

Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional
Council Plymouth-Trinity United
Church Order of Worship

Sunday, January 20, 2019
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Prelude

Welcome and greetings

Bon matin!

It is a snowy, windy and cold day! We are not being at Plymouth-Trinity this morning but, of course, we can have church wherever we are.

This is an attempt to sharing and worshipping together, even if we are not in the same physical space. I have desired to open the worship space to the virtual reality, this maybe an ultra motivation! The technology exists and some colleagues (i.e., Lee Ann) have been experiencing those new ways. We have to explore them.

Welcome and let us worship God.

Gathering song

Arise, your light is come! The spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim
the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Opening prayer

From the warmth of our comfortable homes, we pray that you help us open up, O GOD, to your loving presence. WE pray in the name of Jesus, amen.

Opening hymn Songs of thankfulness and praise VU 101

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
manifested by the star to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem, in your birth at Bethlehem:

Refrain:

“You are Christ,” by us confessed — God in flesh made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana, wedding guest, in your God head manifest,
you revealed your power divine, changing water into wine,
[Refrain]

3 Manifest in making whole weakened body, fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill: [Refrain]

Prayer of confession and Affirmation of grace

Let us confess our shortcomings, acknowledging the toxic air that we breathe and that we create. We tend to rob ourselves and rob others the joy and enjoyment of this life we have received from you. Have mercy.

On this Sunday of the Week for Christian Unity, forgive us our tendency to stick to our old ways. Renew in us the enthusiasm for your service; arouse in us a healthy appetite so that we may bite into your gifts with gusto.

Forgive us, when we turn our back to the new wine. Forgive us when we refuse the joy of simple pleasures that we are too fearful to fully enjoy. Have mercy; we implore you in Jesus' name. Amen!

The Good News is that God is Generous and does not deal in half measures. Out of God's fullness we are filled to the brim with saving grace. We are invited to drink abundantly and share with others. Christ Jesus is our example. *Thanks be to God!*

Response

Love is the touch of intangible joy; love is the force that no fear can destroy; love is the goodness we gladly applaud; God is where love is, for love is of God.

Affirmation of faith

Hymn Help us accept each other **Songs for a Gospel People 8**

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all not just for some, to love them as we find them or as they may be come.
3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.
4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Prayer for illumination

God, we pray that you help us hear and understand the message you have for us today. Please help us listen with open heart, open mind and open spirit. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

Isaiah 62: 1-5: *Our first reading is a beautiful, joyful and hopeful prophecy announcing to a tested and oppressed people that better days are coming.*

62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. 62:2 The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

62:3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

62:4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. 62:5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

John 2: 1-11: *today's Gospel lection is about the famous wedding in Cana. Jesus, according to John, is going to perform his first miracle, which John calls a "sign".*

2:1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2:2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

2:3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

2:4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." 2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

2:6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 2:7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 2:8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.

2:9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 2:10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

2:11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Word of God for the people of God : thanks be to God.

Message : ... *“They have no wine...”*

This is what Mary spontaneously and without being invited to tells Jesus when the wine ran out. How did she notice and how dared she? Is this surprisingly trait of character shows that she was ALSO a busy body?

Could not she mind her own business and know her place?

Apparently not!

Mary did not seem to bother what people think ... only what they needed. Did they REALLY need wine?

Yes!

It is essential to enjoy life. It is essential to shake away the dust and the acquired filters that make us feel guilty or inappropriate to enjoy pleasure.

What are those filters, those hurts, those disillusionings?

What is the responsibility of a certain mis-understanding of Christianity and morality? What is the heavy legacy of puritanism in the way we still judge ourselves and others?

A holistic approach to life teaches us that mind-body-soul and spirit form a whole package. There is nothing wrong about pleasure and joy, all to the contrary! Just reread carefully our first lesson: what does God change to what? ... Not to forget the very first **sign** of Jesus: **water into wine**.

Joy and pleasure are essential. They are to be consumed often and in moderation, with gusto!

May those who have ears to hear, listen. Amen!

Benediction

God leads us and guides us along the way! God lives each day with us!

May God keep us and bless us, and give us pleasures and joys to enjoy thoroughly! Amen!

Closing response

Amen

Announcements

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. On this second Sunday after Epiphany, celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the gentle winds of the Holy Spirit remind us of the need to continue to work for greater Christian unity! Bienvenue à l'Église Unie Plymouth-Trinity! Des Bibles en français se trouvent à l'arrière.

If you are a visitor, please join us for fair-trade coffee or a cold drink after the service and take a peace candle back to your congregation. You will find the candles on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Today we share in the Lord's Supper. Please let the minister know if somebody would like to receive Communion at home or in hospital.

The wooden Benevolent Fund box is on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Each time we share in Holy Communion we have the opportunity to donate to this fund which is used to purchase food vouchers for the minister to distribute to people in need, including our own members.

We thank our volunteers

Reader: Andrew Brown

Ushers: Andrew Brown and Val Rawlings

Communion: Andrew Brown & Janet McBurney

Sexton: Robert Stratton

Bulletin covers this week are donated by Inge Lunkenbein in memory of Jane Mallory, a dear friend who died January 21, 2016.

Happy birthday to Michael Eby (Jan. 20), and to Floriane Mepoubong, Velma Clowery & Rehema Alenga (all celebrating on Jan. 23).

Outside doors: Last Monday morning the side door was found locked but not properly latched, and the alarm was on. Please remember to check before you leave the building that all doors are locked and properly shut, especially in this cold weather.

Run for office! The Congregational Annual Meeting will take place Sunday, February 17. Apart from hearing team reports and approving the budget for 2019, we will be electing members to the Church Board. The nominating committee invites anyone interested in representing the congregation on the Board to submit their name either by calling the church office and leaving a message (819-346-6373), or by speaking, or sending an email, to Jack Eby (jeby@ubishops.ca), Janet McBurney (janetjammcb@gmail.com) or Ann Fowlis (fowlis@sympatico.ca). The Board meets about every 2 months; members are expected to attend, participate in the discussions and vote on financial and pastoral matters.

The UCW still has 2019 calendars available for \$7, please contact Janet McBurney at 819-565-9716 or janetjammcb@gmail.com to get yours.

Today

Celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 2 p.m. at the annual ecumenical celebration at the Église Marie-Médiatrice (3025 Galt West in Sherbrooke); preacher the Rev. Linda Buchanan. Au lieu du culte en français d'aujourd'hui, nous célébrons le service œcuménique de la Semaine de prière pour l'Unité des Chrétiens. Venez prier avec l'ensemble de la communauté à l'Église Marie-Médiatrice (3025 Galt O à Sherbrooke) à 14 h.

Next week / Semaine prochaine

Sunday, Jan. 27, Third after Epiphany

Lectionary readings: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

English service at 10:30 a.m.; culte en français à 13 h dans la chapelle.

Thursday, January 31: Our minister, Val Rawlings and Lennoxville United's Rev. Linda Buchanan will lead services at St. Francis Manor in Lennoxville at 10:30 a.m. and at Grace Village at 1:30 p.m.

Friday, February 1 to 3: *Worshiplude 2019* is coming up fast! A wonderful and fun weekend in Ottawa, for Youths and Young Adults. Contact Shanna.Bernier@gmail.com .

United Church of Canada

The new organizational structure of The United Church of Canada became official on January 1. Find out more about the new changes, including names of the regional councils, on the United Church website (by going through the News section on

our own website, www.PlymouthTrinityChurch.org . Our News section is updated at least weekly, and you're missing out on a lot of news if you're not checking in regularly!

The Manual of The United Church of Canada, 2019 edition, is now available online. It went into effect January 1. Check out the News section of our own P-T website and download a copy!

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Office hours Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m. to noon

Église Unie Plymouth-Trinity United Church, January 20, 2019