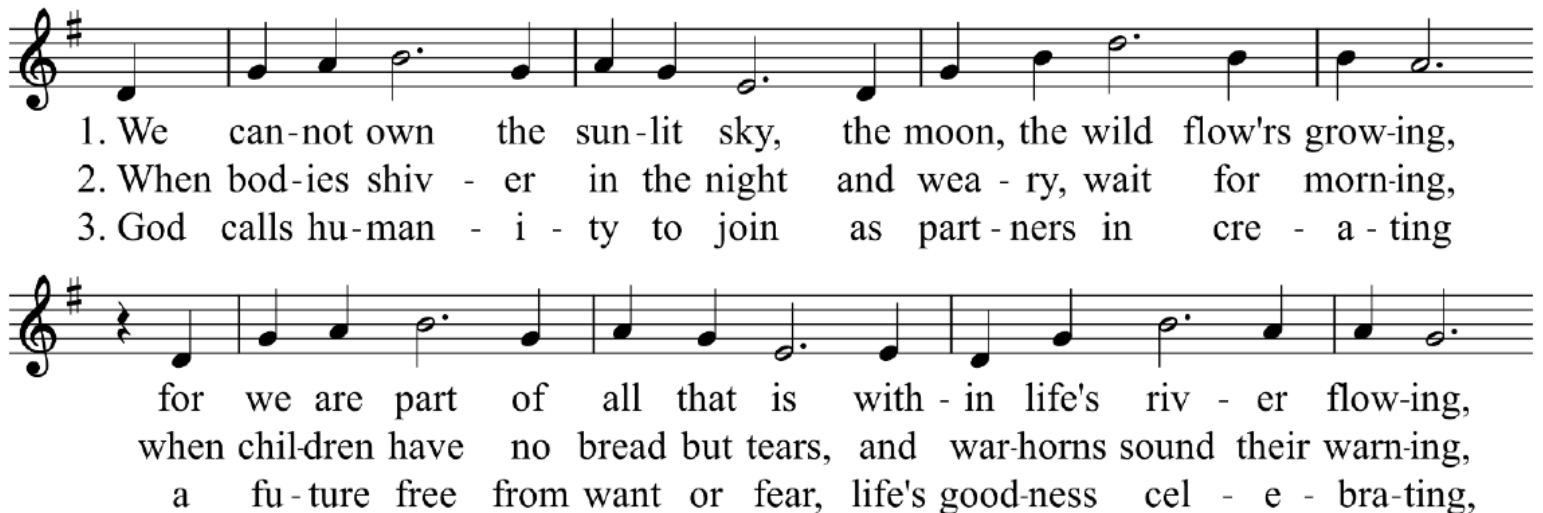
Andrew Wesley

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.**

Announcements

Concluding Hymn: "Abundant Life" (Ruth Duck)

Redeemer Music Team



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 for morn-ing,
3. God calls hu-man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre - a - ting

for we are part of all that is with - in life's riv - er flow-ing,
when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing,
a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's good-ness cel - e - bra-ting,

with o - pen hands re - ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion,
 God calls hu - man - i - ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bour,
 that new world beck - ons from a - far, in - vites our shared en - dea - vour,
 that all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - 'ry earth - ly na - tion.
 that all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bour.
 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).

The Dismissal

Steven Mackison

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

***People:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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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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.

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)