

WELCOME

If you are a visitor or newcomer, our first hope is that you will experience God's love and care. Our second hope is that you will also experience our love and care. Some of us are shy and quiet. Others of us are bold and outgoing. Yet, in all our ways we want to say: "YOU ARE WELCOME!"

Offering gifts to God's service is an integral part of our worship. Many people at St. Martin's have chosen to make their offering by post-dated cheque or PAR. Others prefer weekly offering envelopes. Visitors and guest should not feel obligated to share in our offering, but if you so desire you may find offering envelopes at the entrance to the sanctuary.

MUSIC

At St. Martin's we are richly blessed by many fine musicians. We encourage you to acknowledge their contributions to worship through silence, or when impelled by the Spirit, through applause.

OUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bob McPherson - Chair of the Board
Randy Cline - Board Chair Elect
Cathy Anderson - Secretary of the Board
James Cook - Treasurer
Kevin Hurlburt - Caretaker
Brandy Emmerich - Office Administrator
Brian Walton - Pastoral Care & Worship Leadership
Keith Hall - Youth, Young Adults, Newcomer Relations, Volunteers & Pastoral Care
Darren Wooff - Children's Ministry & Outreach
Betty Lou Agnew - Organist
Cara Wilson - Handbell Choir
Keith Hall & Erin Tempel - Contemporary Singers
Aliah Nelson & Mars Zhao - Sanctuary Choir
Lori Cline Flath - Band Together



A congregation of The United Church of Canada

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Vision: To be a thriving, welcoming faith community that makes the example of Christ relevant to our living.

The Fifth Sunday of the Easter Season- Affirming Sunday April 29, 2018

Words of Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

Community News

Lighting the Christ Candle

Invitation to Worship (*Kit Loewen*)

Creator has placed each and every one of us upon this precious earth and given us purpose for our lives.

Today, we praise Creator for the earth below our feet; and Mother Earth for all the ways she sustains us.

As we recognize the seasons imbedded in the medicine wheel we seek justice and right relations for all.

Creator has given us the eastern direction: the direction from which the sun rises each day, the gift of vision and of children.

We are thankful for the dawning of each new day; may we view the world with child-like wonder, full of awe and humility.

Creator has given us the southern direction: the direction of honesty, adolescence, and growth.

Help us to speak only the truth, and to open our hearts to hear the stories of others.

Inspire us to grow in the image of Christ who teaches us to walk the good path.

Creator has given us the western direction:
the direction of adulthood, harvesting,
and deep spiritual understanding.

**Give us the tools we need to act on the knowledge we gather
and teach us to act with maturity and grace.**

Creator has given us the northern direction:
the direction of Elders, achievement,
and a deep connection to spirituality.

**Help us to honour the wisdom of the wise ones
and to learn from the past.**

**Holy Spirit, give us the teachings we need to correct the wrongs,
and to live lives full of love, peace, and hope.**

**Be with us now, Creator, as we seek to know you more deeply.
Amen.**

(adapted from Living on the Path of Respect: www.united-church.ca)

Theme Song: "The Spring Has Come" VU #187

**The Spring has come, let all the church be part of it!
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day, the spring has come,
Let all the church be part of it!**

(repeat)

Opening Prayer (Ken Glover)

Creator God, send your Holy Spirit upon us.

**We welcome your Spirit into our minds as our thinking;
we welcome your Spirit into our senses as our perceiving;
we welcome your Spirit into our throats as our speaking;
we welcome your Spirit into our hearts as our loving;
we welcome your Spirit into our bodies as our moving,
all so that we may love and serve your world, your church
and your people.**

God of hope, you entrusted us with the knowledge of justice;
help us as we seek it.

You have revealed how Indigenous peoples
have experienced injustice, at times, in and through

the church.

**Help us to acknowledge the past, to grieve the mistakes
and to go forward seeking truth, justice and reconciliation.**

Create within us an awareness of the wounds,
and the intention to offer healing.

This we pray in and through the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

(adapted from Living on the Path of Respect: www.united-church.ca)

Lifting our Voices in Song

"Praise with Joy the World's Creator" VU#312

Story Time with Darren

Children and Youth (11:00 only) are Invited Downstairs

Prayer of Reconciliation (Erin Tempel)

Great Comforter, we know that we are surrounded
by a legacy of pain.

**We acknowledge the grief, and sorrow caused
by not living respectfully with all people,
and we are sorry for the ways that we have dishonoured
the depths of this pain.**

Open us, Creator, to the power of interconnectedness:

help us to receive the painful stories as well as the inspiring ones.

Grant us the courage to own feelings of vulnerability,
of shame, fear, or guilt that may come with our growing awareness.

Lead us through the aching toward your dream of wholeness.

Transform us and our community

so that we may work toward reconciliation and new life.

Amen.

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Lifting our Voices in Song

"God Weeps" MV 78

Listening for God's Word:

2 Corinthians 5: 16 to 21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Matthew 5: 23 - 24

²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Reflections on Reconciliation - (*Kit Loewen*)

Response to the Reading

Lifting our Voices in Song

"Spirit God, Be Our Breath" MV#150

Affirming Minute (*Dorothy Griffith*)

Offering Our Gifts

Offering Song "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One:

Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ the Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong" let the poor say "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say "I am strong" let the poor say, "I am rich"

because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (*Brian Walton*)

Lifting our Voices in Song

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" VU 375

Words of Blessing (*Brian Walton*)

Let us go forth called to God's holy covenant.

God continues to guide us:

attending to our stories,

healing us as brothers and sisters,

showing us how to live in right relations.

God promises to bless and encourage us on the path of respect.

Go with the peace and promise of God,

the energy of the Spirit of Love,

and the passion of Jesus. Amen