

BEACHBURG PASTORAL CHARGE

United Church of Canada

June 4th, 2023

Combined Service at Trinity ~~ 2:30 pm
Trinity 128th Anniversary Service

Minister: Rev. Kevin Moratz

Ministers: The People of the Congregation

Organists: Heather Campbell,

Pianists: Barry Stephen, Murray Gutz

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

Special Music by Mine Road

Welcome and Announcements

WE COME IN ADORATION

Lighting the Christ Candle

Grandmothers and grandfathers, parents, children, friends, neighbours, people of all ages and places...

following Christ's Way.

For years before us, for years yet to come,

we go where God calls us.

We go where Christ's light shines! Alleluia! (Christ candle is lit)

Introit – The Bond of Love

We are one in the bond of love

We are on in the bond of love;

**We have joined our spirit with the spirit of God,
We are one in the bond of love.**

**Let us sing now, everyone,
Let us feel his love begun;
Let us join our hands that the world will know
We are one in the bond of love.**

Call to Worship

It was Thanksgiving Sunday 1895 when a group of faithful believers along with the minister Rev. William Wells stood on the hallowed ground which we now know as Howard's cemetery, turned their back on the old log church and made the trek to gather and dedicate the building in which we now stand.

But if our Methodist ancestors dedicated this church on Thanksgiving Sunday, why are we celebrating our anniversary in June?

Because at the Annual Meeting on January 21, 1952 it was moved by Maurice Bulmer, and seconded by Fred Ross, that we call our church, "Trinity United Church", and that this newly renovated church's anniversary be officially recognized on the 2nd Sunday in June. So, although this year we moved the date up a week we have come to celebrate our 128th anniversary.

Remembering like so many other like-minded disciples of Jesus Christ of the past that we gather as God's people, Christ's people, People of the Spirit alive! To sing and to serve. To live and to love. To pray and to play.

To worship God!

To worship God. Alleluia, Amen!

Hymn: #331 "The Church's One Foundation"

Gathering Prayer

Gracious and loving God, as we gather on this joyous occasion of Trinity United Church's 128th anniversary, we come before you with hearts filled with gratitude and reverence. We thank you for the countless blessings bestowed upon this faith community throughout the years. We celebrate the dedication, faith, and resilience of all those who have been a part of this church family. Guide us, O Lord, to continue shining your light in our community, to nurture compassion and love, and to deepen our commitment to serve one another and your Kingdom. May this anniversary be a reminder of our shared journey and inspire us to walk faithfully in your presence. Amen.

Special Music " Mine Road "

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Responsive Psalm 118 Pts 3 and 4
John 6:30-44

VU pg 837
pg. 1657

Meditation “Feasting Our Hearts on Memories and Hope”

It seems to me that since my last in person anniversary service with you which if I remember correctly was way back in 2019, I have become extraordinarily wise. This amuses some of you. Perhaps you think I’m about as wise as I am going to get, given what I have to work with.

But its true. I do seem wiser. And after much thought and reflection, I realize that it is because in the last year I have been on the receiving end of many stories. Some about the church but mostly about personal experiences that you yourself have lived through.

I thought I would lay that out at the beginning just in case you find any wisdom in this sermon and wonder where it is coming from.

It is great to be with you on this anniversary, as we do a little feasting of our hearts not to mention a little feasting after the service.

With apologies to airlines, although after our travels last week I'm thinking the apologies should be coming from them, some sermons take off from a Biblical text, on other occasions they use another runway. Today is one of those other occasions.

A few years ago when I had to do an online English class from Athabasca University prior to my studies at Queens and I was required to read a number of short essays written by Reynolds Price. He developed spinal cancer in 1985 and prior to his death in 2011, was in a wheel chair.

Not "confined" to a wheelchair, but "living" in a wheel chair, a rich, and full life. He was a professor of English part of the year at Duke University and the rest of the year he would write poetry, novels and essays. One of his essays is about the epitaph, that, in as few words as possible, will sum up our life, and be written on our tombstone.

Reynolds Price says most people have not chosen their epitaph, but he has. His comes from a line in a Latin poem by the poet, Horace -

Feast then thy heart, for what thy heart has had, the fingers of no heir will ever hold.
And Reynolds writes,

After a near seven decades of life, and the teaching of two generations of college students, I can think of few truths of which I'd rather remind the young - or the old for that matter. Its owner should feed (the heart) lavishly; and the memory of such indulgences will warm the colder days to come.

So that is the runway for half the sermon title - Feasting the heart with memories. The other half comes from another essay of his in which he says, we need to teach people hope.

He writes,

The great cause of unhappiness in my own lucky childhood was a lack of hope. When something went wrong, I assumed that my unhappiness would last; it would become the prevailing weather of my life. All the children I've known are frequently hopeless, far into adolescence. They're often trapped in secret misery because they lack an assurance that most adults possess

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the assurance that sooner or later, all signals change. Red lights turn green; the cold rain stops. But children have no such confidence. Their sense of the mercy of time is severely limited; why should they trust in any healing power? Hence, not only their sadnesses, but their suicides and much of the violence that leaves adults so baffled ... Was there no way I could have heard my mother and father say, if they'd tried, that the very nature of life is change - often change for the better?

This story passage hit particularly close to my heart this past week as I grieved the loss this past week of a dear member of the golden lake camp community who died last week of an overdose.

So, there you have the rational behind the sermon title - Feasting our heart on memories and on hope. These are the two things we want to reflect on as we celebrate this anniversary service - the

life changing power of memory and of hope. Underneath as a foundation, we have the Gospel reading, of the feasting of the heart that goes on as Jesus gives the bread of life.

There is a movie that shows up from time to time on cable and streaming services. It was made by the Japanese, and is called *After Life*. In this movie everyone has recently died. The premise of the movie is that they are all in a kind of processing room for a few days after death. And in that time, they have to look back over their whole life and choose their best memory. The rest will be discarded, and this one is the only one they will take with them into eternity.

What an amazing concept. I hope its not true, because we have so many memories that we do not want to lose. How could we possibly pick just one?

Anniversary Sunday is a time to search our memories of this congregation and its witness to this community.

Today we celebrate 128 years as a Church. When we look around the sanctuary and see the empty seats, it's not the way we remember it in years gone by and it appears that maybe we do not have a lot to celebrate. If you are having these thoughts, let me tell you now that you would be very wrong. We are blessed that we get to worship in a place where people love God. We get to worship in a place that cannot be taken away from us.

We worship in a place where we understand the hearts of those around us; knowing we are not perfect, yet we stand with one another in good times and bad. We get to worship in a place where

every one of us has the opportunity to not only participate in the service, but take a lead role in conducting the service as we saw when I was away a lot of last year.

While we may be few in number, we get to worship in a place where the Word of God is taught and shared.

And I get to share my sermons not only with you, but through your support I get to share my sermons online and through emails for other people to view and use. I have had individuals who had read my sermons and commented that my message has inspired them in some way. "

I am sharing this with you not to brag or to shine light on myself, but to make the point that God is using all of us in ways that might not be so obvious when we walk into this building at this specific address. People all around the world are accessing the messages preached in this building which is possible because of each and every one of you.

So while we may not see the building full to capacity, it does not mean this ministry is not having an impact on the lives of many others. Writing a sermon and posting it on the internet for the world to see is the easy part; living our faith before the world is the hard part.

I am blessed to be surrounded by people who are trying to live their faith before the world. We may not get it right all the time, but I am blessed that you are at least putting forth the effort to change the world around you. So, today we have something to celebrate. God has been good to us, both individually and as a Church. So today we honor our commitment to God just as our forbears have done.

I remember my first Sunday conducting a service in this church February 3rd 2013 - I remember the feeling of light and warmth about this congregation and this building, and of the joyful hand of friendship that was extended to me.

I have the memory of being so nervous in doing that first service here and how in my first week Kay Coleman took me for a ride around the village so I could get my bearing and Archie inviting me over to see his knife collection (something that made me a little nervous in its own right) or Raymond and Ruby inviting me over for a cup of coffee after the service.

Memories like that which surprised and gave me hope. Where would we all be without memory and without hope?

And as each one of us travels today down Memory Lane let us also remember that memory by itself is a trap that lulls us into inactive Christianity. We also need hope. Writing in the book Pulpit Digest, Truman Potter says

We operate the church more from memory and habit than we do with imagination and daring. To be geared to a horse and buggy operation in churchmanship when we live in the space age is not only risky but also fatal.

So let us use this anniversary day to revive our hopes, to challenge us and lead us a little further into our future, to open us a little more to God's Spirit.

In one of J. F. Friedman's novels, *House of Smoke*, a private detective, Kate Blanchard is speaking to her Twelve Step group. She is very nervous.

I'm still bogged down in my past. It becomes my present, so I don't have a future. I can't. And that's what I've got to get to: my future, my vision. It's why I'm here. And to do that I've got to get my past out of the way.

I don't know if I agree with all of that statement, but I certainly agree with, 'that's what I've got to get to: my future, my vision. It's why I'm here.'

That's why we are all here on this earth, as individual Christians and as a community of belief and action - not just to feast our heart on memories, but to live into our future, our vision, by feasting our heart on hope, and by feasting often on the bread of life. Thanks be to God.

Special Music by: "Mine Road "

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Offering Invitation (we currently ask that your offering donations be placed in the plates located at the back of the sanctuary before or after the service.)

Dear friends and fellow worshippers, I invite you to join me in giving back a portion of what God has blessed us with through our offering. May we give with open hearts and minds, knowing that our contributions will help to make a difference in the lives of others as your generosity and your commitment help further our church's mission.

Offering Song(VU 540)(Offering plates will be brought forward)

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living, we may offer faithfully.**

Offertory Prayer

Dear God, we offer these gifts to you as a symbol of our gratitude and our commitment to continue your work in the world. Bless these offerings and use them to further your kingdom, and to bring hope and healing to those in need. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Loving and Eternal Creator, We gather here today, filled with gratitude and joy, as we celebrate the 128th anniversary of Trinity United Church. As we reflect upon the rich history of this sacred place, we are reminded of the countless lives that have been touched, transformed, and uplifted within these walls.

We thank you, O Divine Source, for the vision and commitment of those who laid the foundation of this church many years ago. Their unwavering faith and dedication have carried us through generations, providing a spiritual home for countless seekers and believers. We honor their legacy and the seeds they sowed, which continue to bear fruit in the present.

On this special occasion, we recognize the blessings and challenges that have shaped Trinity United Church over the years. We acknowledge the moments of triumph and the times of struggle, knowing that through it all, you have been our constant companion, guiding us with your infinite wisdom and love.

We come together as a community, joined in the bond of fellowship and united in our devotion to you. As we lift our voices in song and prayer, may our spirits be filled with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to your divine mission.

Grant us, O Divine Light, the strength and courage to continue embracing the principles of love, compassion, and justice that define Trinity United Church. May we always be a beacon of hope, extending our hands to those in need, offering solace to the weary, and standing as advocates for the marginalized and oppressed.

As we celebrate this anniversary, we look to the future with hope and anticipation. We humbly ask for your guidance and inspiration as we navigate the changing tides of our world. Help us adapt, remaining faithful to your call, and open to new possibilities for ministry and service.

Bless our congregation, our leaders, and all who are connected to Trinity United Church. May we continue to be a source of comfort and support for one another, sharing in each other's joys and sorrows, and lifting each other up in times of need.

We offer our deepest gratitude for the countless blessings you have bestowed upon us throughout the years. As we celebrate this milestone, we recognize that the true measure of Trinity United Church's success lies not in its age, but in the lives it has touched and the love it has shared.

In your Holy and Triune Name, we pray.

Amen.

Hymn: #602 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Commissioning & Sung Benediction

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of every day
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Musical Postlude by: "Mine Road Group"

Church Office # 582-7174 - Rev. Kevin ~ 613 585-0132

Office Secretary Betty Black pcsecretary@nrtco.net home # 613-646-2120

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar are placed by Margaret Curry & family **in loving memory of Mel Curry and Irene Curry. And by:** Eleanor Waite & family **in loving memory of Bert & Lila Ross and sister Greta Patterson.**

June bulletins are sponsored by: The Coleman family in loving memory of Esther & Kay Coleman And by: Margaret Curry & family in loving memory of Mel Curry and Irene Curry.

Please remember to serve others by bringing a non-perishable food item or paper product.

Anyone wishing to sponsor bulletins for 2023 please call Betty @ 613 646-2120 or 582-7174. There are still openings from July to December.

If you wish to partake in the monthly PreAuthorized Remittance (PAR) program for your monetary offering gifts, please contact Cindy Price at 613-582-3433.(St. Andrew's) Philippa Bell at 613-646-7656. (Trinity) Thank you for your continued support.

Service Times

June ~ Trinity @ 9:30 a.m. St. Andrew's @ 11:00 a.m.

July services will be a combined service at St. Andrew's @ 9:30

An online service is available on our Beachburg Pastoral Charge Facebook page or if you would like to receive a PDF copy of the sermon please drop me an email at kevinmoratz@gmail.com to get on the email list.

Prayer List: Let us keep the following people in our prayers for healing at this time: Eleanor McLaughlin, Betty Chevalier, Elaine Hawthorne, Marilyn Robinson, Steve Bergwerff, Janice Zwicker, Marilyn Gillies, Phyllis McLeese, Brittany Moratz, Mel Langton, Barry Robertson, Bill Douma, Joyce MacKay, Freda Kinnear, Elaine Moore, Please contact me if there is someone that you would like to add to our list for special prayers or you feel needs 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.

Trinity

Thank you to everyone who helped make today's anniversary a time of joy and celebration. We invite you to stay for the Pork BBQ following the service. Adults \$15. Children under 12 \$6. Dinner includes Pork on a bun, homemade beans, coleslaw, beverage and dessert. Take out is available.

St. Andrew's

The next Craft day is Tuesday – June 13th from 10am to 3pm (note date change)

The UCW "Joy Group" meets tomorrow at 1 p.m. for planning and fellowship. New members are welcome. Contact Grace 613-582-3548 or Audrey 613-585-3498

Thank you to everyone involved in our spring musical. It was an entertaining evening indeed.

Yard Sale & BBQ~ Next Saturday June 10, 2023~8:00am – 1pm

If anyone has a gas BBQ to lend us for the day that would be very helpful.

Vacation Bible Camp ~ at St. Andrew's August 8, 9, 10, 11, 2023.

Other Events

Next Sunday June 11th is the decoration service at Beachburg Union Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Rev Kevin will be performing the service.

June 25th ~ Decoration Service at Cobden Union Cemetery at 7p.m..Bring a lawn chair. Rev. Milton Fraser will conduct the service. If it rains the service will be held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cobden.

Camp Lau-Ren (camplau-ren.com) and **Golden Lake Camp** (goldenlakecamp.ca) are looking for volunteers to get the camps up and running. Please visit their respective websites for contact information and how you can get involved.

Donations are being accepted to help in the clean up of Beachburg Union Cemetery after the last ice storm. Please see Ralph or Claire Martin to donate.

Beachburg Public School will celebrate its Centennial 100th year on Saturday September 16, 2023. A planning committee is already working hard to organize this event. At this point we'd like you to mark this date on your calendar and pass on this information to others. More info will be coming over the next few months. Also if you have year books, pictures or any memorabilia you would be willing to contribute for that day to put on display at the school, please call or email: Grace Stephen 613-582-3548 bstephen@nrtco.net or Heather Campbell 613-582-3257