



United Church
October 20, 2019
World Food Sunday



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*
Bold print invites congregational response.
Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the Indigenous peoples with whom Treaty 4 - also known as the Haldimand Tract - was signed and the territory wherein our church resides, and we acknowledge our responsibilities as treaty members.

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements
Joys, Concerns & God Moments/Moments of Awe

Sharing the Light
We light a candle
in the name of the God who creates life,
in the name of the Christ Presence who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.

Centering words: from Buddhist wisdom.
When we think only of sincerely helping all others, not ourselves,
we will find that we receive all that we wish for.

***Gathering Song:** Morning Has Broken **VU 409**

Time with the Younger Ones: The Right Tools

Song: Jesus Loves Me **VU 365**

Children's Prayer:

Call to Worship: (based on Isaiah 25:6-9)

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October 20, 2019

Our God is preparing a feast for all peoples

and the whole world will be invited!

And God will wipe away the tears from every face,

and lift the despair from every heart.

And together, God's people will proclaim:

This is our God, in whom we place our trust!

Come, let us worship our generous God together.

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, in love you open wide the doors
and welcome us into your presence -

saints and sinners alike.

We come with joy to worship

to know your goodness and celebrate your grace.

May we be inspired by Spirit's presence

as we sing and pray and learn together.

Forgiving God, we come knowing our frailty.

Confessing thoughts and deeds

that separate us from one another and from you.

We seek to be reunited

with our true selves

with one another,

and with you.

We trust your promises and ask forgiveness.

Amen

Words of Assurance:

God's goodness and unfailing love

follows us all the days of our lives and beyond.

Let us be open to the extraordinary love that is ours.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Ministry of Music: The Light of Endless Love -McGuire/Hayes

Scripture: Isaiah 25:1-8 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

(God provides a banquet)

YHWH, you are my God - I exalt you! I praise your Name! For you do marvelous things, planned long ago with steadfast faithfulness. You turned cities into dump heaps, fortified cities into rubble; strongholds of foreigners are no more, never to be rebuilt. It is for this reason that the powerful honour you, and cities of ruthless people fear you.

Yet you are a refuge to poor people, a refuge to the needy in their distress, shelter in the storm, shade from the heat - for the breath of the ruthless is like an ice storm or a scorching drought. You subdue the roar of the enemy, and the mantra of tyrants is stilled.

On this mountain, YHWH Omnipotent will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, food rich and succulent, and fine, aged wines. On this mountain God will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, the shroud covering all nations, destroying all death forever.

God will wipe away the tears from every cheek, and will take away the shame of God's people on earth, wherever they live. YHWH has spoken.

Words to Ponder: About World Food Day

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) created World Food Day to commemorate its founding in Quebec City, October 16, 1945. The goal of the FAO is to free humanity from hunger and malnutrition, and to effectively manage the global food system. World Food Day events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and help strengthen the link between agriculture and food security.

Scripture: Luke 14:12-14 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)
(Invite the poor and infirm)

Then Jesus said to the host, "Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, don't invite your friends or colleagues or relatives or wealthy neighbours. They might invite you in return and thus repay you. No, when you have a reception, invite those who are poor or have physical infirmities or are blind. You should be pleased that they can't repay you, for you'll be repaid in the resurrection of the just."

Reader: Edith Hons

Message: Room at the Table -a drama

Narrator: Is there room for _____ at the table?

People: We welcome you to the table _____.

To contribute to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank please visit
www.donate.foodgrainsbank.ca

Hymn: Give Thanks for Every Gift (tune VU 213)

**Give thanks for every gift
this fertile earth displays;
to God your voices lift
in thankfulness and praise!
Our sea and sky, our fruitful land,
are blessings from Creator's hand.**

**Each passing season brings
its store of sun and rain,
as winters turn to springs
and summers bloom again;
then God be thanked for autumn fields,
the ripened grain that harvest yields.**

**And even as we pray
'Give us our daily bread,'**

**we long to see the day
when all the world is fed,
when justice reigns from shore to shore
and hunger stalks the earth no more.**

Offering:

***Offering Hymn:** For the Gift of Creation VU 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**Generous God, in your love and wisdom you have provided
for all of our needs, and so much more. In deep gratitude, we
offer back to you some of what we have received. Use these
offerings to minister to the world around us, so that others
may find a place at the table, and live without want or fear.
Amen.**

Prayer Prelude: Mother and God

VU 280

**Mother and God, to you we sing;
wide is your womb, warm is your wing.
In you we live, move and are fed
sweet flowing milk, life giving bread.
Mother and God, to you we bring
all broken hearts, all broken wings.**

Prayers of the People:

The Lord's Prayer:

***Hymn:** Together We Serve (tune VU 183)

**Together we serve united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
extending your love to the last and the least.**

**We seek to become a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

**We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**

**Together, by grace we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together, we serve in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.**

***Blessing:**

Go from here as the people of God,
**we go, strengthened in our desire
to live and act as God's people
in our hungry, hurting world.**
Go, knowing the blessings of God -
boundless love, redeeming grace,
and enduring presence -
are among you and within you - always.
Amen.

Parting Song: Every Day is a Day of Thanksgiving MV 185

**Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
God you've been so good to me.
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O my God, today!**

**You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
You opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
I will glorify you, O my God, today!**

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God you've been so good to me.
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O my God, today!**

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

Holy Wisdom, you invite us to the banquet, the banquet of life. All parts of the world are invited - enemies and friends, the alienated and powerful, those close at hand and those far off. In your lavish love none are forgotten or left out. Open our hearts to those in need around us that we might share your love with them. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Alma United Church

Western Ontario Waterways: Emmanuel: Waterloo

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Isobel Glennie, Joyce Keizerwaard, Karen Smillie

Counters: Norm Porritt and Karen Smillie