

**Neighbours Praising God  
“Celebrating the Spirit of the People”**

**Presider: Manitou Conference President Ron Holotuk  
Music Ministry: Holly Scott & Rev. Todd MacDonald  
May 28, 2006 – Mindemoya United Church**

**Call to Worship:**

We have gathered to worship God.  
**We have come seeking comfort,  
inspiration, community and insight.**  
We have come to open ourselves  
to the power of God's presence in our midst.  
**We have come to offer up the seasons  
and turnings of our lives,  
and to ask God's help  
in our learning and our growing and our celebrating.**  
*from Celebrate God's Presence (adapted)*

**Hymns:      *Know That God is Good (MV10);  
Dance with the Spirit (MV6)***

**Words of Introduction and Welcome**

**Prayer:**

In your image, O God, we are created.  
Be with us as we reflect that image  
in our work and play, as we sing and pray,  
study and learn, laugh and cry together.  
Help us accept our responsibility  
as members of this church  
and as followers of the Way of Jesus Christ.  
We ask for the encouragement of your Spirit  
and the energy of your love.  
Amen.

*Susan Lukey; from Celebrate God's Presence (as adapted)*

- 2 -

The Wisdom: *Wisest One, Radiant One (VU 893)*  
Acts 9:36-42 - *The Raising of Tabitha*  
The Gospel: Matthew 26:6-13 - *The Faithful One*

*We remember water ...  
Over which the spirit moved at Creation;  
Which upheld an ark, as the sacred story bears witness,  
delivering its saving remnant to safe harbour;  
Water that parted to save a fleeing people from injustice;  
Water that sprang from a rock to renew and refresh  
a thirsty people in the wilderness;  
Water that flushed our infant lives into the world;  
Water in which our mothers and our fathers bathed us  
when we could not look after ourselves;  
Water in which we were baptized  
and which marks our membership in the company  
of the faithful ...*

*May this same water,  
be among us today in this sacred time and place,  
bringing new life and new commitment  
to this blessed community.  
For we believe in God who has created and IS creating;  
Who has come in Jesus the Word made Flesh  
to reconcile and make new;  
And who works in us AND in others by the Spirit.  
Thanks be to God.*

**Anthem:      *Deep in Our Hearts (MV7)***

**Reflection:    *Apology and Appreciation to Women in  
Ministry Affected by the “Disjoining Rule” with  
sharing by:***

*Kay Heuer / Geraldine Bould  
Mary-Jo Eckert Tracy / Dorothy Hemingway*

Hymn: *Spirit, Open My Heart (MV17)*

Prayer for Repentance and Forgiveness:

God of grace and God of history  
in your image we are created  
and by your mercy, we are responsible for our actions.  
We come before you, as the United Church of Canada  
to publicly repent for our wrongdoings  
to the Deaconesses and Ordained women of our denomination.

O God, we call.  
O God we call.  
From deep inside we yearn,  
From deep inside we yearn,  
From deep inside we yearn for you.  
(sung prayer, VU 411)

We grieve over our limited and culturally conditioned  
vision of the women's call to serve you.  
We are sorry for the policies and practices which denied  
their ministry and gifts.

We repent of the injustices that left many women  
unemployed, in poverty, and shut out from the courts.  
We recant the sexism that continues to creep quietly and  
steadily into our views and practices towards women  
generally and women in ministry.

O God, we call.  
O God we call.  
From deep inside we yearn,  
From deep inside we yearn,  
From deep inside we yearn for you.

Open your church to the truths of its past in regard to  
"women in ministry."  
Heal the individual and corporate wounds of our practices.  
Pour out your wisdom to understand a better way.  
Empower the church to create policies and live practices  
that are just, respectful and celebrative of women.

O God, we call.  
O God we call.  
From deep inside we yearn,  
From deep inside we yearn,  
From deep inside we yearn for you.

God is a God of grace and a God of history.  
We are created in God's image and we are responsible.  
By God's mercy the church is forgiven.  
By God's mercy we are able to be transformed  
By God's mercy we are committed  
to honour all women's ministries  
and to policies and practices of justice towards all  
people.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Joan K. McMurtry*

**Creedal Affirmation - unison**

I BELIEVE IN GOD  
who created woman and man in God's own image  
who created the world and gave both sexes the care of the  
earth.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS  
child of God, chosen of God, born of the woman Mary  
who listened to women and liked them  
who stayed in their homes

who discussed justice with them  
who was followed and financed by woman disciples.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS

who discussed theology with a woman at a well  
and first confided in her his messiahship  
who motivated her to go and tell her great news to the city.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS

who received anointing from a woman  
who rebuked the men guests who scorned her  
who said this woman will be remembered  
for what she did to minister to Jesus.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS

who healed a woman on the Sabbath  
and made her whole because she was  
a human being.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS who spoke of God  
as a woman seeking the lost coin  
as a woman who swept, seeking the lost.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS

who thought of pregnancy and birth with reverence  
not as punishment but a wrenching event  
a metaphor for transformation  
born again anguish-into-joy.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS

who spoke of himself as a mother hen  
who would gather her chicks under her wing.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS

who appeared first to Mary Magdalene  
who sent her with the bursting message.  
GO AND TELL.

I BELIEVE IN THE WHOLENESS OF THE SAVIOUR

in whom there is neither Jew nor Greek  
slave nor free, male nor female  
for we are all one in salvation.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

as she moves over the waters of creation  
and over the earth.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

the woman spirit of God  
who like a hen created us and gave us birth  
and covers us with her wings.

*Rachel C. Wahlberg  
from Prayers & Poems, Songs & Stories  
Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity With Women*

Offertory Invitation

Offering

Communion Hymn

**Service of the Table**

(from the Iona Community - Scotland)

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts

*We lift them up to God.*

It is right to give both thanks and praise.

*(We tell the story of the great things God has done for us.)*

**Right Side:** We give you thanks, O God of celebration and sorrow, laughter and tears. In wilderness wanderings and in joyful journeys, in parades of jubilation and processions of pain, you have never left us or forsaken us.

**Left Side:** You send us prophets and poets, leaders and teachers, to proclaim in word, witness and work, the faithfulness of your love. You have always been for us Creator, Friend and Guide. We join with all your people and all creation to proclaim your praise:

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, source of life and love.**

*All you have made proclaims your grace.*

*Blest is the Christ who comes in your name.*

*Creation cries: Hosanna!*

**Right Side:** In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus, the servant king, celebrated by the stars and longed for by your people. With us he lived both the joys and sorrows of this world.

**Left Side:** When Jesus knew that his hour had come, he gathered with his friends for a meal. Getting up from the table, he tied a towel around himself and washed their feet. And after he had finished, he said, "I have set an example for you, do as I have done to you.

**Right Side:** Then he took bread, blessed it, and gave it, even to Judas, saying, "I am the bread of life. Do this to remember me." And he blessed the cup and gave it to them saying, "I am the true vine. Drink from this cup to remember me."

**Left Side:** Then he gave them a new commandment, saying, "Love one another as I have loved you. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." And so we proclaim in word and witness the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Right Side:** We gather these and all our prayers thankful that we can turn to you as a Mother watching over us, and as *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...*

(The bread is broken) The bread that we break,  
*is our sharing in the life of Christ*

(The cup is filled) The cup for which we give thanks,  
*is our sharing in the life of Christ*

**Sharing the bread and the cup**

(Please come forward and receive the elements).

**Prayer after Communion** *(responsive)*

For bread and wine, this place and this time  
*Thanks be to God.*

For the peace we are promised which the world won't destroy

*Thanks be to God.*

For the hope of heaven on earth and the final song of joy.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Recognition of Significant United Church of Canada  
Ministries**

Robert McCrae: 60 years since Ordination  
Geraldine Bould: 50 years since Designated as  
Deaconess & Commissioned as a Missionary  
under the Women's Missionary Society  
David Bould: 50 years since Ordination  
Brian Bigelow: 40 years since Ordination  
Murray Arnill: 40 years since Ordination  
Mary-Jo Eckert Tracy: 25/29 years since  
Ordination/Commissioning  
Dorothy Hemingway: 25 years since election as  
1<sup>st</sup> Lay President of Manitou Conference  
Doug Joblin (OM): retiring as President,  
Huntington University

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn: *Go Make a Difference (MV9)*

The Blessing:

Return now to our world with its pain and wonder,  
remembering the words of the prophets,  
the faithfulness of Mary,  
and the longing of all who yearn for a sign of hope.  
And may the blessing of God who is ever faithful,  
the blessing of Christ who still comes to us,  
and the blessing of the Holy Spirit who moves within us  
and throughout our world,  
rest upon us and abide with us, this day and forevermore.  
Amen.

*The Very Rev. Marion Pardy  
from Worship For All Seasons, Volume 1, CGP*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship this afternoon as we conclude  
Manitou Conference's "Neighbours Praising God"  
weekend. We're glad to have you with us!

Thanks to all who have shared in worship leadership –  
especially our terrific music leaders: Holly & Todd!

Undesignated offerings will be sent to the Mission &  
Service Fund. (Offerings in church envelopes will be  
directed to the appropriate congregation.)

We hope you will be able to stay after worship for a time  
of refreshment and fellowship, hosted by the Mindemoya  
UCW.

Safe travels! Next Sunday is "Pentecost."

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For all you've done to make our weekend a success,

**THANK YOU NPG / MYF PLANNING TEAM:**

Mary-Jo Eckert Tracy • Maxine McVey

Marian Sloss • Darlene Hardy

Erwin Thompson • Faye Stevens

Larry Sayers • Geraldine Bould

Cathy Russell • Mary Anne Van Heuvelen