

## **Prayers and Readings for Sun. June 21, 2020**

### **National Indigenous Day of Prayer**

#### **PRAYER OF PREPARTION**

As we gather on the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik and Mi'kmaq peoples, let us pray that God will prepare our hearts to worship him, not only with our lips but in our lives according to his goodness and love for all people.

Let's pray.

Almighty God,  
**to you all hearts are open,**  
**all desires known,**  
**and from you no secrets are hidden.**  
**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**  
**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**  
**that we may perfectly love you,**  
**and worthily magnify your holy name;**  
**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **Call to Worship**

The Lord is our light and our life:  
**O come, let us worship.**

#### **SAID WORSHIP**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;  
**serve the Lord with gladness**  
**and come before his presence with a song.**  
**Know this: The Lord himself is God;**  
**he himself has made us, and we are his;**  
**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**  
**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;**  
**go into his courts with praise;**  
**give thanks to him and call upon his name.**  
**For the Lord is good;**  
**his mercy is everlasting;**  
**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.**  
**Amen.**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> READING [Pre-Recorded]

### ISAIAH 40:25-31

***Introduction:** In our first reading, the prophet Isaiah is writing to the people of God in exile. After years of oppression and being taken from their land the people are struggling to hold on to their faith in God. Isaiah points to the stars to remind the people of God's greatness and of his faithfulness to the weary and the oppressed.*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 40 verse 25-31.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### PSALM 19

***Introduction:** Our psalm today celebrates the glory of God in creation and the power of God's righteous and life-giving Word.*

### PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.

**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

**Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.**

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offence.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER THE PSALM**

Let's pray.

Gracious creator of heaven and earth, your Word has come among us as the true Sun of righteousness, and his gospel has gone out to the ends of the world. Open our eyes to the light of your law, that we may be purified from sin and serve you without reproach for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Light and our Life.

#### **GOSPEL**

**JOHN 1:1-18**

Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

***Introduction:** In our gospel reading today we hear how Jesus is the Word of God through whom God created all things and now has made himself perfectly known.*

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1:1-18.

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Together let us proclaim the core of the Christian faith, shared by Christians throughout the ages and around the world, and expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Let us pray to the Lord, our strength and our redeemer, saying "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

God of grace and truth, we thank you for the gift of your love and your faithfulness to us in all things.

We give you thanks and praise in particular today for the rich and enduring heritage of the First Peoples of this Land, and for the promise of their continued and future flourishing.

Teach us, O Lord, how to truly honour and uphold the dignity and wellbeing of our Indigenous neighbours that together we would truly reflect your loving devotion to all people.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

God of righteousness and peace, we ask you to lead us in the way of true reconciliation.

Help us to face with honesty, humility and true repentance our involvement in any injustice or mistreatment visited upon our neighbours. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to amend our attitudes and our lives according to your good and perfect will, that we may share in the justice and peace of your eternal kingdom, now and forever.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

God of compassion and love, we pray to you for all who suffer and are afflicted in body, mind and/or spirit: for the hungry and homeless, the destitute and the oppressed, and all who suffer persecution or prejudice, for the sick, and the wounded, for those in loneliness, fear, and anguish, for those who face temptation, doubt, and despair, for the sorrowful and bereaved, for prisoners and captives and those in mortal danger.

Hear the cry of all those in need, and in their afflictions show them your great mercy. And give us, we pray, the compassion and strength to serve them.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Creator God,  
from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name.

You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life.

**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
**so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.**

Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.

*-silence is kept-*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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.  
And 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.**

## **BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

Together we say,

**May the Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.**

**The Lord look upon us with favour and grant us peace. Amen.**

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**