

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
Cathy Anderson - Secretary of the Board
Dale Worrall - Treasurer
Kevin Hurlburt - Caretaker
Brandy Emmerich - Office Administrator
Jordan Cantwell - Worship Leadership, Admin, Pastoral Care
Keith Hall - Youth, Young Adults, Newcomer Relations, Volunteers & Pastoral Care
Darren Wooff - Children's Ministry, Outreach, Christian Ed
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.

Epiphany 5 February 10th, 2019 11:00 a.m.

Community News (10:55 am)

Words of Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Territory

In the spirit of reconciliation
let us acknowledge our relationship
with the Indigenous people of this land.

We acknowledge that we are gathering for worship on the traditional lands of the First Nations and the homeland of the Metis. We are all Treaty people bound by the understandings made in the agreement known as Treaty Six.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Time of silence to enter into worship

Lighting the Peace Candle

Sing "Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary" MV #18 (repeat)

[remain seated as we sing]

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

Invitation to Worship

Have you not known the God of the downtrodden:
the God of Hagar and Ruth and Paul?

Yes, we know this God and surely this God knows us.
Have you not heard the gospel of the oppressed:

the story of liberation, freedom, and salvation?

Yes, we have heard this story and surely this story lives in us.

We know and we have heard that God is good,

all the time!

And all the time,

God is good. Amen!

Lifting our Voices in Song “Know That God is Good” MV #104 (sing 4x)

Opening Prayer

Creator and Keeper of covenants and treaties old and new, whose voice we hear in the winds of the four directions, your Spirit inspires us to celebrate your presence and live with respect in creation. False doctrines have distorted our relations upon these shores for centuries, with colonization twisting and blurring your image in us. Yet you call us, still, to walk humbly seeking the good paths of justice. Our hearts and lands long for liberation and transformation. May our worship reconnect us to the truth of who you are, and who we are, and move us to claim our shared sacred responsibility, for we pray in the name of the broken and blessing one, Jesus. Amen.

Story Time with Susanne

Children are invited downstairs....

Prayer for Reconciliation

The drum does not beat alone, nor does the heart, in the circle of life.

How difficult it has been, O Creator, for us to be humble and caring. We so easily forget your teachings of the just and right relationships that we are to have with each other, as relatives in this land. We so easily forget that our responsibility carries from generation to generation for all those who are hurt and oppressed and denied their place in the circle of life – those who still need our support, who need justice and peace. How difficult it is for us to remain humble as we walk the road of life. May we find peace so that we might share peace that is genuine and real and help others to know peace within. Spirit of life, help us to walk the road of integrity back to the circle of life, where we will be truly joined by all our relations. Amen.

[A time for silent reflection]

Lifting our Voices in Song “Spirit of Life” VU #381 (sing 2x)

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Minute for Mission

Offering Our Gifts

Offering Song “What Can I Do?” (MV #191)

**What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?
I’ll sing with joy. I’ll say a prayer. I’ll bring my love. I’ll do my share.**

Prayers of the People

Let us gather ourselves to be present here and now and join our hearts and minds as we offer praise and thanks and pray for mercy, grace, wisdom, hope, and new life.

Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled in gratitude for the amazing gift of your creation, and for the teachings of Indigenous relatives that reconnect us to the land, water, sky, and creatures of all kinds. May the wisdom of your creation’s balance and harmony unite and enliven us.

Creator God, in thanksgiving inspire us. With your Spirit nurture in us gratitude for all your gifts, and for Indigenous wisdom toward creation.

Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled in lament for the ways we have used theology to justify the theft of land and twisted the gospel to condemn Indigenous Peoples. Pour your love into our hearts so that we might build right relations of mutuality, equity, and respect and be responsible keepers of the lands and waters.

Creator God, in your grace transform us. With your Spirit guide us in living out right relations with all people based on respect and equity.

Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled in seeking healing for our churches as we move from a legacy of colonization and domination to creating a new future built on right relations and gracious mutual habitation on these lands. We are sorry for the harms we have committed in your name against the First Peoples of this land. We acknowledge the grace and resilience shown by Indigenous Peoples themselves, as we share the hope of reconciliation.

Creator God, in your wisdom heal us. With your Spirit strengthen us to be agents of wholeness and wellness with all nations and peoples.

Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled in our need for encouragement, so that our repentance may go beyond words to actions of solidarity and justice. We ask for your mercy, wisdom and courage, to relinquish beliefs in our superiority, and take up the way of humility, compassion, and caring.

Creator God, in your hope give us courage. With your Spirit transform us to live in harmony with all creation and care for all humanity.

Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled as we pray for ourselves and for all Christian churches around the world, that we may faithfully follow the example of Jesus, who showed us the good path of justice, reconciliation, and peace-building through the sharing of all Earth's resources for the common good.

Creator God, in your love give us faith and new life. With your Spirit help us to be co-creators of a world of justice and peace.

Creator God, Holy Friend, we name before you now, aloud or in silence, those persons, places, and situations that are in special need of your comfort, healing and peace.... May your Spirit be present to those in need.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lifting our Voices in Song "Like a Healing Stream" MV #144

Listening for God's Word: First Reading – Amos 5:21-24

I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Second Reading – John 4:1-26

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, 'Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John'— although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar,

near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

This is testimony from our ancestors in faith.

Thanks be to God!

Band Together – "Love the Lord"

Response to the Readings "Thirsting for Reconciliation"

Time for silent reflection

Lifting our Voices in Song “River” MV #3

Words of Blessing

Sing VU #974 Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen! (repeat)

Portions from this service were adapted from materials published by the United Church of Canada. Additional credits to Alf Dumont and Alydia Smith.