

JUNE 14 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

COMMUNITY WELCOME

- Tawow, Bienvenue, Welcome to this time of worship. While we continue to join remotely in our individual or family places of social isolation and physical distancing, please be mindful that in this moment we are joining in a spiritual way with the entire community of St. Albert United Church and others who are also participating in this same worship opportunity from their homes and places of safe physical distancing.

- Items to gather together before beginning:

➤ ***A More Voices* hymn book if you have one**

- As you and/or your family move through the service, I invite you to read aloud the words of the prayers, readings, etc. Even if you are alone, speaking the words aloud can help internalize and deepen the worship experience. If there are other loved ones gathered with you, I invite you to share the leader parts with all who are comfortable with and able to read.

- In addition, at points in the service below there will be links to YouTube videos of an opening, the All Ages Time, the Message and the closing prayers. There will also be links to some music/sung hymns that unfortunately are not local but are legally accessible on the internet. I have included them because we are all aware that music is such an important aspect of worshiping. When you click on these links you may have to shut down the ads that pop up first and close the link as soon as the hymn is finished before it goes to another that may or may not be appropriate.

WELCOME TO OUR VIRTUAL WORSHIP

JUNE 14 OPENING PRAYERS AND MESSAGE

CALL TO WORSHIP (From a 2020 Black History Month worship service marking the legacy of slavery in Canada and the British Commonwealth with the theme of “all are made in the image of God.” By the Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall and shared on the United Church of Canada website.)

With what shall we come before our God?

God has already told us what is good.

Shall we come with gifts and offerings?

God wants us to do justice.

What does the Lord require of us?

God wants us to love kindness.

What does the Lord require of us?

God wants us to walk humbly with God.

Come then, let us worship God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison) (From a 2020 Black History Month worship service marking the legacy of slavery in Canada and the British Commonwealth with the theme of “all are made in the image of God.” By the Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall and shared on the United Church of Canada website.)

Hear us Holy One, You created all human beings in your image and likeness. You have stamped each human person with a unique specialness, and all persons bear your image.

Through that image you call on us to reflect your goodness, justice, and love to all the world. Remind us that when we speak out for justice, mercy, and compassion we are displaying the attributes we find in you.

As we come to offer to you what we believe you are worth, show us how to display you in everything we do. Show us how to respect your image in all human beings. Help us to defend your image that is found in all human beings. Amen.

HYMN: [Send out Your Spirit · Jesse Manibusan](#)

(The words are found at #25 of More Voices)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (A prayer for Black History Month by Alydia Smith made available on the United Church of Canada website.)

God of peace, give us the courage, strength and perseverance needed, to challenge the systems of racism, so that we can clear a path for your justice, peace, and equity.

We believe racism is present in our society and in our church, and throughout time has manifested itself in many forms and in varying degrees.

We know racism is alive in our language and in our structures, and through our systems it actively works to deconstruct your glorious design, blocking the path to justice, equity, and peace that Jesus brings. Racism exists, and it challenges the gospel message that we cry.

We cry abundant life for all, knowing that we are slowly being suffocated by the pervasive evil of racism:

some of us are choking;
some of us cannot breathe;
some of us are dead.

We cry peace, knowing that we are the instruments of God's peace and that such peace cannot exist without justice, equity, compassion, and God's grace.

We cry Emmanuel, God with us, knowing that to God, every life matters— God is with all people — even though as a community and as a society we have stated through our actions that some lives matter more than others. Compassionate One, help us to understand how racism finds life in our hearts and in our cries.

In this time of tense anticipation, may we commit ourselves to be people of

your way crying and creating a path for justice, equity, and peace for all people in this wilderness of hatred and racism.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God is our refuge and home.

God is our strength and center.

God is a very present help.

God has always been and always will be, our very present help.

TIME FOR ALL AGES:

[The Big Orange Splot by Daniel Manus Pinkwater](#)

(Mr. Plumbean lived on a street where everyone was the same and they liked it that way. This is a story about how one incident caused the colorful dream of one person to be true to themselves and in turn allowed a whole community to embrace their uniqueness's and celebrate their diversity. What do each of us need to change so that our true colours and the true colours of all our neighbours can be celebrated together?)

HYMN: [A World of Difference](#)

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Please share the reading among those who gather physically with you.

1 Corinthians 12: 12-26 (The Scripture quotation contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For

in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

CELEBRATING THE LGBTQIA+ AND TWO_SPIRIT COMMUNITIES AS PART OF THE BODY

[Affirming Pride 2020 Video](#)

ANTHEM: [We Are a Rainbow 2020 by David Kai](#)

Matthew 9: 35-38 (The Scripture quotation contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

SEEKING HEALING AND JUSTICE FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY AS PART OF THE BODY

Because I believe Paul's words, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit," I believe that my role as a minister of white privilege is to step aside from the temptation to reinterpret the hurt of another part of the body according to my white understanding, regardless of how supportive I hope I am, and to amplify the voices of my black siblings and to invite us all to listen deeply and respond as the labourers spoken of in John's Gospel to embrace to hurting of the body in one part as a hurting of the whole body that requires the healing love and justice that Jesus calls us to.

Therefore, I join our United Church Moderator Richard Bott who shared on Facebook, "It is an honour to share this video from members of the Black Clergy Network of The United Church of Canada.

Let's listen deeply.
Let's listen deeply, and speak, and act.
Black Lives Matter.”

[Message from members of the Black Clergy Network of The United Church of Canada](#)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/JESUS PRAYER

[PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND CLOSING](#)

We pray together now a paraphrase of the Jesus prayer from New Zealand...

Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-Giver, Source of all that is and 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 the 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 forever. Amen.

SHARING OF GIFTS

Since its beginning, the church was meant to be a place of chosen family—a community of outcasts and outlaws, dreamers, prophets, and humble disciples of Love. In the company of Divine Presence, we create belonging and nurture justice. With gratitude for the sacred labours of love in this

place, let us bring our offerings to God and one another.

Thank you to all of you for the various ways in which you continue to support the ongoing ministry of St Albert United Church through sharing your gifts of time, connection, prayer, talent and resources with God's people. Please, consider continuing to support agencies and associations which have relied on your financial support prior to these changing world circumstances.

For these first two weeks of Pride month (June 7 & 14) the Affirm Team of St Albert United Church invite you to support the [CHEW Project](#) which stands for "Community Health Empowerment & Wellness". This Edmonton organization provides frontline support, resources, and education for LGBTQ2S+ youth and young adults (ages 14-29) facing barriers such as mental health, violence, poverty, homelessness, substance use, sexual health, sexual exploitation/sex work, and others. CHEW provides a safe place for youth to get basic needs, get off the street, and find hope. The CHEW Project provides support such as counselling, interventions, harm reduction, social services, cultural connections, STI testing and much more for no cost. To learn more and to donate please click this link [CHEW Project](#)

We recognize that during these difficult times, personal finances may be severely diminished. However, please consider contributing financially as you are able to support St. Albert United Church's ministry. Expenses continue even with the suspension of services and operations. Please check the church website for ways in which you can support ministry with time, talents and resources. <https://stalbertunited.ca/donations/>

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Your gifts to us are diverse and many, Gracious God. In gratitude for all you have given to us we offer these gifts of money. Yet not only our monies—we also offer to you our time and our abilities. Use these gifts to make your love and justice known throughout the world and for all the world. We dedicate ourselves and all that we are to your work. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH (in unison) (From a 2020 Black History Month worship service marking the legacy of slavery in Canada and the British Commonwealth with the theme of “all are made in the image of God.” By the Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall and shared on the United Church of Canada website.)

In a world where we have, in the past, enslaved and dehumanized others, we go to treat each person with dignity and respect.

In a world where profit is valued more than human life, we go to proclaim the priceless worth of each person.

In a world where the ugliness of racism and White supremacy is found, we go to show that love conquers all social ills.

Go forth into the world in peace;

be of good courage;

hold fast that which is good;

render to no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted;

support the weak;

help the afflicted;

honour everyone;

love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING ANTHEM: [There is Room for All · Cheryl & Bruce Harding](#)

(The words are found at #62 of More Voices)