



**Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge of the United Church At  
Home Worship  
Sunday June 7, 2020**



**Minister: Rev. Tammy Allan**

*We gratefully acknowledge that we are on the ancient and traditional lands of  
The Blackfoot Nation, the people of the Treaty 7,  
and of Metis Region 3. May we cherish and care for the land and the people,  
as those who came before us did.*

**Your Worship Space**

*As you worship at home, try to create a space for that. It could be as simple as lighting a candle (either flame or battery); or placing a small cross or a symbol that has meaning for you in front of you. Now that the weather is more amenable, consider worshipping outdoors.*

*If you are alone, perhaps start a journal, as you reflect on the worship experience. Or, perhaps call a friend and share this time with them over the phone. If you are with one or two others, enjoy the conversation that arises...as you practise safe distancing.*

**Opening Call / Prayer**

We come to worship to experience the presence of God. We seek to be inspired by the way of Jesus for the week ahead. As we worship, we look for ways to be transformed by the Holy Spirit. As we gather, we pray that we may feel the winds of God, that we may sense the power of the Spirit, and that we may find truth in Christ for our lives. Amen.

**Musical selection I Feel the Winds of God Today** Click here to listen:  
[https://ca.video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-iry-fullyhosted\\_003&hsimp=yhs-fullyhosted\\_003&hspart=iry&p=i+feel+the+winds+of+god+today+youtube#action=view&iid=10&vid=4c7891ad78db07489d9c4ed06d984e34](https://ca.video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-iry-fullyhosted_003&hsimp=yhs-fullyhosted_003&hspart=iry&p=i+feel+the+winds+of+god+today+youtube#action=view&iid=10&vid=4c7891ad78db07489d9c4ed06d984e34)

**Readings for today**

**2 Corinthians 13: 11-13**

<sup>11</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. <sup>13</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**Matthew 28:16-20**

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



## A Message for Today

Today the Christian Church recognizes as Trinity Sunday, the United Church also recognizes this as Pride Sunday, and today is the closest Sunday to United Church Union, June 10, 1925. And, the month of June is also National Indigenous Heritage Month in Canada. So many things to honour!

Trinity Sunday is a day set aside to focus on those 3 traditional images of the Holy – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – what’s known in some circles as the Trinitarian formula.



Some say that the last line of today’s Corinthians passage offers some of the biblical basis for what we call that Trinitarian formula. It’s often used as a closing blessing for worship services. I remember the minister of my youth used it every single Sunday... “<sup>13</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” And then we would respond, “And also with you.”

Our United baptism is recognized by other denominations because we use that formula in our liturgy, and on our baptismal certificates. We baptize in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You may remember that I use a few other descriptive words for God, as I baptize, however, I include the words of the formula, and those words are printed on the baptism certificate that we give to families.

A little google search reveals this about the history of the Trinity:

“Tertullian, a Latin theologian who wrote in the early third century, was the **first** to use “Trinity” “person” and “substance” to explain that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are “one in essence – not one in Person.””

In the 1970’s, in our own denomination, there was a great deal of discussion and reflection on inclusive language, including the limitations of naming God as only Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In spite of that, our relationship with the ecumenical church is carries great value, and so we maintain that Trinitarian language, while using other imagery to broaden how we understand the holy in our lives.

God is so much more than those 3 terms. Think of other biblical images...God as mother hen, God as wind and fire, God as rock, God as Shepherd. I could go on.

What it really comes down to is relationship – how we see and know God and how we are in relationship with God, and then in turn, how we are in relationship with all of Creation – with God’s world.

Both of today’s readings are also about relationship, with the Holy that is at the core of each person.

In Matthew’s gospel, the disciples have gone to the mountaintop – a place where they have been with Jesus prior to his death – a place that in biblical times was believed to be close to God, by nature of its proximity to the heavens.

I personally get that – when I am struggling with something big, I find myself heading west. I've had many conversations with God while in the mountains. I find peace there, and a sense of God's strength there. My weekly drives to Sundre are a gift, in that I get to see the grandeur of the mountains regularly -something I don't do as often in COVID times- for work, but I've jumped in the car for a drive west many times in these past weeks, to be in God's creation beyond my back yard.

Back to the gospel. The disciples have gone to the mountain after Jesus' death and resurrection. They have gone to be in communion with the Spirit. I say it again – I get that. I find the Spirit is close when I am in the mountains.

While on the mountain, the disciples receive the call or commission to evangelization, to making disciples of all the nations. In the United Church, we're kind of afraid to use that word evangelization. Some of us have come to see it as a word that equates with a somewhat single minded way of telling our faith story, a way that tends to cause us to feel pressured to follow a certain path, that just doesn't really feel like our path.

I think we need to re-vision our understanding of that word – and see evangelization as sharing the joy in our story, sharing what we believe, and why we believe. We need to do that in a way that invites others into the story, that welcomes them in. We need to meet people where they are at, and be willing to learn and accept from others as much as we are willing to offer and teach. Relationship goes both ways.

In the other reading for today, Paul is writing to his friends at Corinth about being in right relationship with each other; they are in conflict, and Paul asks them to restore the order and live in peace. He asks them to greet one another with the Holy kiss.

As one commentary this week read,  
"Greeting one another with a holy kiss is a tangible way to show love and fellowship in this community of folks who are still struggling to love one another and who are still learning how to be Christ's body in their world."

Carla Works, Working Preacher.org, for Year A, June 7, 2020.

[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=4466](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4466)

I believe Paul's message in this piece of his letter isn't about asking the disciples to agree on absolutely everything, it's not about asking them to be completely uniform in their thinking. It's about living in peace, it's about relationship, again – based on peace and harmony. It's about being the body of Christ, together.

As you look back at the many things we can honour this day, there is so much that fits with this theme of relationship, with God, with each other, and with creation – with being the body of Christ.

Trinity – relationship with God in all expressions of the sacred, the holy – Father, Son, Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer; Light; Love; Shepherd; Hen; Rock, and so on. How do you see God? What image speaks to you of the mystery that is present with us?

Pride Sunday – relationship with the LBGTQ2+ community. That relationship building is a big part of our United Church story. One of the most recent ways our church in Chinook Winds Region has lived out its commitment to these relationships is in its strong support of Calgary's recent adoption of a by-law to ban conversion therapy. There was a great deal of community involvement in that process, both for and against such a by-law, and clergy across the region were invited to make their voices heard. Your's truly wrote a letter in support.

National Indigenous History Month, and National Indigenous People's Day (June 21) – celebrates our relationships with our indigenous brothers and sisters, and also calls for continued action and commitment to living out the calls to the church that arose out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work, as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In our corner of the world, Olds Indigenous Connections is a group of folk working to build relationships and understanding. I have had the pleasure of being a part of that group since its inception. We've taken a bit of a hiatus (thanks to COVID), however we look forward to continuing that work. In addition to the National Indigenous People's Day event each year (cancelled this year), there have been blanket exercises, listening circles, feasts and celebrations that have been part of the relationship building. The United Church of Canada has put financial support behind this local work, as well.

We have seen the realities of racism again in our world – with the death of George Floyd at the knees of a police officer, and the world wide reaction.

I wrote, this week, a piece for our local newspaper, as well as for our website, that speaks to my own sense of grief over this. You can find it on our web pages. The national United Church of Canada is committed to standing against racism as well, and to that end, joined with our Lutheran and Anglican churches in Canada in the following letter. It lifts up a call to seek justice and peace for our communities, our country, our world. You can find it here:

[https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/elcic-acc-ucc\\_joint\\_letter-racism.pdf](https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/elcic-acc-ucc_joint_letter-racism.pdf)

As we go into the days ahead, let us remember the Apostle Paul's message to his friends, to live in peace. For that is indeed what God would have us do.

As Paul wrote: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.

### **Hymn     Let Us Build a House**

[https://ca.video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-iry-fullyhosted\\_003&hsimp=yhs-fullyhosted\\_003&hspart=iry&p=let+us+build+a+house+youtube#action=view&id=2&vid=95391ba5aefa04f14ab0efc1567a1a74](https://ca.video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-iry-fullyhosted_003&hsimp=yhs-fullyhosted_003&hspart=iry&p=let+us+build+a+house+youtube#action=view&id=2&vid=95391ba5aefa04f14ab0efc1567a1a74)

### **This Week's Minute for Mission**

Alvin Dixon , a residential school survivor, was taken from his community and sent more than 500 kilometres to the Alberni Residential School. Alberni was a United Church of Canada–run school where many children suffered sexual, physical, and psychological

abuse. Alvin survived the school, earned a university degree, and later counselled fellow residential school survivors. He also found comfort in the Christianity he learned at the school. Alvin became a leader in the path of reconciliation. He was a Caretaker of the Indigenous Circle, a Mission & Service–supported program. As a church we continue to work toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Mission & Service supports this work through your gifts for the National Indigenous Church.

Download the video here: <http://bit.ly/2LH292k> Licence [Creative Commons Attribution licence \(reuse allowed\)](#)

### **Prayers for this day**

(adapted from Season's of the Spirit Fusion Pentecost 1, 2020)

God of compassion and love, we are here to respond to your call. We pray that you will lead us to your voice, in the mountains, on the city streets, in our communities, and across the universe that you have created and loved.

Bless us each with wonder and awe, each and every day. Help us to use that awe for good and for gratitude, as we serve all of creation.

Help us to see one another as family, as siblings in peace. Teach us to love, not to hurt, and to embrace with joy the world that you so love. May our relationships be based on a vision of peace and harmony.

In this world that seems so off kilter, help us to stand for justice and righteousness, we pray.

Bless us, as we speak the words of Jesus...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.



### **A Blessing for Today**

Let us go to share God's gifts and grace, and be witnesses to the good news of Jesus, alive in the Spirit. Amen.

Thank you so much for using this worship resource! Feel free to share it!  
We are grateful for your connection to the Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge, and to both Olds and Sundre United Churches. As the time of COVID 19 distancing progresses, know that we are still the United Church in our communities, striving to serve you and the community. Our ability to do that requires financial support, and we are so very grateful for those who are able to continue to supporting us in these challenging times. We also are aware for some, this time of pandemic has created hardship, and we pray for peace and hope.

If you already give to the church with PAR (Pre-Authorized Giving) things will carry on as usual, unless you need to make a change.

If you give through envelopes, it would be greatly appreciated if you would mail your offering in, or bring it to the office, however please call first to confirm someone is there, as in these days our staff must be cautious as well.

And finally, if you are not a regular giver, but wish to support our ministries, we would gratefully accept your gift. Amounts over \$20.00 will be tax receiptable, at the end of the year. Our church mailing addresses are:

Olds United Church 4810 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Olds AB. T4H 1E4

Sundre United Church PO Box 614 118 Centre Street North Sundre AB. T0M 1X0

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WEIRD THAT THIS READING IS BASICALLY JUST THE "SINCERELY YOURS" PART OF A LETTER?



YEAH - BUT IT SHOWS THAT THE EARLIEST CHRISTIANS UNDERSTOOD GOD TO BE A COMMUNITY OF THREE PERSONS.



YOU GOT ALL OF THAT OUT OF "SINCERELY YOURS?"

