

Welcome to the worship service of
St. Andrew's United Church, 40 Joseph St., Chalk River, ON
10th Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 am August 9, 2020

Welcome & Greeting
Draw the Circle Wide
Christ Candle lighting

Played 2X

Call to Worship

The Great Mystery welcomes us all here today. We assemble in love, peace, and forgiveness. Let us rejoice knowing that we gather together to worship the Great Mystery as Sisters and Brothers in Christ. We draw upon, and from within, our wide circle of faith as we worship in peace with much joy! Amen (Doug Tennant)

Opening Prayer

**God of presence, as you walked upon the water to meet the disciples, meet us during the storms in our lives.
God of Renewal, as you lifted Peter from the water, lift us from despair to hope, from distraction to focus, from death to life.
God of the Journey, direct us in your way, work out your purpose in and through our lives. We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.** (United Church of Christ - USA)

Hymn "Be thou my vision" VU #642 Played 3 X

Prayer of Hope

**God is with us, Christ is present, the Holy Spirit surrounds and unites us all. But we have turned our eyes to the challenges and busyness of this life, we have lost our focus on God and are sinking in sin.
And we can begin again. We imagine a new way of being.
We have cast aside our dreams to maintain the familiar.
We have cast aside the dreams of others, fearful of what they might mean. God loves us, Christ offers hope and will lift us from**

the waves of doubt and the Holy Spirit will rescue us from currents of insecurity and alienation. In these moments of quiet reflection we confess to God all that separates us from God and one another. Time for personal reflection and confession.

Amen (Adapted from the United Church of Christ - USA)

Assurance of Pardon

Take heart, do not be afraid.

Every one who calls upon God's name will be saved. We are a loved and forgiven people. Thanks be to God! (Adapted from the United Church of Christ - USA)

Hymn "Though ancient walls" VU #691 Played 3X
Responsive Psalm 105 VU #828 Parts 1 & 2 With unsung refrain
Scripture Romans 10:5–15
Gospel Reading Matthew 14:22–33
Message
Hymn "Jesus, remember me" VU #148 Played 3 X

Life and Work of the Congregation
Offering of time, talents and money VU #543 Played 1X
Remembrance of others VU #400 Played 2X
Ministry of Music from Kurt Zhou

Pastoral Prayer

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, for ever and ever. Amen

Hymn "Will you come and follow me" VU #567 Played 2X

Threefold Amen

Commissioning and Blessing

Go Now in Peace VU #964 Played 2X

The racism of light and dark

At times Christians use “light” imagery in positive ways, and “dark” imagery in negative ways. Such stark contrasts are deeply painful for Black peoples. Using light and dark this way contravenes the United Church’s anti-racism policy and guidelines. Some people are confused about the reasons for this, since many dark and light references are found throughout the Bible, such as: The people have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2) It is true that in the Bible darkness is seen as the antithesis of light, with light being the symbol of God’s purity, glory, and wisdom.

The Bible does use darkness to symbolize depravity, disobedience to God, the unenviable place of the dead, the place where the wicked sit, and a place of punishment where wrongdoers will be cast into. The problem that the United Church’s anti-racism policy is addressing deals with the racialization of the terms “white” and “black.” This occurred when leading European enlightenment philosophers, academics, and scientists arbitrarily assigned positive characteristics of the term “light” to White people (i.e., Europeans), and ascribed to brown and Black people, the “negative” characteristics of the term “dark.”

In the 1700s, German philosopher Immanuel Kant wrote: “Humanity is at its greatest perfection in the race of the whites. The yellow Indians do have a meager talent. The Negroes are far below...at the lowest point.”

Before this time, the positive and negative aspects of light and dark were not systematically assigned to different peoples. Once this separation of peoples based on race became entrenched in education, science, economic, social, and political policies and activities of colonial conquest and enslavement, it was virtually impossible to use these terms in ways devoid of a racist agenda.

Currently, as the United Church strives to live into its commitments to racial justice and to becoming an intercultural church, examining our language—and its historical contexts—is one way of seeking transformation. —Anthony D. Bailey, written to supplement study resources for the Sankofa DVD (United Church 2011). (This article has been edited for brevity.)

Further information and online registration on the topic of racism is available on the United in Learning continuing education website.

<https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/7-racial-justice-workshop>



St. Andrew's United Church

40 Joseph Street Chalk River, ON

Welcome!