

**Lakefield & Young's Point United
Worship
September 12, 2021**



Announcements:

- Take note of our new worship time! See you at 10:30 AM
- Masks, physical distancing and proof of vaccination required to enter the building.
- Please pick up a stone and a sticker as you enter the sanctuary or bring them with you to our online service.
- Celebrations: Anniversaries and Birthdays
- The sympathy of the Congregation is extended to
 - The Stewart Family on the death of Winnie Stewart. Our hearts grieve with you.
 - The Neill/Kidd Family on the death of Kyle Kidd. Please know we hold you in light and love.
 - The Brar/Hardill Family on the death of Gurdip, Deepinder's father. We hold you in respect and grace, as we pray for peace.
- LF Coordinating Council Wednesday Sept, 7:00 pm
- LF Congregational Meeting, Sunday Sept 19, following worship.
- We give thanks for Jessica McNutt, our song leader this morning.

Greeting

While the doors of our buildings have had to be closed, the Church has of course been open, serving our communities in all sorts of wonderful and creative ways - praying for the needs of the congregation and beyond, livestreaming worship, celebrating milestones in weird and wonderful ways, walking with the grieving, and connecting in print and online. And now, the doors of our building are open again for worship. We are still the church and we will continue to serve, giving people space to reflect, to grieve, to say thank you, to renew hope. We are utterly

committed to serving our communities with the physical resources we have in the safest way we can. Welcome to in person worship.

Land Acknowledgment

We gather today, respectfully acknowledging that Lakefield United Church is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as Williams Treaty First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

Lakefield United Church respectfully acknowledges that the Parties of Williams Treaties are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that we all must take responsibility and work together to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

We Light the Candle

Through the ages, the Holy One has moved people to build houses of prayer and praise, and to set apart places for the ministry of God's holy Word and Sacraments. In gratitude we return to this place to hear God's Word proclaimed and to celebrate our faith. We remember that where two or three are gathered, Christ is in the midst of them.

Hymn In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here, in the love of Christ, I stand

2.
There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,

For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

3.
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.
Here in the power of Christ we stand.

Call to Worship

Calling the ancestors: hands open downward, facing the earth.
We remember and give thanks for the foundation you built,
the church you loved, the community you grew.
We carry our faith in this new day.

Reaching out to each other: hands open, circle around.
We reach out to each other, greeting each other without words.
We are thankful for the blessing of being present,
here, in our sanctuary, with each other.
We offer blessing, on this new day.

Remembering our friends who are not here: hands over heart.
We are grieving the dear ones who are not here.
We lament that it is not safe to move freely because of COVID-19.
For all who are missing, but close in spirit, we hold you in love, this day.

Trusting God with the future: raise hands in gesture of let it be.
We do not know what the future holds, Holy One.
We extend our hopes and prayers for the world,
out in cyberspace, across the distance, into the community.
Grateful to once again worship in this place,
we bless, in your name.
We pray, as your people.
May we be a sign of your coming,
and a sign of hope. Amen.

Adapted from Gathering Pentecost 2 2021

Prayer of Illumination

God of the Bible MV 28

Jessica McNutt

Proverbs 1:20—33 pg. 584-85 Susan and Mike Wood-Bohm

John 14: 1-4, 23-31 pg. 108-9 Susan and Mike Wood-Bohm

Reflection Lamenting, Thanksgiving, and Dreaming

Lament Light a Candle

Over the past 18 months many of us have suffered loss. We may have lost a loved one. We may have lost opportunities due to restrictions from Covid. And we've all certainly lost time with family and friends.

In the midst of that loss, we have not been able to gather in rituals that allow us to grieve or to support those we care about. We've lacked the opportunity for closure.

We've suffered from loneliness and isolation. Some of us have suffered from mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. We've missed coming to church and gathering in community.

Lamentation and grieving are part of the human condition. Lamenting is an important act. And so let us take time to remember and acknowledge our losses.

Our church community is missing Marie and George, Keith and Marion, Ed, Helen, Donna, June, Ruby, Jim, and Winnie. In our wider community, we remember Max, Alexander, Georgina, Robert, Harley, Jan, Kyle and Gurdip. We haven't been able to gather as a community to grieve or to support their loved ones. And so we acknowledge those losses today, and we offer our loving support to their families.

We invite you to take a moment and think of the names of loved ones who have died in the past year and a half.

Silence

We also lament the letting go, tearing down and throwing away of long held activities and traditions. Things like Christmases and Easters within our church and extended families, gatherings to celebrate milestone birthdays and anniversaries. We've lost opportunities to gather with neighbours to play cards, exercise and play sports together. We miss attending sporting events, shows, vacations, travel.

We've had to refrain from embracing for so long that many of us yearn for a hug. We long for the time when we can once again embrace as we meet one another on the street.

What are the things you lament?

We invite you to take the stone you picked up on the way in, and hold it, as you name those people and things that you have had to let go of. In times of loss, we remember the rock-solid love of God.

Thanksgiving Light A Candle

Thanksgiving binds communities together, turning 'I' into 'we'. Perhaps you were part of the candle lighting rituals that sprang up over the pandemic. Or maybe you rang a bell, banged a pot, or honked a horn in parades of thanks for essential workers, celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries.

Maybe you had the freedom to work from home, or didn't have to worry about working at all. Maybe you started communicating more often with family and friends. Maybe you learned a new skill, like how to participate in a Zoom meeting or navigate Facebook. Maybe you found out how much you were loved in your time of need.

Even when we haven't been able to gather for worship, we've reached new people, as we've expanded our reach through cyber space – reaching so many more people than we ever see on a Sunday morning in this sanctuary. Weddings and funerals have been sent through Zoom, YouTube and Facebook straight into people's hearts where the love is felt despite the miles of distance. Babies have been born and baptized. Life, continues.

As followers of Christ, as resurrection people, we are reminded that we sometimes need to go through Good Friday in order to truly appreciate Easter resurrection. This past 18 months has been like a Good Friday time in many of our lives. But we need not lose hope. The resurrection came for Jesus, just as it will for us. Just as important perhaps, this past 18 months has given us new and different ways of being community, of living our faith. My friend Ann says: I have discovered in the past 18 months that I don't have to rush from one thing to the next. I've found more time to reflect, and to simply be. Take the sticker you have in your hand and watch it twinkle, where do you see new life's glimmer? Give thanks to God for the

gifts have you been given; celebrate the grace and new life you have discovered over this time apart.

Silence

Naming our losses, lamenting, rejoicing – even silently, the unexpected gifts of this crisis as well as its challenges, will give us strength for the journey of renewal and restoration. When it was time for Jesus to leave the disciples, he reminded them of the important things: the love of God the things he taught them, and that they would never be alone. We entrust ourselves to God, practicing resurrection over and over in confidence of the one who leads us into the future: ‘I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope’ (Jeremiah 29:11).

Dreaming Light a Candle

Hope is ours to search for, to reach for and to live into. Hope is what keeps us going. What is the Spirit calling us to do and be in this time and place as followers of Christ? Who and how are we being called to be the church, to gather community, to offer compassion and to deepen faith?

While we may have been apart from one another, the Spirit drew us together, just as Jesus promised, and we were not left alone. Thanks be to God.

As we begin to gather together again, lamenting, thanksgiving, and dreaming. As you exit the sanctuary today, you are invited to pick up a packet of seeds, a reminder of hope. A reminder to dream. Listen for Wisdom’s cry in the streets. Pay attention to the Advocate. And seek the way of the Christ in all things. May it be so.

Pastoral Prayer

O God of wisdom,

Life turns and we find ourselves seeking your wisdom for the way.

As our children are headed back to school and college to learn anew, help us pass on to them the wisdom that has been given down to us from the generations before us.

Infuse teachers with patience and knowledge.

Grant discernment and compassion as they learn life’s lessons of interacting with people around them.

Endow parents and partners with grace as they seek to guide learning.

As some of our schedules regain structure after a long hiatus, and others continue to work from the dining room table, we ask for your wisdom to discern how to deal with others we meet, live with, work with, shop with, drive our roads with, wait in line with, eat with and be with daily.

We ask for your wisdom when voting in the upcoming elections.

We ask for your wisdom in dealing with injustices in our world.

We ask for your wisdom as we reach out to those in need in our communities and in our world.

We ask for wisdom as we minister to those who are homebound and in nursing homes.

We ask for your wisdom as we minister to those in hospitals, in recovery and rehab.

We ask for your wisdom that not only enlightens us but transforms us and guides us in our daily walk with you.

Send the advocate to comfort, companion, care for, and confront us, as we seek to follow the ways of Jesus Christ.

adapted from Rev Abi

And so we gather all these prayers in the unconditional love of Christ who taught his friends to say ...

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Remembering the Offering

As we worship we acknowledge the many blessings God has provided. And so we offer our gifts in gratitude and as a response to God's generosity. We give thanks for your on-going generosity in sharing your gifts with the church. Bless the gifts given, O God, and bless those who give them. Help us to use these gifts so that your presence will be known by all those we serve in this community, and through the mission and service fund, may we also reach out beyond our church and our community. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy VU 315

Extinguish the Candle

Benediction

Creator God,
may your peace go with us wherever we will be this day
May you guide us through the challenges,
protect us when in need
and inspire us with your love.

May we acknowledge your presence
in all the goodness we will see.

Creator God,
we now go into this day in the name of the Father
and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
 adapted from Third Space