



A Liturgy for **The National**
Indigenous Day of Prayer observed June 25, 2023¹

St Paul's Anglican Church, Lindsay, ON
45 Russell St W., Tel: (705) 324-4666
Incumbent: The Rev'd Bonnie Skerritt
Music Director: Diane Stecher

Acknowledgement & Thanksgiving for the Land

We acknowledge that this church is situated upon traditional Indigenous territory. This land is part of Treaty #20, the Rice Lake Purchase, made between the present day Hiawatha, Curve Lake and Mississauga of Scugog Island First Nations and the Crown, which includes the town of Lindsay. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts we pray in Your name, Your Son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. Amen.

Call to Worship²

CELEBRANT

Christ our true a

prayers and songs and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no evil desires may possess us who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace. Amen.

Opening Hymn – CP #572 Let There Be Light

Prayer to the Four Directions³

CELEBRANT God the Creator, the strength of the people, we honor you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. We respect the truth of your spirit world and care for your creations to the east, to the south, to the west and to the north. We honor you by deeds and not words. We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life.

FIRST READER

Come Great Spirit as we gather in your name.

We face East:

To your symbol colour Red, the hue of revelation;

To your animal symbol the Eagle, strong and nurturing;

To your lessons calling us to the balance of your Spirit in
Harmony with brothers and sisters;

To invoke your wisdom and grace, the goodness of the
ages. We pray:

ALL Come Holy Spirit, Come

SECOND READER

We turn to face South:

To your symbol colour God for the morning star;

To your symbol Brother Sun that enlightens our intellect
and brings light on our path to live responsibly;

To your lessons calling us to balance of Mind in the Spirit
of humility;

To invoke your spirit of illumination and far sighted vision;
Help us to love you and one another with our whole heart,
our whole mind and our whole soul. We pray:

ALL Come Holy Spirit, Come

THIRD READER

We turn to the West:

To your symbol colour Black, still and quiet;

To your animal symbol the Thunderbird;

To your symbol the Thunder might and purposeful;

To your lessons calling us to balance our emotions in the spirit of Gentleness and Honesty;

To invoke your spirit of introspection, seeing within;

Give us your strength and the courage to endure.

We pray:

ALL Come Holy Spirit, Come

FOURTH READER

We turn North:

To your symbol colour white of clarity and brightness;

To your animal symbol the Swan which brings us in touch with Mother Earth and growing things;

To your lessons calling us to balance of our Body in the spirit of a good sense of humour;

Help us to open our eye to the sacredness of every living thing. We pray:

ALL Come Holy Spirit, Come

FIRST READER

We turn to complete the circle and to look:

To God, our Creator who cleanses our Mother Earth with snow, wind and rain;

To Jesus the Christ, the Peacemaker, who fills us with the wideness of mercy and lovingly embrace of all;

and to the Holy Spirit who inspires us to action:

ALL Come Holy Spirit, Come

Collect of the Day

All: 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

The Proclamation of the Word (from the Common English Bible)

1st Reading Isaiah 40:25-31

Reader So to whom will you compare me, and who is my equal? says the holy one. Look up at the sky and consider: Who created these? The one who brings out their attendants one by one, summoning each of them by name. Because of God's great strength and mighty power, not one is missing. Why do you say, Jacob, and declare, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, my God ignores my predicament"? Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly

up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

Leader Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.

People **One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known.**

Leader Of course, there's no speech, no words— their voices can't be heard—

People **but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth.**

God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.

Leader The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite; like a warrior, it thrills at running its course.

People **It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other. Nothing escapes its heat.**

Leader The Lord's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being. The Lord's laws are faithful, making naive people wise.

People **The Lord's regulations are right, gladdening the heart. The Lord's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.**

Leader Honoring the Lord is correct, lasting forever. The Lord's judgments are true. All of these are righteous!

People **They are more desirable than gold— than tons of pure gold! They are sweeter than honey— even dripping off the honeycomb!**

Leader No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them.

People **But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong? Clear me of any unknown sin**

Leader and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me. Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.

People **Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen**

2nd Reading Philippians 4:4-9

Reader Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn – CP #412 O God, Beyond All Face and Form (v. 1, 2)

Holy Gospel John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

**Gradual Hymn – CP #412 O God, Beyond All Face
and Form (v. 3, 4)**

The Homily Rev. Bonnie Skerritt

Creed⁴

ALL We believe in the love of God, embodied in the person of Jesus, spread through the cosmos by the Holy Spirit.

A Litany for the Healing and Reconciliation⁵

Let us pray for God's people throughout the world, for this gathering, for our bishop *N*, and for all ministers and people.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Let us pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Let us pray for those in any need or trouble.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Holy Creator, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Risen Christ, through whom the whole creation is reconciled to God,

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Life-giving Spirit, whose love and truth fills the world and searches the depths of our lives,

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Holy Creator, from our failure to recognize and respect the revelation of your truth and love in the First Peoples of this land,

Lord, hear and have mercy.

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

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Touch our eyes, that we may see the sacredness in 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 of 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 the Turtle Island.

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 you give us to do.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples, 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.**

Confession

CELEBRANT 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.**

CELEBRANT 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

CELEBRANT The peace of Christ be always with you
PEOPLE **And also with you.**

Offertory Song – CP #575 Let Streams of Living Justice

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Prayer over the Gifts⁶

CELEBRANT 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.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

PEOPLE **Blessed be God forever.**

CELEBRANT Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

PEOPLE **Blessed be God forever.**

Eucharistic Prayer²

CELEBRANT God the Creator is here.

PEOPLE **God's Spirit is with us.**

CELEBRANT Lift up your hearts

PEOPLE **We lift them to God the Creator**

CELEBRANT Let us give thanks to God

PEOPLE **It is right to offer our thanks and praise.**

CELEBRANT 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 say

ALL Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

CELEBRANT 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.

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, Kateri Tekakwitha, Black Elk, Joseph Brant, Molly Brant, Henry Budd, James Settee and all saints and 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, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer^s

CELEBRANT As our Saviour taught us, we pray,
ALL Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trial too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Fraction

CELEBRANT Whoever comes to me shall not hunger
PEOPLE **and whoever believes in me shall
never thirst.**

CELEBRANT These are the gifts of God for the people of
God.

ALL **Thanks be to God**

Lamb of God CP #747

**Jesus Lamb of God, have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world, give us
your peace, give us your peace.**

Communion Hymns –

CP #63 Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

CP #532 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CP #349 All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Anthem - #307 When Long Before Time

Post-Communion Prayer

CELEBRANT Let us pray

ALL **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.**

Blessing²

Send us anywhere you would have us go, only go there with us. Place upon us any burden you desire, only stand by us to sustain us. Break any tie that binds us, except the tie that binds us to you. And the blessing of God; the Creator, who made and knows us; the Savior, who redeems and befriends us; and the Spirit, who enlightens and sustains us, be with you this day and always. Amen.

Closing Song - #576 For the Healing of the Nations

Dismissal

CELEBRANT In the name of the Light that came into the world go in peace.

PEOPLE Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Acknowledgement of Sources

¹ Image from "Anishnaabe Scrapbook" website

<https://390730383667008761.weebly.com/symbols.html>

² *Gelasian Sacramentary*

³ *Honouring the Four Directions, a resource prepared for a Day of Prayer for Indigenous Justice, Ottawa, 2013 and provided by the Anglican Church of Canada, Indigenous Ministries*

⁴ *University Episcopal Community at The Univ. of MN*

⁵ *Adapted from The Book of Alternative Services & Litany from The Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land, 2017*

⁶ *Offertory Prayer, Didache 3rd Century*

⁷ *adapted from the Eucharistic Prayer from the Liturgy of St. John's, Red Lake, MN and the NZ Maori Prayer Book*

⁸ *From the Anglican Church of New Zealand Maori Prayer Book*

⁹ *Blessing attributed to The Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong, Episcopal Church*

Music used with permission, CCLI #11236091, Streaming License #CSPL 156909