



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

June 18, 2017

Aboriginal Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reading: Darrel Mitchell

Pianist: Mary Anderson

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection:

As Canada embarks on celebrating the 150th anniversary of Confederation, let us acknowledge that Canada's "origin story" does not begin with the British North America Act of 1867. Without the contributions of Indigenous Peoples, present on the land for thousands of years prior to Confederation, Canada would be the country it is today.

Adapted from: Living on the Path of Respect, page 1.

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

One: We gather to share in God's dream of abundant life for all.

ALL: We gather to give and receive gifts of deep emotion, deep wisdom, and deep love.

ONE: With gratitude we gather as a community to praise God, to seek transformation,

ALL: and to celebrate the power of the Spirit in our lives.

Adapted from: The UCC Aboriginal Sunday Celebration and Thanksgiving Service.

Summer Worship Schedule

A Journey through Genesis

June 25	Refugee Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor - Celebration of Refugee Sponsorship
July 2	Canada Sunday (150 th)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
July 9	Isaac's Story	- Rev. Annette Taylor
July 16	Esau & Jacob	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Recent Events

Saturday, June 24th - Desi Rae McGowan & Daniel Fox Wedding

The UCC Repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery

The Doctrine of Discovery, a legal framework that justified European imperial ventures around the world, including the colonization of North America, has its roots in a series of Papal statements dating back to the 15th century.



Given the passage of time, and the shifting of religious affiliation, you might think that it is an archaic principle, with little bearing in contemporary law and society.

Yet the Doctrine of Discovery, which asserted that lands belonged to the Christian powers that "discovered" them, continues to reverberate in the 21st century. As the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) (TRC) noted in its final report, the Doctrine of Discovery has been cited in decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada as recently as the 1990s.

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Opening Hymn: VU #312 Praise with Joy the World's Creator
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer and Jesus' Prayer

Creator and Keeper of covenants and treaties old and new,
whose voice we hear in the winds of the four directions,
your Spirit inspires us to celebrate your presence
and live with respect in creation.

In Canada, our relations have been distorted for centuries,
with colonization twisting and blurring your image in us.

Yet you call us, still, to journey together
seeking the good paths of justice.

Our hearts and lands long for liberation and transformation.

May our worship reconnect us to the truth
of who you are, and
who we are, and

move us to claim our shared sacred responsibility.

Amen.

Adapted from: The UCC, *Living on the Path of Respect*, Page 4.

WORD

Hymn: VU #644 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry
(please remain seated)

The Celebration of Baptism

Raea Jade Sherwick

Parents: Briana Wilms & Tyler Sherwick

Godparents: Rianna Garthus & Dustin Garthus

Scripture Readings: Genesis 17:3-10; 18:1-5, 9-15; 21:1-7

ONE: We read these texts so that in them we may find wisdom for life.

ALL: May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: Doctrine of Discovery

Choral Offering: What God Can Do!

Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig

Music by Don Besig

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: A Historic Land Transfer

Offering

Offertory Hymn: MV #156 Dance with the Spirit *(sung twice)*
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication:

Creator God, we ask you to bless these gifts,
which have been given in love.

May our gifts be used in many ways to build good relations.

May your will be done through these gifts and through us and
in spite of ourselves.

Amen.

Adapted from: The UCC, *Living on the Path of Respect*, Page 6.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: MV #141 We Are All One People
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: Go Now in Peace

Don Besig & Nancy Price

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for June 25, 2017

Genesis 21:8-21

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 (VU p. 803)

Romans 6 :1b-11

Matthew 10 :24-39

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The Doctrine of Discovery has profoundly affected the way that Indigenous peoples have been perceived by non-Indigenous peoples. The TRC's final report observed that it rested upon the belief that "the colonizers were bringing civilization to savage people who would never civilize themselves" [Canada's Residential Schools: The History, Part I: Origins to 1939, p. 18]. That perception, in turn, defined our relationship, culminating in the establishment of residential schools and the legacy that continues to play out today.

Consequently, a key recommendation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, articulated in a number of its [Calls to Action](#), is the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.

The United Church of Canada [repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery](#) in 2012, as did the [World Council of Churches](#). This was [one step in our long journey](#) of listening, repentance, and the building of right relations that began with the 1986 Apology to First Nations Peoples. Now we must examine what it means to live it out.

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