

God is here.

The containers are not empty.

Let us remember what the Holy One has done.

It is good to ground ourselves in Holy Mystery.

Maker of all things,
when the labour of creation was complete, you looked with
wonder on the new life that was part of you but separate now.
You counted the tiny atoms and starlets, marvelling at how
perfect they were.

**You smiled down at the creatures most like yourself and
imagined them smiling back even if it was too early for that
yet. You took delight in all that you had made.**

You knew the dangers
your creation would face,
and the dubious choices humans would make.
You knew the pain that lay ahead for them, and that you would
feel it too,
and you did not regret having made them, but loved them all the
more.

**And your heart still did somersaults when you saw them all
grown up,
their innocence gone, with scars to show for their troubles,
and all you wanted them... no, all you want us to know was
that you delight in us still. Your love and grace never runs
out.**

God, help us to see ourselves
and one another
through your eyes of love.

**May we take delight in your creation and as we rejoice,
see past the scars to the beauty underneath,
see not the failures but immense possibility,**

**see not empty containers, but disciples filled with potential
for ministry, reconciliation, and transformation.**

And so, we state a portion of our reality:

Holy, holy, holy One

God of justice and love

Heaven and earth are full of your wonder

Thanks and praise be among us.

You, O God, reorder the world into right-relationship.

You fill up the empty with good things.

You lift high those made low.

You humble the arrogant.

You hear the earth groaning under capitalism and consumption
and your fire burns in the hearts of your prophets.

**With this hope and assurance, we turn to the witness of
Jesus whose teachings reveal the way to liberation. We
seek his wisdom. We practice his courage. We remember
his radical commitment to love.**

In remembrance of that love which fills us up

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was birthed among us.

Christ was executed among us.

Christ rises again among us.

BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

May the Spirit come and settle upon these gifts

making this bread and this cup be for us a Holy Encounter.

Reminding us that Christ is with us.

That Resurrection is a promise granted to us.

That the Kindom is always closer than we can imagine.

May we be nourished, that we might nourish others. Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL OF CHRIST

The Bread of solidarity. **Amen.**

The Cup of blessing. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CHOIR ANTHEM: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

COMMUNION PRAYER

Beloved One, if we grow weary in love and find our spirits running low, may this meal live on as a reminder of what sustains us. In seeking the flourishing you intend for us, our neighbors, and this planet, keep our hearts tender, our spirits alive, and our senses attuned to the beauty that surrounds. With gratitude for your abiding presence, we pray. Amen.





Trinity United Church

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You are...Wanted...Included...Affirmed

Sunday, February 5, 2023 - 10:00 am

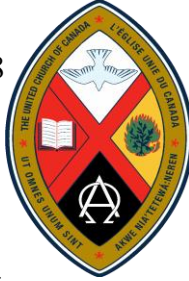
Theme: Costly Truth Telling

† indicates stand as you are able

Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices

VU = Voices United



Core Values: Living Faith - Inclusive Fellowship
Joyful Service – Being Anti-Racist – Affirming All

GATHERING AS COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

One: *Hadih*, welcome in the name of the Christ.

All: Welcome to this place of worship, situated on the Ancestral and unceded lands of the Lheidli T'enneh people.

One: Welcome to this place of blessing, this space of grace, and this holy sanctuary. This place where we discern how to live into the way of Jesus.

All: We gather this morning to share in song, word, prayer, to publicly, intentionally, and explicitly affirm that we are all an expression of the divine's holy light.

One: Be welcomed.

All: Be present.

One: Be a blessing.

LIFE & MINISTRY (Announcements)

GATHERING SONG: *A Light Is Gleaming* **VU#82**

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Let us shape an honest place,
shaped by our hurt as much as our gladness.

A place where weeping is allowed, and frustration shared.

Let us lament what has been corrupted and mourn what has passed.

Weep for that which is no longer, and protest against our fickle ways.

How lonely sits the city. How like a widow she has become.

Let us meet the God of life where we meet the shadows of the world.

Gathering Prayer (Unison)

Holy One, it isn't easy to always tell the truth, especially to those who have more power or influence than we do. We fear for our safety when the truth we have to tell isn't what others want to hear. Ground us in this time of worship that we might rediscover the strength of our truth and the support it has in this community. Help us borrow strength from others when our truth telling is too much to bear on our own. Help us share our truth, not to be malicious, yet honest about the justice, compassion, and love you call us to embody. Amen.

AFFIRMING GOD'S LOVE

Truth telling is not always easy. No one enjoys being the truth teller that everyone hates to see coming. It can be demoralizing to share your truth with people you love and trust only to have that truth thrown back in your face, dismissed, or countered with argument. Yet, the truth God has invested in you isn't just your truth. It's a reflection of the Divine's call for authenticity, justice, compassion, and love. Your truth has value. Your truth is real. Know that the Spirit of God is with you. In our diversity of expression, identity, and orientation; ability, shape, and backgrounds, God's light always shines. You are loved. You are worthy. You are a spark of the Divine.

Together may we share the light of Holy Mystery enfleshed in who we are. Together may we nurture and share our gifts for we are God's beloved community.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST SHARED WITH ALL

The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you.

† HYMN: *O God, Why Are You Silent* **MV#73**

A STORY FOR THE AGES

(Lectionary@Home: Isaiah 58;1-9a; Psalm 84; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12(13-16); Matthew 5:13-20)

FOCUS READINGS: Mark 6:14-29 (NIV)

Reader: In these pieces of Christian witness, we see Christ.
Many: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *Freedom*

SERMON: *Owning Your Truth*

WE RESPOND

† HYMN: *My Soul Cries Out* **MV#120**

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, OURSELVES & PRAYER OF JESUS (VU#959)

BEING THE CHURCH THROUGH SERVICE

SHARING OUR GIFTS FOR MINISTRY

†OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

Creator, as we bring before you ourselves, our time, and our treasure, may we also feel able to bring you our tears, trusting that you feel our sadness, that you help us to carry our burdens and that you will guide us along the path of healing and restoration as individuals, as a congregation, a community and a planet. So be it. Amen.

† HYMN: *Spirit, Open My Heart* **MV#79**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

†COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

†HYMN *Go, Make a Difference* **MV#209**

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP LEADERSHIP TODAY: *Worship Leader – Rev. Bob Fillier; Worship Assistant – TBA; Pianist – Vic Steblin; Choir Director – Erica Skowron; Associate Choir Director – Diane Kjorven; Adult Choir; Digital Ministry – Rebecca Fillier*

