

**BEACHBURG PASTORAL CHARGE**  
United Church of Canada  
October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Joint Service at St. Andrew's ~ 11:00 am  
**World Communion Sunday - Creation 4**

**Our Shared Mission Statement**

The congregations of St. Andrew's & Trinity United Churches celebrate and share God's accepting love known to us through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit calls us to discern God's Word as we reach out with concern and compassion to others, seeking justice, healing and hope for the world.

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The news is grim.

**One party is fighting with another.**

The news is grim.

**One country is fighting with another.**

The news is grim.

**Too many governments are oppressing their own people.**

There are too many walls, too much hate.

**Let this candle be a beacon of peace and love.**

Introit – This Is The Day (please no singing but please feel free to stand)

This is the day; that our Lord has made; We will rejoice, and be glad in it;

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day that our Lord has made.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

All around us: signs of plenty, signs of gathering in, signs of the harvest.

**We come to gather the harvest of abundance, so we may share.**

Everywhere within us: the presence of joy, of celebration, of love.

**We come to witness to the joyful celebration of Christ's self-giving love.**

Around the world this day: Christians worshipping at the table with deepest reverence.

**We come as one, part of the worldwide movement of the Way of Jesus.**

United by the Spirit's blessings, let us worship together:

Opening Prayer

In the power of love, O Spirit, may you bless us as we what partake in your Holy communion with all denominations on this day. May the bread we are fed feed our passion for loving-kindness. May the grape juice we drink empower us to drink deeply of your love for each and for all. May the act of coming together as one at Christ's table motivate us to come together with all your creation for love. Bless us with grace and with faith as disciples of the Way. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds

- 1      Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;  
         the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.
- 2      Before our Maker's throne, we pour our ardent prayers;  
         our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
- 3      We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear;  
         and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
- 4      This glorious hope revives, our courage on the way;  
         that we shall live in perfect love in God's eternal day.

Minute For Mission

Ministry of Music – Jean Robinson

Prayer of Confession

Each moment of this worship, we are preparing to gather at your table, God. We lift our prayers of joy and adoration that you are with us, that you love and understand us. Now we pause and place before you those things we need to let go of. Guilt, anger, resentment—fear, these things weigh us down and keep us from moving. You long for us to move from shadows to light. You long for us to know you and the healing your love offers. Help us in our confession; hold us close as we open our hearts to you. (*a time of silent prayers*)

Words of Assurance

We are called to worship, that we might once again find God.

We are called to this sacred place to gain insight and perspective. May we rejoice in the mercy offered here and find peace and hope in our living. Amen.

Hymn: “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 everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, then, people of the faith, whate'er your race may be;  
all children of the living God are surely kin to me.

**LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

Mark 9:38-41

<sup>38</sup> “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

<sup>39</sup> “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, <sup>40</sup> for whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

Meditation – “*Tribalism and Beyond*”

*One of the words that have emerged in print and online in the past couple of years is the word “tribalism.”*

*People usually use the Spirit of Tribalism to describe how divided a country is, how we tend to live in our little groups, bubbles and clubs with limited understanding of the people outside of that community. The tribe we belong to could be defined by our age, class, race, voting preference, and even religion. And they say that much of the divide in our country today is owed to a “tribal*

culture,” where people are intensely loyal to their own kind and skeptical of others.

Of course, this is an interesting and important topic – how could we not acknowledge this after the high drama in the US presidential debate this week, which again revealed the deep divide in our sister country to the south, where basically two coherent tribes, eerily balanced in political power, are fighting not just to advance their own side but to provoke, condemn, and defeat the other.” But do not think for a minute that we are immune to tribalism in this country

I am bringing this up, however, not just because it’s an interesting and timely topic; it is also very much related to the gospel for this morning. The brief reading that we just heard, is it not a perfect example of tribalism? The disciples come to Jesus and they say, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”

Translation: he is not part of our tribe. He has not been vetted and approved by our leader. The disciples suggest to be extra careful with this person, but Jesus’ answer is surprisingly generous. “Do not stop him,” he says. “If he does good in my name it’s all good.” When I read this, I kept thinking, “If only it were this easy!” Don’t you love it when Jesus cuts through all the

non-sense and just lifts up one simple truth? "If someone does good in my name, it's all good!" Let us remember that!

In fact, Jesus' open-minded, gracious attitude is the main reason why we are worshipping together this morning, indeed all over the world this morning calling ourselves Christians. The Christian gospel, once itself anchored in a confined culture, burst into the world, and within a short period of time became a world religion. No religion can ever become a world religion, appealing to people in different cultures and places, unless it rises above tribalism.

There must be something deeper and higher and something very profound to it in order to appeal to people in various parts of the world over long periods of time. Thus, Jesus' answer to his disciples was not only important then, it is also important now, as we translate this gospel to the people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Out of the New Testament arises the wonderful vision of a community that is able to include people who are different in many ways, uniting them in a common faith in God. To be sure, that vision was not always clear in the Bible; it had to develop over time.

It wasn't there when Abraham and Moses respectively sought the Promised Land, pushing out other people in favor of the Israelites. It wasn't there when the "chosen people," were mainly

focused on the fact that they had been “chosen.” It wasn’t even there when Jesus talked to the Syro-Phoenician woman, telling her that he couldn’t do anything for her daughter, because he had been sent to his own “tribe,” the people of Israel.

The vision of that boundless community of God still wasn’t there when the Lord asked Peter to eat the unclean animals and embrace the Gentiles, as the gospel pushed past its original tribal boundaries in Judea and out into the world – and Peter almost puked.

Yet, at the same time there were signs and words all over the place indicating that the gospel Jesus proclaimed was way too big for one little tribe concerned about their own purity and members. We heard it in today’s gospel, when Jesus challenged his own followers, telling them not to think too small about God’s work in this world, not to be too petty. “Whoever is not against us is for us.”

We hear it in so many stories when Jesus suggests that he found great faith from people who were not part of the tribe: a Roman Centurion, the Samaritan woman at the well, or in the story of the Good Samaritan for that matter. We hear it very clearly expressed in Paul’s letter to the Galatians, – Paul whose mission it was to go beyond his own Jewish tribe. He once wrote to them, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor

free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28) No more tribalism in Christ, Paul says.

Yet, today, we are talking about tribalism again. Not first and foremost in the church, although it exists there as well, but in our entire society and culture.

What tribalism creates, obviously, is an “us against them” mentality. *Us against Them. Them against Us. Us against Them. Them against Us.*

I think today’s reading urges us to reject the view of *Us against Them* and instead adopt an *Us and Them* approach to living in a divided world. *Us and Them. Them and Us.* This can remind us of something we learned in kindergarten but somehow have forgotten as adults – that is, how to play nice with everyone in the sandbox. *Us and Them* leads us to communicate and cooperate, to respect and recognize mutual needs. What a powerful perspective, to be sure. But is it enough?

Mustn’t we, here in this place today, reach ever beyond a helpful, but incomplete, *Us and Them* commitment? Knowing our allegiance to Christ, living out our values as a people of faith, isn’t there more?

I think that Through the fundamental and essential nature of our faith, we can reveal in word and action a new Us/Them reality. I think the next step is to reach a view of Us *for* Them.  
Us *for* Them.

Honestly and realistically, there will not likely be a corresponding Them *for* Us response – at least not at first. Therefore, it falls on us to show the world the way to overcome the tribalism of Us *against* Them by showing we are *for* them and all others, regardless of whether they reciprocate or not.

We dare not forget how Jesus commands us to love one another as we inevitably love ourselves. To turn love into more than a noun, making it a powerful verb of caring. To remember that Christian love is the transforming example of the Good Samaritan – love and care given without hope or desire of receiving anything in return, given *without* strings, given only because of the other's need. Given – in the spirit of Us *for* Them.

If we can act with such a faith, maybe we can turn destructive tribalism on its head and live as a different type of tribe – one that Jesus models – one opposite from the divisive and self-serving kind of tribes that pervades our culture. Maybe we can become a tribe of Christians – a tribe *for* others.



Maybe we can be a community of people – who at best are what we already are – the body of Christ, working together with committed allegiance to the same powers of creation that Jesus embodied – rejecting and opposing the harmful and divisive and negative ways of thinking, characteristic of tribalism. Putting an end to the winner-take-all mentality that infects our cultural health. Maybe that's who and what we can be.

What if the all of us here today became such a tribe of *Us for Them*? What if we few would commit to stopping the cycle of demonizing the other and the insistence that we alone are right – opening ourselves to the value we know the others possess as beloved children of God?

Maybe our efforts would begin the change that the world desperately needs. Maybe we can become the pebble tossed into the pond that creates ripple after ripple, transforming a destructive *Us against Them* culture into an *Us for Them* culture, consistent with the message imbedded in the gospel –

“There is no Jew or Gentile, no conservative or liberal, no man or woman, no black or white, no gay or straight, no pro-life or pro-choice, no pro-gun or pro-gun control (or wherever the fault-lines of the current culture lie) – in Jesus Christ our Lord.” Of course We will all still make our decisions and our choices on these issues. But in a church that goes beyond tribalism, we will

*find our common ground in the One who transcends all of that.  
Thanks be to God.*

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Dedication of Offering**

Your word, O God, has gone out through all the world, and now your people gather from all nations to commune with you. We bring this bread, this cup, and these gifts. We gratefully lay them before you. We also bring those things that we wish to lay down: burdens, pains, anguish, and anger. Because you are a God of healing and of forgiveness, we may gratefully lay them before you. Accept the burdens and our need to be forgiven; they come from us. Accept our gifts and our gratitude for the wondrous blessings we experience because of your grace; they come from your compassion to us. Assure us, O God, of your forgiveness and bless what we do here this day that, in some small way through us, all the world may come to commune with you in a realm of justice and peace. Amen.

### **Communion Hymn: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” Vs.1&2”**

1     Let us talents and tongues employ,  
      reaching out with a shout of joy:  
      bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
      Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain     Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
              pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
              Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
              pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2     Christ is able to make us one,  
      at the table he sets the tone,  
      teaching people to live to bless,  
      love in word and in deed express. Refrain

Sacrament of Holy Communion – see insert

### **Communion Hymn: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” Vs. 3**

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out,  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere! R

### Commissioning and Benediction

### Postlude

**October bulletins are sponsored by: Raymond & Ruby Bell in loving memory of D.N. & Fannie Bell and Dr. David Nelson Bell.**

**And by: St. Andrew's Unit 1 UCW in loving memory of passed members.**

**Church Office # 613-582-7174 Kevin (cell) ~ 613 585-0132**

**Office Secretary Betty Black [pcsecretary@nrtco.net](mailto:pcsecretary@nrtco.net) home # 613-646-2120**

**CD of Sunday's Service available—contact Jean at 613-582-3597.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Anyone wishing to sponsor bulletins for 2020/2021 please contact Betty at 646-2120 or 582-7174.**

**Although food donations are not being accepted at this time, let us continue to think of others that are less fortunate through our financial donations.**

### Service Times

The reopening committee met this past Tuesday and the decision was made to begin services at Trinity starting on Thanksgiving Sunday October 11, 2020 so:  
**Oct thru December Trinity ~ @ 9:30 a.m., St. Andrew's @ 11 pm.**

**Prayer List: Let us keep the following people in our prayers for healing at this time.**

**Hawthorne family, Thibeau family, Terry Ellis, Rob Marson, Murray Anderson, Bernie Lemke, Leanne Caniff, Audrey Gutz, Lorna Stevenson, Ruby Bell, Freda Kinnear, Elaine Moore, Lola Byce, Bill Douma, Keith Johnson, Nora Bennett, Lisa Hennessey and family**

**Please contact me if there is someone that you would like to add to our list for special prayers or you feel is in need of a pastoral care visit. I would request that you please ask the person's permission before submitting their name to be put in the bulletin. Rev. Kevin**

***HAPPY 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY! To Margaret Curry - October 2, 2020***