



Britannia United Church

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Meditation: “Canadian pride may not rest on our sleeves, but it resides deeply in our hearts.” - Steve Miller

Welcome: to Britannia United Church. Our **nursery** is always available to children three years of age and younger. It is at the end of the hall by the office. **Headsets** are available for those who need assisted hearing. Please speak to our sound technician. Please join in the reading if it is **bold** and *italic*.

We Gather in God’s Name

Instrumental Prelude: Psalm 23

Announcements

“You look at the history – the aboriginal people welcomed the first settlers here with open arms, fed us and took care of us ... that continues today, we welcome people from all nations to come in and share.” - Peter Stoffer

Introit: Amazing Grace
Verse One: Cree by Rev. Jim

Quand nous aurons pendant mille ans
célébré ses louanges,
nous pourrons comme au commencement,
lui offrir nos hommages.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

A Prayer for Canada Day
Creating God,
As we mark the 150th anniversary
of the Confederation of Canada,
we remember and give thanks
for the people who have been

***the stewards of this land
since time immemorial,
and commit ourselves
to the work of justice,
healing, and reconciliation.
Together we dream about the country
that we hope to become,
a country where all are free to be
their best selves. Amen.***

“Our hopes are high. Our faith in the people is great. Our courage is strong. And our dreams for this beautiful country will never die.”
Pierre Trudeau

Call to Worship:

So Jesus came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. Welcome to worship! Jesus calls us here from far and near to hear a message of peace. Whether you feel far from God, or near to Him, this peace can be yours this morning, a gift from the God of grace.

Prayer of Approach:

God of grace,
***you know our hearts, you know what we need
even when we ourselves don't know what it is.
This morning, fill us with peace;
peace that passes understanding,
peace that bubbles over,
peace that needs to be shared,
so that we can be Your disciples
with good news for our neighbours near at hand,
and our neighbours far away. Amen***

Theme Presentation

“Under this flag may our youth find new inspiration for loyalty to Canada; for a patriotism based not on any mean or narrow nationalism, but on the deep and equal pride that all Canadians will feel for every part of this good land.” Lester Pearson

* O CANADA (524)

A Prayer for Canada Day

**God, we gather in Your presence
on this celebration of Canada Day.
We read of Your "dominion" in Psalm 72,
and claim this promise –
that Your will would prevail in this land.
We pray for the movement
of Your Holy Spirit across this nation
and for the work of Your church in
every city and village.
Make us mindful of Your generosity,
and glad to do Your will.
Bless our land with honest industry,
truthful education,
and an honourable way of life.
Save us from violence, discord,
and confusion;
from pride, arrogance,
and from every evil course of action.
Make us, who come from many different
backgrounds and cultures,
a united people -
one in purpose and vision.
Give our government a spirit
of wisdom and compassion,
that there may be justice
and peace in our land.
When times are prosperous,
lead us to thanksgiving,
and when times are troubled,
lead us to a deepening trust in You.
All this we ask in the name
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

“In a world darkened by ethnic conflicts that tear nations apart, Canada stands as a model of how people of different cultures can live and work together in peace, prosperity, and mutual respect.”

- Bill Clinton

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:40-42 (NT, pg 11, Don Judd)

Message: Being Canadian in 2017

Hymn: Let Us Build a House (1 MV)

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

We Respond to God

"I am deeply moved by the warmth and courage of the Canadian people which I felt so strongly during my recent visit to your country. Your support of the struggle against apartheid restored me in my journey home and reassured me that many just people around the world are with us." - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Prayers of Joy and Concern and The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

*** Doxology:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

*** Offertory Prayer:**

Today, O God, we pray
for the many blessings of this country.
***As we give you thanks for what we have received,
we also ask you to show us how to give,
so that your blessings are known,
from person to person and shore to shore. Amen***

Hymn: In Christ There is No East or West (606)

"There are no limits to the majestic future which lies before the mighty expanse of Canada with its virile, aspiring, cultured, and generous-hearted people." - Sir Winston Churchill

*** Canada Day Prayer**

Thank you God for this piece of the world,
a slice of land broad and wide,
blessed with rivers and great lakes,

wide skies and great forests,
high mountains and gracious plains,
beautiful from sea to sea to sea.

***Thank you for letting us live in this land,
even though we do not own it;
this land is your land,
which we use in trust for future generations.***

Thank you for its rich history,
which includes Aboriginal and Métis and Inuit peoples.

***Thank you for our system of government,
for the right to speak freely, and to elect our leaders.***

Thank you for the freedom of religion
and conscience that we enjoy.

***Thank you for universal health care,
and a social safety net.***

Bless our leaders, our Prime Minister
and all members of parliament;

guide their steps, and help us use our voice to guide them
as they make difficult and far-reaching decisions.

***We thank you today for our home and native land,
where we live in peace and security.***

***God keep our land strong and free,
keep it safe and beautiful for future generations.***

Amen.

* **Sung Response:** May the God of Hope Go With Us (424)

“We have it all. We have great diversity of people, we have a wonderful land, and we have great possibilities. So all those things combined there’s nowhere else I’d rather be.” - Bob Rae

Postlude