

Northminster United Church

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Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, September 27th, 2020

3rd Sunday in Creation Time

Music as We Gather

Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community

Birthday wishes to *Marie Wasson* [92]

Birthday wishes to *Shirley Kay* [90]

Birthday wishes to *Pearl Duncan* [97]

Call to Worship:

One: Called by the Holy to see Holy presence in the world around us.

All: **Called by the Holy to trust in that presence as we live and love in faith.**

One: Called to prayer, praise, and meditation! Let us worship!

All: **Let us worship together! Amen.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Opening Hymn: VU213

“Rejoice, the Lord is King”

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The Holy transcends all time and distance, calling us to accept and share the forgiveness offered to us through the Spirit of Christ.

All: **We are blessed. We are forgiven. We are loved.**

First Lesson:

Exodus 17:1-17

^{17:1} From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

⁸ Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. ⁹ Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some men for us and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” ¹⁰ So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹ Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. ¹² But Moses’ hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set. ¹³ And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword.

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this as a reminder in a book and recite it in the hearing of Joshua: I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." ¹⁵ And Moses built an altar and called it, The LORD is my banner. ¹⁶ He said, "A hand upon the banner of the LORD! The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Young at Heart Time:

"The Water Witch"

Responsive Selection: VU792 (No Sung Responses)

Psalm 78 (Selected Verses)

One: Give heed to my teaching, O my people, turn your ears to the words of my mouth.

All: I will open my mouth in a parable, I will reveal the hidden meaning of things in the past.

One: What we have heard and known, what our parents have told us, we will not hide from their grandchildren,

All: but declare it to the next generation the testimony that you gave Jacob and the law you appointed in Israel, which you commanded them to teach their children,

One: that the next generation might know them, children yet unborn, and these in turn should arise, and tell their children,

All: that they should put their trust in you, and not forget your great deeds, but keep all your commandments. We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.

One: Marvelous things you did in the sight of our ancestors, in the land of Egypt, in the plain of Zoan.

All: You divided the sea and let them go through, and made the waters stand up like a wall.

One: By day you led with a cloud, and all the night long with a beacon of fire.

All: You split rocks in the wilderness, and gave drink in plenty as from the great deep.

One: You brought streams out of rock,

All: and made water run down like rivers. We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.

Hymn: VU356

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 21:23-32

^{21:23} When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Kevin: As the Holy One speaks to us from the stories of our faith history, may we find hope, inspiration, and peace as they speak to us in this time and place.

All: Let us use the hope, inspiration, and peace of those stories to transform our lives and the communities in which we live.

Kevin: In the name of the one called, Jesus.

All: Amen.

Meditation:

“Breakthrough Moments”

The New Creed:

One: Let's share together in the New Creed:

**All: 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. Amen.**

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts: (The Offering plates are found at the doors into the sanctuary, please place your Offering on the plate as you exit)

Dedication of Our Gifts

An Affirm Minute

“The Colonial Legacy”

Some people and groups are disadvantaged because we have chosen to ostracize them. There may not be a valid reason to do it. But silently, even before we get to know them, we decided to send a message saying you are not welcome as one of us. This can happen for example on an assembly line when a new person is unable to get into the rhythm of the line and they are ostracized. Once targeted we then start looking for physical or social clues and start saying they are all like that. Sometimes religious or racial bias gets built right into our culture and procedures or even our rules and laws. And, it's not just us doing it, other religions and ethnic groups are doing the same thing. These are often areas targeted by dictators or war leaders to separate ``us`` from `them`.

Long before Jesus` time it was customary to identify and treat `them` differently and separately from `us`. It went as far as raiding and capturing some of `them` along the coast of Africa and making those slaves. Jesus identified sample `them` and `us` in the story of the Good Samaritan. He was telling us to accept each other, take corrective action and love thy neighbour with all his differences and faults; easier said than done. But Jesus never ever promised easy.

Unfortunately the Church over the years often took a narrow interpretation of Jesus` Golden Rule. When the age of Discovery came along in the 1500`s the Pope, who was in practice the ruler of Europe, made a ruling that satisfied the Church and the Kings of Europe. Basically saying if a country discovered a new, none Christian land, they could claim the land as their own. The people living there would be considered underdeveloped native occupants only and the Church would convert them to Christianity. In general under the European system all land, goods and labour had a dollar value. If

you live on, use or take anything off the land you owe the land ``owner` money. Under the Indigenous system the land and its natural resources is a common good and not privately held. The end result is still with us in our terrible treatment of our Indigenous People.

Let us pray: Help us understand and overcome our underling discrimination against others. Amen

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (VU916):

**All Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: VU330

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: As our time together comes to an end...

All: ...the presence of the Holy moves with us!

One: May we share that presence as we go about the rest of our week.

All: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

Music as We Depart

Amen

Please remain seated until a Greeter comes and indicates that it is your turn to leave the sanctuary. Please proceed directly to the exit. If you require the lift, please, remain seated and a Greeter will let you know when the correct time is to proceed directly to the lift.

To allow for smooth exiting of the building please refrain from gathering in the hallways and entryways and maintain social distancing at all times, even in the parking lot.

As church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

Regional Council Prayer Cycle
for the week of September 27th, 2020,
Bobcaygeon-Providence Pastoral Charge
Providence United Church in Fenelon Falls
Trinity United Church in Bobcaygeon

THANK YOU TO THIS SUNDAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Duty	<i>John Tewsley</i>
Elevator Operators	<i>Dave Sherwin, Elgin Northey</i>
Ushers/Greeters	<i>Carrie Varga, Mary Hess Northey</i>
Registration	<i>Bruce Newmaster, Bev Sherwin</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Herman Stremler</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Video	<i>Nelson Pickett</i>
Sound	<i>Bill VanTol</i>

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Sunday, October 4th, 2020 World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 4th, 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting [following service]

We ask everyone "TO REGISTER" for Sunday Worship Services through "Eventbrite" found on the website www.northminsteruc.ca Please follow the instructions. Registering in advance is necessary to ensure a seat. If you are having difficulties registering, please call the office.
You must register EACH week to ensure a seat.