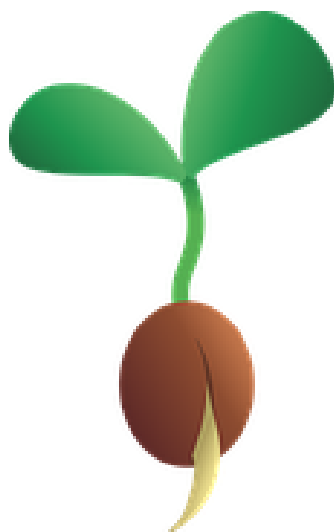




The heart in the heart of Huntsville



Minister: Reverend Diane Knowles
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Judy White
Director of Music: Kyung-A Lee
Church Administrator: Suzy Simson
Custodian: Judy Hall

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Welcome to Trinity

A Service in Celebration of the 99th Anniversary
of the United Church
Sunday June 9th, 2024 - 10 am

"Loving Hearts ... Open Minds ... Serving Hands."

"Gather, bloom and grow"

WE GATHER AS THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD

Prelude: *Kyung-A Lee*

Introit

**You are my followers when known by love.
Each time you welcome a sister, a brother,
you welcome the One whose life is Love.**

Chorus

**So, come together. Yes, come together.
Come together; arms open wide.
Break down the borders and build wider tables,
and reach out your arms. Stretch them open wide.**
(Repeat chorus)

Greeting

One: We gather as God's beloved people.

**All: May our time together inspire and empower us for
life's journey.**

Welcome in Friendship! Welcome in Faith!

Welcome in Spirit's all-inclusive love!

No matter where you are geographically or spiritually you are welcome here at Trinity United Church - the heart in the heart of Huntsville. We are glad you're with us! We strive to be an inclusive spiritual community seeking to live out a more just and generous Way of Jesus.

Announcements

Joys and Concerns and Thank Yous

God Moments this Week?

Moment of Quiet Meditation

Call to Worship

One: From deep soil comes bold and daring growth.

All: We come today to marvel at what has been harvested and to prepare for what is to come.

One: We come to celebrate where we are and where we have been.

All: We come rejoicing with our ancestors in faith across generations: The Methodists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians and our full communion partners across this world: The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, The United Church of Christ, and The Disciples of Christ.

One: We give thanks to God for the blessings of past, present and future and dare to plant seeds of faith anew moving forward.

Opening Hymn: "Make a Joyful Noise" (VU page 820)

One: I invite you to rise in body or spirit as we sing: "Make a Joyful Noise" a paraphrase of Psalm 100. In doing so we

join our voices with our spiritual ancestors who sang this psalm as an introit to the Union service in 1925.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The lighting of this candle reminds us of the presence of Christ in our midst, both yesterday, today and tomorrow. His truth to inspire us. His word to instruct us. And his love to enfold us every step of the way!

Opening Prayer

Companion God, we come here today with a joyful song in our hearts. Each day you give us a chance to begin anew: to drink deeply of your Spirit, to boldly follow in the Way of Jesus and to dare to seek justice as we foster healthy and right relationships with you and our neighbours. As we celebrate the 99th Anniversary of this United Church, help us to reflect upon all that deserves to be celebrated, all that deserves to be lamented and all that deserves to be let go. This day and always help us to be good seed that is planted and nurtured by your love, so that we continue to grow and flourish here at Trinity United Church. Amen.

Hymn: "When Seeds Fall on Good Soil" (VU 503)

Prayer of Confession

One: Loving God, in the fields of our lives and the life of our church, not all the soil is good soil. Not all of the soil is ready to receive your seeds of hope.

All: Let us make room for love.

One: There are places where the soil is so rocky that the good life you intended for us is choked.

All: Let us make room for love.

One: As we prepare for your new seeds, help us to clear the rocks and tend the ground on which we live.

All: Let us make room for love.

One: We name some of the stones that have prevented the seeds of love from flourishing.

All: Stones of fear and hatred when we have taught hate instead of love, for example homophobia and racism.

Stones of injustice and evil when we have oppressed other people in some residential schools and Japanese internment camps.

Stones of silence and ignorance when we have failed to care for seeds that have been planted by misusing or failing to nurture the gifts of others.

Stones of pride and arrogance when we have put power and possessions over the gospel and of people.

For the times we have failed to live in community as the body of Christ.

Stones of disrespect and cruelty when we have failed to reconcile and be in good relations with the earth and when we have failed to be good to one another.

One: What is “your” stone? Maybe they are the same or not. You are now invited to offer the stone that has impeded or prevented the seeds of love from flourishing in your life. Please come forward now with your stone. You can say the name of your stone aloud or silently to yourself.

As we reflect on our pile of stones, may they serve as a marker of where we have been and a signpost for the direction in which we wish to travel together. The Great Gardener of Life offers forgiveness to all who truly repent and will continue to work and till the soil of all our hearts in the days and weeks to come. Amen.

An Affirmation of Faith

(written by retired United Church Minister Rev. Dennis Posno)

**In this sacred moment and in this sacred place
we affirm our high calling as God’s people in Christ.**

**Each of us is called to be a window through which
Christ’s light shines.**

**Each of us is called to be a voice through which Christ’s
message is heard.**

**Each of us is called to be a hand through which Christ’s
help is given.**

**Each of us is called to be a heart through which Christ’s
grace is shared.**

**Each of us is called to be for others all that Christ has
been for us.**

Amen.

Light Beamers Song: *“Sing a Happy Hallelujah!” (VU 224)*

Time with our Light Beamers

(Our young people are taught the values and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, his love and his compassion for all God’s people. In turn, they learn to shine their light with others at home, at school and in their communities.)

Congregational Blessing

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

All: And also with you.

Choir Anthem: *“Here I am, Lord”*

WE LISTEN FOR OUR EASTER WORD

Our Scripture Reader today is: Doug Hicks.

Prayer of Illumination

Reader: God of Grace may your word abide deep within our souls. Help us to engage with your timeless story with an open spirit and a curious mind. Amen.

First New Testament Reading: John 12: 20-26

(If you hoard your seeds and never plant them, they’re worthless.)

Second New Testament Reading Luke 5: 37-38

(The metaphor of new wine and new wineskins emphasizes the need for openness to change and renewal.)

Reader: Hear what the Risen Spirit is saying to our hearts.

All: Amen.

Morning Message: *“Flourishing Seeds”*

Moment of Musical Reflection: *“Planting Trees and Sowing Seeds” sung by Jeannette McCullough*

Invitation for Offering

Jesus shows us how to love generously and care compassionately. Let us show our generous love as our morning tithes and offerings are now received.

Offering Hymn

**God of love, hear our prayer,
bless this offering we bring you.
May our lives do your will, guide and guard us forever.
Give us the courage to stand for truth,**

**help us care for others.
God of love, hear our prayer,
bless this offering we bring you.**

Offering Prayer

Spirit of Life, here is the work of our hands. Here is the love of our hearts. Here is our desire to make this world a better place for our human family. We believe you are calling us forward into a new day. We believe you have a bright future for us here at Trinity United Church. Bless these gifts and may they be used to bring your love to those who need it most. Bless us too and help us to shine our light and hope into our broken and hurting world.

Amen.

Hymn: *“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (VU 400)*

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

**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
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Alternative version of the Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit,
pain bearer and life giver,
source of all that is and all that shall be.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love
now and forever.
Amen.

Closing Hymn: *"May the God of Hope Go with Us"* (VU 424)

Benediction

God of love, keep our feet firmly planted in the way Jesus
leads us.
Help our lips speak the truth that Christ teaches us.
Fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us.
Go with God, go in gladness and go in peace.
Amen.

Sung Blessing

We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand
unite.
In the world, we receive, there's a sense that God is
light.
We are one- as we leave- as we love we are loved.
And we seek justice in God's ways as we move
together from this place.

Musical Postlude: *Kyung-A Lee*



*Join us in Trinity Hall following today's service for a piece of
Anniversary cake, a cup of coffee or tea, and fellowship time.*

Your hosts today: Shirley & Glenn Boon



Spiritual Thought to go:

*"The universe is controlled by love and love alone.
Outside love's embrace the world is chaos
but within it all is safe and secure.*

Today, I choose the arms of love in which to rest my soul."

Marianne Williamson

Happy Birthday to Diane Litchfield
who turns 91 years young tomorrow,
Monday June 10th!



Happy
BIRTHDAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER STUFF!

The Outreach Team is asking you to help the local food banks.



On the last Sunday of each month, we will be collecting food for the Salvation Army and the Table Soup Bank.

➤ **June is Peanut Butter!**

Under the Kenyan Sun - Craig and Cathy Fairley invite you to join them on today from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at their home.



Hear about Cathy's recent visit to **Home of Grace** and learn about the challenges facing the neighbouring community. Enjoy African-Canadian

finger food and shop the Kenyan Marketplace.

RSVP to cathy@hogcc.org and for more details.

Directors Meeting – Tuesday June 11th at 10 am in the Arnold Room.

InSpirit Team Meeting – Thursday June 13th at 10 am in the Arnold Room.

Circle of Loss – Thursday June 13th at 2 pm in the Arnold Room.

Robert Seely Celebration of Life – Nina Fulford will lead a graveside service at Hutchenson Memorial Cemetery on Thursday June 13th at 1 pm followed by a reception to celebration Robert's life in Trinity Hall. Robert was a lifetime member of Trinity, and all are invited to attend.

Time to celebrate 99 years of being The United Church of Canada!

Today kicks off a full year of Centennial celebrations!

We will come together to celebrate where we have been, where we are and where the church is headed in the future.

The United Church has been making a difference in the lives of countless people in communities across Canada and around the world for almost a century! We give thanks for the blessings of past, present and future and dare to plant seeds of faith anew!

Join us for this milestone celebration and enjoy a piece of Anniversary cake in Trinity Hall after the service today.

Our 100th Anniversary will be celebrated in Worship on June 8th, 2025.

The inaugural United Church of Canada service was held at the Mutual Street Arena in Toronto on June 10th, 1925.

Mark the date on your calendars and hope to see you all for this meaningful celebration in the life of our faith community!

Blessings, Rev. Diane

