

**Mill Woods United Church
July 05, 2020, 10:30 am
Livestreamed with Facebook Live**

Worship leader: Rev. Ian Kellogg
Musicians: Bryan LeGrow, Barb Kitagawa,
Jennifer McPhee, and Len Penner
Facebook Live and PowerPoint: Brian Sampson

"Every time we forgive a neighbor, make a child smile, show compassion to a suffering person, or arrange a bouquet of flowers, we make the vision of God's Peaceable Kingdom come true– Henri Nouwen

Music as we gather

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

as we sing "Holy Spirit, Come to Us"

MV #75

**Holy Spirit, come to us, kindle in us the fire of your love.
Holy Spirit, come to us. Holy Spirit, come to us.**

Gathering Prayer

Opening Hymn: "God of the Sparrow"

VU #229

**God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise.**

**God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save.**

**God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks.**

**God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life.**

God of the neighbour God of the foe God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace.

**God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home.**

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We listen to two readings

Alternative Community, by Fr. Richard Rohr, June 2020

People want something more from church than membership. They long for a spiritual home that connects with their whole life, not just Sunday morning. Church is meant to be a place that nurtures and supports individuals along their full journey toward the Reign of God.

Today, we are seeing the emergence of new faith communities. They may not look like traditional “church,” but they often exemplify the kinds of community that Jesus and Paul envisioned. People are gathering digitally and in person today through neighborhood associations, study groups, community gardens, social services, and volunteer groups. They’re seeking creative ways of coming together, nurturing connection, of healing and whole-making.

Paul seems to think that corporate evil can only be overcome with corporate good. Cultural blind spots can only become visible by a group of people affirming and supporting one another in an alternative consciousness. Thankfully, we’re now seeing many people, religious and secular, from all around the world, coming together to form alternative systems for sharing resources, living simply, and imagining a sustainable future. It has been one of the spiritual gifts of the pandemic.

Prophecy is not just being spoken; it is being lived in confrontations led by those who were previously powerless. Those who had simply accepted exclusion and exploitation are coming out of the tombs of substandard housing, disease-infected neighborhoods, economically enslaving jobs, schools that strengthened illiteracy, and churches that perpetuated segregation. Those who had been dead are now coming back to life.

Deep bonds often form during times of crisis, loss and uncertainty; and people seek solidarity in human connection. What new communities and associations are being forged

right now? How will they grow in the months and years ahead? What lifestyle changes and prophetic actions are being called forth by the new realities created by COVID-19?

Matthew 10: 1, 5-8 (Jesus sends out the twelve)

Jesus gathered his twelve students and gave them authority to expel unclean spirits and heal sickness and diseases of all kinds.

These twelve Jesus sent out after giving them the following instructions:

“Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel; and as you go, make this proclamation: ‘The Reign of God has drawn near.’

“Heal those who are sick, wake up those who are asleep, and refresh those who are suffering. You received freely -- now freely give.”

Reflection: Think globally, act locally

... **music for meditation** ...

Minute for Mission – Jennifer McPhee

Sharing joys and concerns

Prayers of the people ...

... **The Prayer of Jesus**

O thou, the Breath and Light of All,
May your Love create a heart-shrine within,
and your counsel lead us to Oneness --
as in all light, so in all forms.
May we find each day both bread and insight,
and loosen the cords of the mistakes that bind us,
just as we release any strands we hold of other's faults.
May surface things not delude us or lead us to commit unripe acts.
From Love springs the ruling mind, the life that can act
and the song that can beautify all.
From age to age it renews.
In faith, let us be true. Amen.

Closing Hymn – "Touch the Earth Lightly"

VU #307

**Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**We who endanger, who create hunger, agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster, God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

**Let there be greening, birth from the burning, water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children, regeneration that peace will complete.**

**God of all living, God of all loving, God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us, using us gently and making us one.**

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Blessing

"Give Peace to Every Heart"

MV #86

"Give peace to every heart. Give peace to every heart. Give peace. Give peace"

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

This Sunday

LIVESTREAM ONLY: On July 5, we will reflect on how a spirit of worldwide solidarity can inform our work at the local level of church, family, and neighbourhood.

Next Sunday

LIVESTREAM ONLY: On July 12, we will reflect upon the blessings of summer with inspiration from a famous gospel story about the birds of the air and the flowers of the field (*Matthew 6*) and a poem by Mary Oliver ("*The Summer Day*"). We will also celebrate communion and gather after the service for a Zoom-based Coffee Time.