



UNDRIP - The Law of our God is Perfect!

Wildwood Mennonite Church // January 17, 2021

Worship Leader: Luke W // Music Leader: Marg E

Sermon: Steve Heinrichs - Director, Indigenous-Settler Relations for MC Canada

Welcome to Wildwood!

Good morning, welcome to Wildwood Mennonite Church! We are glad you have chosen to be with us.

Today we will be looking at the theme "The Law of the Lord, The Law of the Land". What if the law of the land is far from the justice that God longs for? What is our responsibility to engage the laws of the land when they impact the vulnerable? We will explore these questions in today's service and how they relate to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Steve Heinrichs is the Director for Indigenous-Settler Relations for Mennonite Church Canada, we will hear from him later this morning.

Now I invite you to settle in, and join with each other in this time of worship and fellowship.

Music For Meditation // [Rumours](#) // Erinn Epp and Church of the Servant

Call to Worship // Voices Together #863

Source of all hope and holiness,
we gather today to be church.
Bless those who are absent,
but not from our hearts.
Bless those who are distant,
but not from our love.
Bless each of us here,
that we may choose justice by your Spirit,
draw kindness from the well of your mercy,
and walk humbly in your path, O God.

Peace Candle

Loving God, you inspire us with love for all persons and concern for the well-being of all creation. Give us the strength and courage to transform the compassion in our hearts into acts of peace, mercy, and justice.

Forgive us for the arrogance that leads to moral blindness, for desires for vengeance and retaliation. Help us to renounce all forms of violence.

Empower us to live out the caring presence of the merciful and generous persons we claim to be. Make us channels of your peace. Make us people who hear and respond to pleas for justice in our world.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus who came among us to show us the way.

Offering Prayer

Sustaining God, you provide for us each and every day. Teach us to be kind in heart, so that love, grace, and charity flow forth like a river. Give us a generosity that reflects your own. Amen.

Song // [Let's Walk Together](#) // Voices Together #6

Children's Story // [Click here for video storytime with Phyllis G!](#)

This week's story is [Stolen Words](#) by Melanie Florence with illustrations by Gabrielle Grimard.

Scripture // *Inclusive Bible* translation

Psalm 19:7-10

*Your law, Yhwh, is perfect;
it refreshes the soul.*

*Your rule is to be trusted;
it gives wisdom to the naive.*

*Your purposes, O God, are right;
they gladden the heart.*


*Your command is clear;
it gives light to the eyes.*

*Holding you in awe, Yhwh, is purifying;
it endures.*

*Your decrees are steadfast,
and all of them just.*

*They are more precious than gold,
than the purest of gold,
and sweeter than honey,
than honey fresh from the comb.*





Sermon // “The Law of the Lord, The Law of the Land” // Steve Heinrichs, Director, Indigenous-Settler Relations for Mennonite Church Canada

Psalm 19 says the law of God is perfect. But what if the law of the land is far from the justice that God longs for? And what is the church’s responsibility to engage the law of the land, especially when it impacts those that Jesus is particularly concerned with— the vulnerable? Despite rumors of political non-engagement, Mennonites have wrestled with the laws of the land for generations, not only advocating for change, but helping bring it about. Today, Indigenous peoples are calling on governments and faith communities to adopt and comply with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (TRC Calls to Action 43 & 48).

(The video version of Steve’s sermon will be posted to the wildwoodmennonite.org website after the service, hopefully by Tuesday)

We do not have a written transcript of the sermon this week.

Song of Response // [Wakantanka \(Many and Great\)](#) // Voices Together #128

Sharing Time


Not hearing from one another in person through the Sharing Time is a significant loss for many of us. Sharing items can be emailed to the church office or the pastors to be shared with the congregation. If you’re able, join us for our Sunday Morning Zoom gatherings, or check your email for the sharing items from last Sunday. Or maybe now would be a good time to pause your reading to call someone from church or elsewhere that you haven’t heard from this week.

Congregational Prayer

Creator God,

As we observe the sunrises these mornings, from infinite shades of pink, rose, peach and salmon, striped with azure blue, cyan, and lavender, to a deep red-orange glow, each morning the harmony of these different colors brings new and unique beauty into our world. And the words of the Psalmist come to mind: “Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honour and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment.” (Psalm 104) And so the beauty of creation gives us a glimpse into your glory and power, your splendour and majesty.

As we experience your glory through creation, we want to give glory to you, our Creator, by working with and respecting creation – and the diversity of it. You are the source of every aspect of life in all its uniqueness, and we aim to be in right relationship with you, with all humanity and all creation.



And yet, we confess that we are missing the mark. Even caring for the earth and striving to live in a way that is sustainable seems complex and very difficult to attain. And caring for its people seems equally so. God, we know through Jesus that you are particularly concerned with the vulnerable, the defenceless, the marginalized, the disenfranchised. And yet we are also aware that, particularly of the Indigenous Peoples of this land, the rights we so take for granted from our place of privilege are not being addressed. We are aware that the minimum standards necessary for the “dignity, survival and well-being” of our Indigenous Peoples are not in place; that in fact they have, for centuries, suffered by being considered as sub-human.

Creator, we pray that you will search our hearts and know our thoughts; that you will make us very aware of the appalling ways in which our First Nations Peoples have been treated; that we can come to a place of recognizing that we need to, as someone has said, “look all persons in the eye and recognize them as human beings”. Instill in us a desire to leave our old patterns of being the “quiet in the land” and speak up; that we can show by our actions our honor and respect for the diversity of your creation, where we are different, but so very much the same!

Help us to recognize where, in our world, fear and greed puts the safety and well-being of others at risk; to adopt a new set of beliefs, values, and systems that could change (and maybe even save) humanity and our world. Grant us strength and the ability to respond wisely to any situation or circumstance. Help us to pursue peace, collaboration, and mutual care for one another; to align ourselves with your wisdom, character, and dreams for us. Help us to live the story that was given to us at the very beginning, that creation is “good,” even “very good,” and help us to nurture and grow goodness, justice, and lovingkindness wherever we can.

Grant our governments the wisdom to honour Indigenous peoples’ human rights, and to set Canada on a path of mutuality and authentic relationship. We pray not only for our government, but for governments around the world, and particularly for our neighbours to the south in this coming week, that they will seek reconciliation and collaboration and nonviolent resolutions to the existing conflicts.

We pray for ourselves, for those needing healing... for an extra measure of strength, an extra measure of empathy and acceptance, and the courage to walk alongside those who are suffering.

We are grateful that some have already received their vaccines, and for the measure of relief this will grant those living and working in healthcare facilities and care homes. We pray for continued protection for those who are vulnerable and those working with them, and for all those working to protect us.

O Lord our God, and our Creator, you are very great. Glory and power are yours! We bless you and praise you and seek to live in harmony as you would have us live. To this end we pray! Amen!

Sending Song // [My Love Colours Outside the Lines](#) // Voices Together #582

Benediction

Eternal God,
give us faith to go out with courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us,
and your love supporting us,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

