

*Innisfail United Church
&
Springbank United Church*

**World Food Sunday
October 17, 2021**



**Ministers:
Rev. Darren Liepold
Rev. Brian Nicholson**

Thank you for joining us today



Wheelchair Accessible



Equipped For Hearing Impaired

4720 – 48 Avenue, Innisfail, AB T4G 1N6 Phone: 403-227-3881
web: www.innisfailuc.org email: innucc@innisfail.org

Prelude

Candle Lighting

Welcome to Country:

We recognize that our churches are located on treaty 4, 6, and 7 and on Metis Nation of Alberta number 3. We recognize their elders past, present, and emerging.

Greeting

Announcements

Call to Worship

Come with your praises, O people of God.

With all God's creatures we give God thanks and praise.

Come with thanksgiving, O people of God.

With lightning and thunder we give God thanks and praise.

Come with all the desires of your hearts. O people of God.

With the whole universe, we give God thanks and praise.

Come, let us worship God.

Gathering Song MV 42 Praise God for this Holy Ground (v2)

John Bell © 2002, GIA/Iona Community / WGRG Reproduced with permission under One License #A-716394. All rights reserved.

2 Praise God in whose word we find
food for body, soul and mind. R

R Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

God's goodness is eternal.

Opening Prayer:

O Great Spirit, we gather in your greatness reflected in all creation. With humble hearts we open ourselves to the wisdom of your word, the tenderness of your compassion and the challenge of your gospel. Redirect our living with your cup

of self-giving and your baptism of service. Amen.

Opening Hymn: MV 109 My Soul is Thirsting for you O God

Refrain © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL verses © 1977 Steven Angisano Reproduced with permission under One License #A-716394. All rights reserved.

R My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord,
thirsting for you, my God.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord
thirsting for you, my God.
thirsting for you, my God.

R My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord,
thirsting for you, my God.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord
thirsting for you, my God.
thirsting for you, my God.

1 O God you are my God,
and I will always praise you.
In the shadow of your wings
I cling to you and you hold me high. R

2 Through the day you walk with me,
all the night your love surrounds me.
To the glory of your name I lift my hands,
I sing your praise. R

3 I will never be afraid,
for I will not be abandoned.
Even when the road grows long and weary
your love will rescue me. R 2x

Prayer of Confession

Ever encouraging and hopeful God, we are mindful how raw ambition and unbridled competition not only cuts us off from you but divides people from people. Sadly, it also hinders our own expressions of authenticity.

We ask then that you help reshape our deepest desires;

remoulding them in words of compassion. For we know that your call to be great is not a call to be above and beyond all others. Rather it is the fullness of love lived out in community; a daring to be all you have ever created us to be.

Grace us then in the being and doing, giving new insight, and showing us less taken paths of renewed possibility. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

In the love of God, the compassion of Christ, and the flame of the Spirit, may the desire of your hearts be granted! May the desire of our hearts be granted.

Minute for Mission

Defining Love: Emmanuel's story

Have you ever stood in front of the pantry at 6 p.m. looking for dinner inspiration? For some of us, figuring out what to make for dinner is stressful. The truth is that if our family mealtime dilemma is wondering what to make, we are fortunate. We're fortunate because we aren't asking, "Will we eat?"

1 in 9 people around the world go to bed hungry each night.

191,000,000 children under 5 years old are malnourished.

As a young child living in Kenya, Emmanuel Baya went to bed hungry more nights than he can count. Sadly, his parents died when he was a young child, and he worked hard just to survive. That's why his heart stirred when he saw children under the cashew trees near his property. He knew they were too busy looking for food to go to school.

"Most of the children who did not go to school were orphans. It saddened my heart so much that I decided to help," he explains.

In 2008, Emmanuel opened the Magarini Children Centre. Today, over 287 children receive warm, healthy meals and

education there. But Emmanuel decided he didn't want to just feed the children—he wanted to make sure they could one day feed themselves.

So, he enrolled in the Asian Rural Institute (ARI), which your Mission & Service gifts support. There, he learned organic farming techniques. Long story short, he opened a demonstration farm next to the Children Centre. It's now a learning hub for seven surrounding communities.

“This is my definition of love,” he says.

Isn't Emmanuel's story amazing? And isn't it amazing that you have a part in it?

Please make a gift through Mission & Service this World Food Day. Your gifts will help feed, educate, and advocate for the most vulnerable at home and around the world.

Your support makes a life-changing difference through extraordinary leaders like Emmanuel, whose lives define love every day.

Kidz and God

Hymn: VU 299 Teach Me God to Wonder

© 1973 Walter Farquharson (admin. Hope Publishing Company) Reproduced with permission under One License #A-716394. All rights reserved.

1 Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;
let your world of beauty capture me.

R Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

2 Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
let your world of people speak to me. R

3 Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,
in your world of loving my place take. R

4 Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour when we meet. R

Scripture Reading: Mark 10: 35-45

The Request of James and John

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶ And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹ They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Reflection

Most of us were raised on a form of ideal or principle that said if you work hard enough, your children will be able to have it better than you did. These days, it seems that we are beginning to see the limits of that dream for people like you and me. For the first time in a long time we are beginning to deal with the reality that our children may find it harder than we did to make headway with their lives. They may have

more difficulty finding good-paying jobs. They may not be able to afford to buy a home. They simply may not be able to make the kind of income it takes to sustain the lifestyle we had. For the first time in about four or five generations, we are facing what some call the reality of downward mobility.

I think the general reaction to this is one of disbelief. We simply cannot accept that something has gone so wrong with our society that what was once our greatest strength—the ability of anybody to work hard and pull themselves up—is no longer valid for many of us. We are going the way of societies where the “have’s” continue to have more and the “have-not’s” continue to lose ground. It is becoming more and more difficult for many people to maintain a way of life. If you doubt that, just ask anyone who’s trying to send their kids to university or for that matter pay dentist’s bills.

I think this is another matter of justice—it goes along with the other issues we’ve been dealing with. When any society moves in the direction of concentrating more and more of the wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer people, you can expect that injustice will reign. When most of the wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few, you can expect to see a disparity in opportunity and quality of life. In a word, injustice. We’re used to talking about these matters in relation to so-called “Third World” countries. It would seem that the chickens have now come home to roost! Now we’re facing this problem right where we are, right at this moment.

As with the other issues of justice we’ve discussed, I don’t think it’s too bold to say that in this matter as well we are reaping what we’ve been sowing. The growing differences between rich and poor in our society is a direct result of what we are doing. And what we are doing is ignoring what the Scriptures consistently teach us is the way to life.

In our Gospel lesson for today, Jesus says that the Gentile

rulers were used to “lording it over” others. That sounds like it doesn’t just apply to ancient times; in fact it sounds like a present-day statement to me. In Jesus’ setting, it was the land barons who made the rules, and of course they made the rules to benefit themselves. These days it seems to me to be the corporate barons and their political cronies who are guilty of that kind of blatant self-interest.

But Jesus said that method won’t work. He said that the way it should be is for the “greatest” to be servants of everyone, and for the “first” to be the slaves of everyone. While he was talking about the Christian community, I don’t think he was just talking about church here. I think he was also talking about what it means to thrive, to live well in human society. When the “great” among us only seek to benefit and further enrich themselves at the expense of the rest of us, it leads to the crumbling of society. Something like what we see going on around us now. It fuels a growing dissatisfaction with what the rest of us have. When we all begin to live like that, feeling discontented with what we have and thinking the only way for us to be happy is to get a bigger slice of the pie, it becomes a recipe for hostility and frustration and anger toward those around us.

But Jesus said that the way to life is found elsewhere. It’s found by giving ourselves away as he did: “Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” When the “great” sacrifice themselves for the sake of all, then we see society as a whole begin to succeed and prosper.

Then we see real justice, peace, and harmony in our world. “You may say I’m a dreamer”, and you would most certainly be right, but as John Lennon put it, and I know it, “I’m not the only one.” Most of my favourite theologians and spiritual

writers have the same dream. It is a dream of a world in where we follow Jesus' example of self-giving instead of constantly wanting more and more to keep for ourselves.

We used to believe in that. In fact, we had a saying for it: Luke 12:48 "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required." We knew that meant that the more you had, the more advantages you could count, the more you were expected to serve. The more opportunities you were handed, the more you were expected to give yourself away for the benefit of others. Throughout our history there have been those "great" ones who gave up their privilege and position for the sake of others. That seems have gone by the wayside these days. But maybe it's time we try to recover the kind of "downward mobility" Jesus was talking about. He calls us all to take up our crosses and follow him! He calls us to a way of life that seeks not to take but to give, that seeks not to be served but to serve. It's actually, a way of life that leads to life.

It is the direction that Jesus points us in now;
to the cross and beyond;
to share the common cup;
marked as Christ's own forever.

Hymn: VU 226 For the Beauty of the Earth

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint © 1991, Choristers Guild . Reproduced with permission under One License #A-716394. All rights reserved

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies, R

R God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,

hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, R

3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, R

4 For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, R

Prayers of the People

Holy one, today we give you thanks for the rich bounty of the harvest that you have given us this season. From the green cucumbers, the orange pumpkins, the red tomatoes, and the yellow peppers, all of our harvest is a rich multi hued reflection of your glorious creation.

We also give thanks that we do not journey on this road of life alone. You have given us family and friends who love us. You have provided us with mentors and guides who show us the way. You have provided us elders who have wisdom and children who help us to see the world in new and different ways. Thank you God for this rich bounty of companions who walk the road of life to us.

On this day, we remember those who struggle in anyway. We pray for those who are victims of violence. May we put aside our weapons and see the grace in others.

On this world food day, we remember those who are unsure where their next meal is coming from. We pray for all those agencies who seek to bring food security to all the people so that no one goes hungry and all have safe water to drink. We also pray for those folks like us who have too much food. Help

us to realize it is so wrong to throw out so much food in a world where so many go hungry.

We pray for those families who are facing insecurity at home, stability being faced by job status, problems due to addiction, and domestic violence. Help us to be supportive of all those in our midst who need special care.

We remember those who are ill at this time. We pray for those who are struggling with COVID, cancer, malaria, and other diseases. Today we especially remember those in our two congregations who are ill or who need care...

All these things we pray in the name of your Son who taught to us to pray.

The Lord's Prayer VU 959

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hymn: VU 266 Amazing Grace

Reproduced with permission under One License #A-716394. All rights reserved.

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a soul like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Commissioning and Benediction

Jesus said to his followers, “Whoever wishes to become great among you, must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave to all. Friends go out with courage and peace, and travel well with your desire to be all you can be in the service of the Gospel. Be prepared to be humbled; be open to needed change. And so may the creative power of God, the redeeming power of Christ, and the sustaining power of the Spirit, be in you and uphold you on this day and into the days ahead. Amen.