

Sunday Bulletin June 19

Welcome to this time of worship here in Stonewall United. We strive to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of age, race, creed, gender, cultural background or sexual orientation. We are seekers and questioners searching for meaning within and behind the Christian story. We don't have to believe in a particular scriptural interpretation for we know God touches us in many ways. We are free to express our faith in various ways. Feel open to do so too.

Welcome & Lighting of Christ Candle

Introit: VU 375 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" (vs 4)

Reading of Mission Statement:

We strive to be a welcoming, accepting, and caring church committed to (pause):

- 1. Spiritual growth through the teaching of Jesus Christ,**
- 2. Community Outreach,**
- 3. Pastoral Care and**
- 4. Personal Nurturing.** (Adopted February, 1998)

Call To Worship:

We often feel as if we are wandering through our lives, searching for something we cannot name. We come today to listen for hope, to pray for strength, and to experience God's love.

Speak to us of faith, hope, and love, O Lord.

As the deer longs for flowing water in the wilderness, we long to drink deeply of God's promise for us. Knowing God is here, we join together on our journey.

Lead us to your still waters, O Lord.

Imprisoned by rules of our own making, we come to remember and claim our faith. Assured by the vision of Christ, whose sacrifice leads us to heaven, we come in fellowship with one another.

Clothe us in the love of Christ, O Lord.

With shouts of praise and songs of thanksgiving, we come to celebrate the God of hope, the Spirit of peace, and the Christ of redeeming love.

We come to pray.

We come to sing.

We come to worship and praise.

Opening Prayer:

God, father, and mother of us all, we adore you, whose name is love. We, your children, ask your blessing, for your nature is compassion, your presence joy; your Spirit goodness; your holiness is beauty, your will peace. Your service is perfect freedom.

*Opening Hymn: VU 313 "God Whose Almighty Word"

1. God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight, hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light.
2. Jesus, who came to bring on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight, health to the troubles mind,
sight to the Spirit blind, O now to human kind
Let there be light.
3. Spirit of truth and love, life giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight; move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place
Let there be light.
4. Blessed and holy three, glorious trinity, wisdom, love, might,
boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide,
Let there be light.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord of the ages, in our busy lives, we do not always make time to love, to pray, or to sing your praises.

We want to be strong, yet we often feel out of control: buffeted by the winds of change, rocked by the earthquakes in our relationships, burned by the fires of doubt.

Forgetting what we cannot see, we ask, "Why have you forgotten me?" Help us trust your presence, even when we feel utterly alone, trapped in our dark night of the soul. With the promise of Christ as our hope, lead us from our own wilderness wanderings into the well-tended garden of your love.

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Learning Time: "Does God Have A Big Toe?"
- "No Lists on the Sabbath"

Prayer

Lord's Prayer: (Ecumenical Version)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

*Children's Hymn: MV 156 "Dance With the Spirit"

1. Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin'
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.

Work and hope for the new life abornin'
Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

2. Dance with the Spirit early in the morin'
move with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life abornin'
Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.
3. Dance with the Spirit early in the morin'
sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life abornin'
Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Psalm 42-43 VU 768 Refrain 1

**Refrain: "Why rest-less, why cast down my soul?
Hope still and you will sing!"**

Like a deer that longs for life-giving waters,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

**My soul thirsts for you, the source of my life.
When shall I come and face?**

Day and night I taste only tears,
while they steadily belittle me, saying, "Where is your God?"

**But I remember – though my soul is distressed –
how I went with the crowds to the house of God,**
our voices joyful and filled with praise,
a multitude keeping festival. **R**

My soul is overwhelmed within me;
therefore I remember you in this land of Jordan,
in Hermon, and on Mount Mizar.

**Like the turbulent roar of your waterfalls,
all your waves and currents wash over me.**

With loving kindness you bless my days,
and by night your song is with me, a prayer to you, Giver of life.

**I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me?"
Why must I go like a mourner because
my foes oppress me?"**

I am like one whose bones are broken to pieces

Through the taunting of my enemies.

They steadily belittle me, saying, "Where is your God?"

R

Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause against faithless ones.
Save me from those who are deceitful and unjust.

You are the God in whom I take refuge.

**Why have you rejected me? Why must I go like a
mourner because my foes oppress me?**

O send your light and your truth to lead me,
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

Then I will go to the altar of God,

to God my exceeding joy.

I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God. R

Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Gift of Music: "I Call You Friend"

Gospel Reading: Luke 8:26-39

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs.

When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'— for Jesus had

commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Reflection

*Hymn: VU 325 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
Holy Zion's help for ever, and its confidence alone.
2. To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;

with your faithful loving kindness hear your
servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction shed within its walls always.

3. Here bestow on all your servants what they ask
of you to gain,
with your faithful loving kindness
hear your servants as they pray,
and here after in your glory evermore with you to reign.
4. Laud and honour to the Father, laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit, ever three and ever one,
one in might, and one in glory, while unending ages run.

Affirmation of Faith: "A New Creed"

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Minute for Mission: "Whole Life Ministry"

Presentation of Gifts and Offerings

Sung Response: VU 518 "As Those of Old" (Vs 3)

3. With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
not just to serve your cause, but share your love
with neighbours too.
O God, who gave your-self to us in Jesus Christ, your son
Help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Prayer of Dedication:

We offer praise with deepest gratitude, that you have blessed us with your bounty. As we return a portion of your blessing to us, use these offerings and tokens of our devotion: to increase wisdom in the world, to protect the created order, to bless the vulnerable, to heal the sick, and to comfort the afflicted. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

*Hymn: VU 606 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In him shall true hearts every-where
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding human-kind.
3. Join hands, then, people of the faith,
what-e'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christ like souls are one in him
through-out the whole wide earth.

Announcements

Request for Photos

Do you have photos pertaining to events/activities that the church has been involved in since 2007? Like Quarry Days Dunk Tank, Luncheons, April Evenings, Church Anniversaries 30th for Stonewall or UC of Canada, Selkirk Presbytery, Conference, Fundraising evenings for a variety of groups by the church, Sun

Rise Service, Sunday School events, Refugee Fund Raiser, etc. etc. Please provide the date of the pictures. Send the pictures preferably by email or bring them to the office - **deadline is June 22nd** .

United Church Emergency Response Fort McMurray

Phone 416-231-5931 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738 and use your Visa or MasterCard.

Send a cheque, money order, or Visa or MasterCard information with donation amount to:

The United Church of Canada
Philanthropy Unit - Emergency Response
3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 300
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Make cheque out to United Church of Canada, be sure to note "Emergency Response—Fort McMurray" in memo area of cheque

Tuesday, June 21st

11:30 am Ministerial Meeting

5:00 pm Single Senior's Pot Luck Supper @ Parochial Hall.

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 22nd

7:00 pm Choir Practice.

Friday, June 24th

9:00 am – 12:00 noon Linus Group in the Lower Hall.

Saturday, June 25th

8:00 – 9:30 am Restorative Yoga in the lower hall.

10:00 am Set Up for the Pot Luck Luncheon on Sunday.

Sunday, June 26th

10:00 am Reverend Leonard's last service before retiring.

Congregation, friends and anyone wishing to come are invited to the service and/or the Pot Luck Luncheon and fellowship time immediately following the service

Wednesday, June 29th

2:00 pm Rosewood Lodge Service with Reverend Leonard.

Office Hours for July & August

Summer is around the corner and the Secretaries office hours will be changing for July & August they are as follows:

**Wednesdays & Thursdays from
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Please a message on the phone and calls will be answered daily.

A reminder that while you are on holidays the churches expenses are ongoing.

***You may mail donations to:**

**Stonewall United Church,
Box 1099,
Stonewall, MB. R0C 2Z0**

***Consider going on PAR an Pre-Authorized Remittance.
Forms are available at both doors.**

***You may bring your donations to the church during the secretaries office hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm on Wednesdays or Thursdays during the months of July & August.**

***We like to keep the treasurer paying the bills!**

Blessing/Commissioning:

God has poured blessing after blessing upon us. We are healed and sent forth to serve in God's world. We go in peace and may God's peace always be with us. AMEN.

*Choral Closing: VU 286 "If You Will Trust In God To Guide You" (Vs 1)

**1. If you will trust in God to guide you,
and hope in God through all your ways,
God will give strength, what-ever betide you,
and bear you through the evil days.**

**Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds
on the rock that will not move.**

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Musical Postlude