

“ENOUGH FOR OUR NEED, NOT ENOUGH FOR OUR GREED!”

**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF CREATION
September 20, 2020
10:30 A.M.**

*“Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites.”
William Ruckelshaus*

Crescent Fort Rouge is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender expression. Our mission is to invite all who would join us, to celebrate the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, through worship, music, fellowship and outreach, to help us build a fairer and more joyful world

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY

We gather for work and worship on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota nations, and the homeland of the Metis people. Long before adventurers, colonizers, settlers, refugees, or immigrants came to the place we call Manitoba, the people of Canada’s first nations held this land as a sacred trust from Creator. They offered assistance to the travelers and shared their knowledge for survival in what was a harsh climate. May our relationships as settlers and Original Peoples be based in honour and deep respect.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Marc: We light this candle as a reminder that God is light,
in whom there is no darkness at all.

May we be open to this light,
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

OPENING WORDS

Helen: Deep calls unto deep, life calls unto life,
light calls unto light.

We are a rainbow people, and in all our diversity
Christ's light shines through us, making us one.

Whether we were first to arrive, or last to come,
we are all welcome here.

Here is God's good kin-dom!

PRAYER

Marc: Let us pray.

Most loving God, among us there are many shades
of both strength and need.

Linda: We are the people of much knowledge
who lack wisdom...

Marc: The people of many possessions
who lack fulfilment...

Helen: The people of abundant technology
who lack hope...

Linda: The people of pleasures
who lack contentment...

Marc: The people of many comforts
who lack peace...

Helen: The people of much pride
who lack dignity...

Linda: The people of ideals
who lack vigour...

Marc: The people of belief
who lack faith...

Helen: The people of faith
who lack love...

Marc: God, forgive our sins, cleanse our grubby motives,
refresh all that which is stagnant,
and invigorate everything that shows promise
in your eyes.

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen!

HYMN “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

A WORD ABOUT “THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE”

Marc: Each year the International Day of Peace is observed
around the world on 21 September. The UN General
Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to
strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24
hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

Helen: This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. COVID-19 has thrown our world into turmoil and forcibly reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet can impact people everywhere.

Linda: In March, UN Secretary-General António Guterres [called on all warring parties to lay down their weapons](#) and focus on the battle against this unprecedented global pandemic.

Marc: While the message is intended for armed parties, solidarity and cooperation across borders, sectors and generations are also needed to win this new fight against the worst public health crisis of our time.

Helen: For the United Nations, 2020 was already meant to be a year of listening and learning. To mark its 75th anniversary, the UN has invited millions of people worldwide to join [UN75](#), the largest and furthest-reaching global conversation on building the peaceful and prosperous future that we want.

Linda: As we struggle to defeat COVID-19, your voice is more important than ever. In these difficult times of physical distancing, this International Day of Peace will be dedicated to fostering dialogue and collecting ideas.

Marc: The world will be invited to unite and share thoughts on how to weather this storm, heal our planet and change it for the better.

Helen: Even though we may not be able to stand next to each other, we can still dream together. Let us celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic.

Linda: Let us stand together with the UN against attempts to use the virus to promote discrimination or hatred.

Marc: Let us join as one so that we can shape peace together.

HYMN “Let There Be Peace On Earth”

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PRAYER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

(The World Council of Churches)

Marc: God of Peace,
May we live with peace in our hearts
May we live with peace in our homes
May we be bearers of peace
to our neighborhood and community.

Helen: May we be builders of peace in our nation.

Linda: May we seek peace and pursue it
In all we say and do.

Marc: We pray for peace in every nation,
In every city and village,
In every neighborhood.

Linda: May we begin by living in peace with each other.

Helen: May we covenant that, as far as it depends on us,
we will live in peace.

Marc: Prince of Peace,
We cannot pray for peace without justice.

Linda: We cannot pray for peace without mercy.

Helen: We cannot pray for peace without love.

Marc: May we seek justice that restores;
May we seek justice for the oppressed,
For all who are on the margins.

Linda: May we grant mercy as You have given us mercy,
May we forgive as we have been forgiven,
May we see each other's humanity;

Helen: May we see the face of Christ in each other.
May we love our neighbor as ourselves.
May we love others as Christ loves us.

Marc: May we welcome strangers as friends.

Linda: Spirit of Peace,
Descend upon us, mold our hearts
To be full of your love.

Helen: May we seek peace and pursue it.

Marc: May we strive for peace in all we do.

Linda: May we be peacemakers.

Helen: May we build up the reign of God
On earth, as it is in heaven.

Marc: May we bring peace in all we do.

Linda: May we speak peace in all we say.

Helen: May we be peace to each other.

Marc: We pray in the name of our God
Who covenants with us in the name of peace.

Linda: In the name of Christ
Who is the Prince of Peace.

Helen: In the name of the Spirit,
Who breathes into us peace.

Marc: May we be peace. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

WE HEAR AND REFLECT ON THE GOOD NEWS

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE READING

Marc: “When it rains, it pours.” So it was with the Israelites in this chapter of Exodus. They had just left slavery behind, crossed the Red Sea into freedom, celebrated on the shores God’s deliverance—and in the next moment, complained about having nothing to eat.

They remember the bread that they used to eat in Egypt, and God tells Moses that it will now rain down bread—manna, to be exact. It wasn't what they were used to—in fact, they had no idea what it was at first—but it filled their daily needs and gave the enough for each day, including the Sabbath. They went from complaining about having nothing, to having manna covering the ground for them to gather and eat.

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 16:2-15 (*Contemporary English Version*)

Helen: There in the desert they started complaining to Moses and Aaron, "We wish God had killed us in Egypt. When we lived there, we could at least sit down and eat all the bread and meat we wanted. But you have brought us out here into this desert, where we are going to starve."

Linda: God said to Moses, "I will send bread down from heaven like rain. Each day the people can go out and gather only enough for that day. That's how I will see if they obey me. But on the sixth day of each week they must gather and cook twice as much."

Helen: Moses and Aaron told the people, "This evening you will know that God was the one who rescued you from Egypt. And in the morning you will see God's glorious power, because God has heard your complaints against. Why should you grumble to us? Who are we?"

Linda: Then Moses continued, “You will know it is God when God gives you meat each evening and more than enough bread each morning. God is really the one you are complaining about, not us—we are nobodies—but God has heard your complaints.”

Helen: Moses turned to Aaron and said, “Bring the people together, because God has heard their complaints.”

Linda: Aaron was speaking to them, when everyone looked out toward the desert and saw the bright glory of God in a cloud. Then God said to Moses, “I have heard my people complain. Now tell them that each evening they will have meat and each morning they will have more than enough bread. Then they will know that I am God.”

Helen: That evening a lot of quails came and landed everywhere in the camp, and the next morning dew covered the ground. After the dew had gone, the desert was covered with thin flakes that looked like frost.

Linda: The people had never seen anything like this, and they started asking each other, “What is it?”

Helen: Moses answered, “This is the bread that God has given you to eat.

Linda: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

WE REFLECT

HYMN “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

#651 Voices United

A CONTEMPORARY WORD—*Rev. Marc Whitehead*

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

HYMN “His Eye Is On The Sparrow”

AN INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP, *Katherine Hawker, adapted*

Helen: Hungry bellies and grumbling souls
are not the final word.
Manna and quail and water
fill bellies and calm souls.

Linda: The gifts of God reign
over the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Thom Shuman, adapted*

Marc: Fresh as each morning
you come to us,
Crafter of manna.

Your grace rests
gently upon us,
waiting to be gathered,
to become the bread of life
we share throughout the day.

Helen: Fresh as compassion's justice,
you come to us,
Servant of the poor.

Choosing to give
as you desire,
you show us the last,
so we can make them first
in our hearts and hopes.

Doing no wrong,
you make us right
with God for all time.

Linda: Fresh as the water
which turns a desert
into a meadowland of flowers,
Spirit of uninterrupted grace,
you come to us.

When we would grumble,
you give us the gospel to live out;

When we would protest,
you teach us songs of praise;

When we would utter laments,
you fill us with God's laughter.

Marc: God in Community, Holy in One,
refresh us with your presence
as we pray as Jesus taught, saying,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, (and Mother) 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.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

AN INVITATION TO SELF-GIVING

Marc: Whatever our struggles, whatever our miracles,
 whatever our burdens, whatever our fruitful labour,
 we can be thankful for the blessings from God
 and from God's good creation.

 As signs of that gratitude,
 let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*(after Michael has finished playing,
the gifts are brought forward and placed on the table)*

WORDS OF BLESSING AND SENDING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Marc: God of abundance,
receive these gifts
with thanks from your people, we pray.

May they and we
help your love and grace
fall like manna in the wilderness
And flow like rivers in deserts of need. Amen.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION “What Is It?”—*Steve Garnaas-Holmes*

Helen: The word “Manna” in Hebrew
sounds like “What is it?”

Linda: It's not a name,
it's a question.

Helen: There is no handle for grace.
No tag, just a tug.

No logic,
just wonder.

Linda: You can't name it,
understand, measure it.

You can only take it in.
Like a kiss.

Helen: Grace comes to you.
It leaves a taste in your mouth.

All you can do is receive it,
and wonder.

And live
the question.

HYMN “Go To The World”

#420 Voices United

FINAL WORDS

Marc: Stand firm in the spirit;
strive side by side;
and live in a manner worthy
of the gospel of Christ.

Go in peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE