



St. James United Church
Announcements
Summer Worship Continues!
July 23, 2023

Please note there will be no formal Sunday school classes running from July 1 to Sept 3, 2023

Thank you to this Sunday's volunteers who make our time of gathering meaningful & fun:

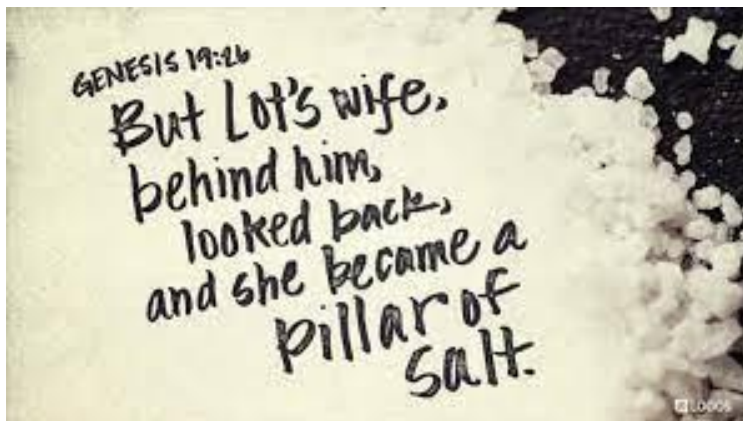
Greeter: Carley Moore & Allison Moore

Lay Reader: Hilary Mallett

Refreshments: Donna Wice

This Week in Worship ...with Pastor Patricia

As we finish our month of Indigenous reflection, we'll take a look at *Genesis 19:12–29* and tell the story of a woman called Meleka.



I (Patricia) will be on vacation from July 24 - Aug 21 inclusive. During that time, Sunday worship will continue through the commitment and gifted hands of St. James members. Should you need assistance during my holidays, please leave a message at the office and you will receive a call back asap. You may also reach out to Joyce Feren, Board Chair at 705-431-2204. Thank you to everyone who is making this time away possible, and I will continue to hold you in my daily prayers. 🙏 ~ Patricia

I came across this article while researching the Gathering Worship, United Church of Canada website. It was written by Susan Lukey, editor of the magazine. It seems very timely for not only our worship this month, but with all that is going on in the world today. Speaking to how we can follow the way of Jesus in a loving manner, I found it an insightful read. I hope you do as well.

~ *Pastor Patricia*

Editor's Postlude: No More Enemy Aliens

Blog - FEBRUARY 17, 2023

"Enemy Aliens"—that is the label the Canadian government gave to my Ukrainian ancestors during World War I and to Japanese Canadians during World War II to justify confiscating their property, savings, and possessions, and confining them to internment camps. "Enemy Aliens"—two words that demonized a people, proclaiming loudly that because of their ethnic group, they were one of the "others," definitely not "us," and definitely to be feared. There was no assessment as to whether the people who had arrived in Canada were fleeing persecution and conscription (as my Ukrainian ancestors were), no evaluation of the hard work and devotion these immigrants offered to Canada. They were "Enemy Aliens" based solely on their ethnicity or country of origin in time of war. "Enemy Aliens" was used to restrict and demean a whole cultural group.

For the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, words such as *primitive* or *savage* or *heathen* denigrated their rich cultures, traditions, and spirituality. The intricacies of individual Indigenous cultures went mostly unnoticed as all of the Indigenous people who first lived in this land were lumped together as "uncivilized" and "unchristian." In the drive to recreate the British-European society on North American soil, the languages and cultures of the First Peoples were almost obliterated, and the abundance of the natural environment, including the buffalo and beavers, was ravaged for sport and profit.

If you didn't speak a European language—preferably English—you were considered stupid and illiterate. So it was with my Ukrainian ancestors, who knew the Cyrillic, not the Latin, alphabet. I grew up with "dumb Ukrainian" jokes in the '60s and '70s, a vestige of the early assumptions about Ukrainians and other Eastern

Europeans. Yet my "white" skin has allowed me to fit into society in ways that those of racialized ancestries cannot.

As I consider how so many of the racist actions that are part of Canadian (and world) history have been done in the name of being Christian, I am embarrassed to call myself Christian. When I see Christians waving anti-gay signs and proclaiming that God will send those of the LGBTQ+ community to hell, I want nothing to do with the word *Christian*.

Yet, it is not the gospel of Jesus Christ I am ashamed of; it is the choices, attitudes, and actions that come out of a misuse of the gospel that embarrass me. The gospel has nothing to do with it. People claim their own racist and stereotypical beliefs as "gospel" truth to justify their actions.

If we truly consider Jesus' actions and words in the gospels, we notice a man who went out of his way to include those who were excluded by society, who touched those whom others turned away, and who ate with those whom others feared. He sat at a table with tax collectors who worked for the enemy Romans. He made the outsider Samaritan the hero of his story. He welcomed women as his financial supporters. Jesus instructed his followers not only to love God with heart, mind, strength, and soul and to love your neighbour as you love yourself, but also to love and show hospitality to those who are vulnerable and excluded; to strangers and to enemies. Jesus didn't draw lines; he obliterated them in the name of God's love.

That's what it means to be a follower of the Way of Jesus. We need more than ever to claim and live this expansive love taught to us by Jesus. There are still those who are demonized and excluded in our country because of language, ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability or disability, body size or shape, and more. In this anniversary year of the confederation of Canada, may we resist making "Enemy Aliens" of anyone, in spite of our fears and discomfort, and in the love of Jesus, reach out as friends.

Susan Lukey, Editor

first published in the Lent-Easter 2017 issue of Gathering, the year marking the 150 of the confederation of Canada.

COPYRIGHT ~ Susan Lukey, editor, Gathering Lent-Easter, 2017

Save the Date...

We're firing up the BBQ!



Gilford United Church
Community BBQ is back!
Saturday August 19, 2023

Rain or shine

2 options

IN PERSON <i>Feeling OK about gathering together again?</i>	TAKE OUT <i>Still unsure about gathering together?</i>
Steak BBQ'ed to your liking Baked potato Coleslaw All the corn you can eat Homemade pies Coffee & tea \$25 Continuous seating from 5 pm to 7 pm <i>(Children's meal available – Hamburger \$10.00)</i>	Steak and potato to take home and cook Coleslaw 2 cobs of corn 1 slice of pie (pie cutter's choice) \$25 Pick up between 2 pm – 4 pm. Must pre-order by August 13, 2023 CONTACT: sdtwine90@gmail.com or 705-458-1145 ankeipl@gmail.com or 705-791-0544

*Thank you for your continued support of
our small community church*

*Please submit all announcements via e-mail to Heather Thompson by noon on Tuesdays.
Thank you!*