



We are
Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge
Knox Didsbury Pastoral Charge
of the United Church of Canada



Sunday November 7th, 2021
Minister: Rev. Tammy Allan
Musician today: Vivian Choropita (Olds /Knox)

Our mission statements:

Olds: A Family of Faith, Spiritually Motivated, Welcoming and Caring

Sundre: Believing, Caring, Sharing

Knox Didsbury: Caring, Sharing, Believing

*As we worship we gratefully acknowledge that our churches are all
on the ancient and traditional lands of The Blackfoot Nation, the
people of the Treaty 7, and of Metis Region 3.*

*May we cherish and care for these lands and the people,
just as those who came before us have done.*

Prelude

Announcements

Nov. 21 Meeting in Olds (information re the Property Learning Group)

UCW Christmas luncheon

No coffee time this week (study leave)

Reminder to those on livestream at home to have beside them elements for
communion – bread and juice, or equivalent, for later in the service

Lighting the Christ Candle

We gather to worship, remembering Christ's life and ministry, and the life we are
called to live.

**May this light remind us of the one who brought peace out of chaos, and
hope out of despair. Thanks be to God!**

Call to Worship

Through every generation, through times of hope and times of fear,

through times of war and times of peace,

through times of loss and times of joy,

You are with us, God.

In the chaos of war, in the search for answers,

You are with us, God.

When we pause in the midst of our busy lives, when we pray for those who lost
their lives,

You are with us, God.

Let us worship the God who leads us in dreaming of peace.

Hymn MV 173 Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands (vs. 1, 2, & 3)

Opening Prayer

Remembering the generations who have gone before us, we come to this place of peace to worship. Remembering the many who gave their lives that we might be free, we come to this place of peace to worship. Remembering all who have suffered loss or grief in the name of war, we come to this place of peace to worship. We pray as followers of the one who walked the path of peace. Amen.

Time with Children

talk about what it means to sacrifice...to give something very important to you away...Remembrance Day being a time when we honour people that have done that, out of love for their country, or to protect and care for people in other countries.

Act of Remembrance

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

We will remember them.

**LAST POST
MOMENT of SILENCE
REVEILLE**

COMMITMENT to REMEMBER

They were young, as we are young,
They served, giving freely of themselves.
To them, we pledge, amid the winds of time,
To carry their torch and never forget.
We will remember them.

We will remember them.

Hymn Olds/ Didsbury – Anthem

Sundre VU 806 O God Our Help in Ages Past (vs. 1-4)

Scripture Mark 12: 38–44

³⁸ As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Response to the Scripture Reading

This is the witness of the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

This passage has two scenes, the first in which Jesus is offering a warning to those he is teaching. It is a warning against religious leaders who make a show of their greatness, who flaunt their wealth with their arrogant behaviour.

To quote the Season’s of the Spirit commentary for this week:

“The whole community is put at risk by such leadership of appearances only. Communities where leadership is focused on prestige and trappings will invariably fail in their duty to care for “the little ones,” to use a term from Mark’s gospel referring to those who are vulnerable.”

Seasons of the Spirit SeasonsFusion Season of Creation Pentecost 2, 2021 page 130.

The author of the commentary wrote that in reference to the gospel reading, however one must ask if that statement is not as true for today as it was for Jesus’ day.

We live in a world where economic leaders are taking pleasure trips to space, spending money that many –including myself – believe could be much better spent caring for the little ones among us, the poor, the vulnerable, the hungry.

Political leaders of all stripes often put more stead in the needs and wants of big corporations than they do the needs and wants of the littlest among them.

Another question we must ask: How much of that kind of abuse of authority and power factors in to the circumstances that lead to military action, to war?

On this day where we are reminded to seek peace in the world – how peaceful a world it could be if those with real needs – safe shelter, clean air and water, sustainable agriculture and the ability to grow enough food to feed their families – had support in meeting those needs?

I so appreciate the stories we hear of how our national church's Mission and Service is making that kind of support possible – around the globe.

There is a second scene to this gospel story we heard today.

A woman of very little means comes to the treasury. She is someone who won't get noticed much at all in the society in which she lives, because she has no power, no position. Unlike the scribes she commands no respect from the community. She certainly won't walk about in long robes, expecting people to notice her.

In fact, she would expect not to be noticed, and the society would treat her as if she were quite invisible to them. And the 2 meager copper coins she would place in the treasury would certainly be noticed no more than she would be.

That's how things worked back then. Those with wealth and power, with position and status got noticed. Those on the margins, the poor, the widowed, the ill, or infirm...they didn't really matter, they didn't count for much. Yes. That's how things worked back then...and in many case, they work that way still today.

But Jesus came change that. He came to lift up those on the margins, the poor, the widowed, the ill, or infirm. He came to show the world that they too had value. That they did count, in his eyes, and in the eyes of God.

So in spite of the fact that the widowed woman in this story expects to go to the treasury unnoticed, she is indeed noticed, and held up as a model of generous, extravagant giving. How can 2 copper coins be extravagant, you ask? Easy, when those 2 coins are all you have.

That's how Jesus worked back then...he worked to transform people's understanding of how they were to value one another; to help people see that each member of God's family has something to give, something to offer, that is of value, that is to be respected and honoured. Each person has the capacity for discipleship.

Back then, that's how things were, and how Jesus modeled a new way of being in relationship with those in community. He did so by lifting up those whom

society saw as unworthy. He lifted them up, and honoured their extravagant giving, their extraordinary sacrifice, that arises out of their depth of faith.

Back then...that's how things were, and that's how Jesus responded – by turning the tables on how society saw the world, showing them a different way to be.

And yet...what about now...in our time?

We can all think of people in our own time whose actions are like those of the scribes that today's passage speaks of, with behaviour that says "watch me, look at the power I have. Look at what I can do."

And we, in our time, live in a world where there are many – too many who live on the margins, for all manner of reasons. There are the poor – often people who are working, yet at a wage that is less than sustainable; the differently abled; people with gifts to share, who often are simply not given a chance to do so; and still in our world, women's work is in many cases is not as valued as the same work done by men.

Just as in Jesus' day, we have people on the margins who **expect** not to be noticed, or valued by society.

Yet, we are called to be the face of Christ today. We are called to embody the lessons of discipleship that Jesus and his followers taught. So, what is our role in welcoming and valuing all people? How might we, as followers of the way of Jesus work to transform this world of have and have not, so that all have an equitable share of the abundance that is currently so very unevenly distributed.

I heard on the radio on Saturday morning that Jeff Bezos is expected to soon be the world's first trillionaire. Not billionaire. Trillionaire. There is something wrong with any one person having that kind of wealth when so many in our world do not know where their next meal will come from.

And yet, not unlike the biblical story, did you know that in Canada, those who have less income tend to give a greater percentage of their income to charitable organizations than those who have higher incomes? That's true within our own denominations statistics, too. Generally, smaller congregations tend to give

more, proportionately, to Mission and Service as well as to local community helping agencies too.

We are called to give, and care, and love – to live out of a place of gratitude for the love of God, lived out in community; God who sees each and everyone of us as gift and blessing, and everything we have to offer as extravagant when it is given in faith – the kind of faith held by the woman in today’s gospel story.

May God help us to listen to God’s call, and respond with love. Amen.

Hymn MV 147 God, Help Us to Treasure

This Week’s Minute for Mission A Step Towards Peace

Published On: October 21, 2021

One of the things we can do to promote peace is share what we have to ensure that everyone has enough. That’s why your generosity through Mission & Service supports economic development programs that offer things like micro-loans and business training and support to purchase equipment.

Leila Basheer is a 46-year-old mother of five who lives in a village in the north western part of the West Bank in Palestine. Leila’s husband is in poor health, which makes it hard to get by. Since she was a child, Leila has been preserving carob paste, which helps with upset stomach. Four years ago, as her family struggled, she had the idea to sell her carob paste. But processing it by hand is labour-intensive so she turned to DSPR—the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees—for help.

“As I made some profit from local sales, I decided to expand. DSPR helped me out with buying grinding equipment that facilitated making carob paste enormously,” she says.

The outcome is amazing. Not only can Leila produce high-quality paste but her income has also grown. “The grinding equipment helped me increase my income by 40 percent. I look forward to buying a second grinding machine, this time to produce tomato paste,” says Leila.

Palestinians in the West Bank are subject to complex systems of control. These systems of control include physical barriers like the Separation Wall, checkpoints, and roadblocks, and bureaucratic ones like permits and closure of areas. These restrict Palestinians’ right to freedom of movement. The Israeli occupation has confiscated thousands of dunums (1 dunum = 1,000 square metres) of land from Palestinian farmers to build illegal settlements, bypass roads, and build the Separation Wall. Moreover, the checkpoints, roadblocks, and crop destruction create extreme challenges for farmers attempting to reach their land and their markets.

Every step we take to support families like Leila’s brings us a step closer to peace and justice. Thank you for your generosity through [Mission & Service](#).

Offertory Music VU 538 For the Gift of Creation

Offertory Prayer

With these gifts we share today, we express a small portion of our love for you, O God, and for our neighbours, near and far. Take what we offer, and use it to help fill the world with your abundant goodness and love. Amen.

Celebration of Communion

Invitation

As we gather round this table, we celebrate a sacrament: a simple, ancient act where the ordinary things of life – bread and wine – point beyond themselves to God and God’s love, teaching us to be alert to the sacred in the midst of life. Those of you who are participating in worship via livestream, know that the place you are at is part of the circle around God’s table, that we all share, and all welcome.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is fitting to give our thanks and praise.

We give our thanks and praise to you, O God, you who are Holy Mystery, beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description, yet in relationship known.

We celebrate you, Maker and Source of all, who has created and continues to create, enlivening the universe in beauty and mystery, guiding all things in harmony with you, their source.

We celebrate you, O God the Spirit, faithful and untameable.

You speak our prayers of deepest longing, breathing revolutionary power into scripture and transforming the world.

We celebrate your love made known in Jesus, the word made flesh, in whom you come face to face with us so that we may learn of your love.

We celebrate your love made known throughout time, in the prophets, sages, and holy troublemakers, within and beyond the church.

We celebrate you known in the Holy Scripture that speaks of your redemptive work, our song for the journey, the living word.

We sing together: MV 203 Kingsfold Communion Set Holy, Holy, Holy

We remember the story of Jesus, a Jew, born to a woman in poverty in a time of social upheaval, filled with the Holy Spirit.

He announced the coming of your reign, O God, a commonwealth not of domination, but of peace, justice and reconciliation.

Because his witness to love was threatening those exercising power, they sought to silence him. But on the night before his death, Jesus gathered with his disciples to share in a sacred meal. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them saying:

take and eat, this is my body, my whole self, shared with you.

After the meal, he poured a cup of wine and said:

drink, all of you, - my life's energy, the heartbeat of creation – each time you share this meal, remember, I am with you.

In this way we remember the mystery of our faith, that death does not have the last word,

that in life, in death, in life beyond death, we are not alone. You, God, are with us.

We sing together: MV 204 Kingsfold Communion Set Memorial Acclamation

O Holy God, ignite your Spirit among us, and upon these elements, that in this meal we may be empowered by you to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in this world.

We sing together: MV 205 Kingsfold Communion Set Great Amen

The bread is broken, the wine is poured, and because this is not our table, but Christ's table, all are welcome. Come, let us share this holy meal.

Prayer After Communion

Fed by the divine, we pray together:

God of all, empower us for the work of the church to nurture faith and comfort hearts, to share our gifts for the good of all, to resist the forces that exploit and marginalize, to live fierce love in the face of violence, defending human dignity. Amen.

This communion liturgy was written by Micol Cottrell, of St. Paul's United Church, Temiskaming Shores, Ont. using words from the 1940 Statement of Faith, A New Creed, and A Song of Faith. It was printed in Gathering, Lent/Easter 2013 page 83-84. Used with permission.

Hymn MV 194 Bread of Life, Feed My Soul

Prayers for the Day

God of grace, may our act of remembrance this day honour those who have put themselves in harm's way for the safety of others. May we never forget their sacrifice, the families who grieve for them and support them, and their example of integrity, loyalty, courage, and duty.

As people of faith, we re-commit ourselves to work together for peace in our world. May the hope that we carry in our hearts lead us to seek new and creative ways to resolve our differences. We look forward to that day when your reign is fully realized among us and swords are turned into plowshares and nation no longer lifts up sword against nation.

We also long for the moment when mourning, suffering, and sickness are no more. Until that day comes, we ask that you respond to us when we lift before you in the silence of our hearts the names of those people, places, and situations that are in need of your tender loving care this day...(*moment of silent prayer*)...Restore them to health and wholeness, O God.

We ask all these things in the name of the One who came to show us your ways and who taught us to pray together, saying: **[Lord's Prayer]**

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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. 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 VU 427 To Show by Touch and Word

A Blessing for Today

Let us leave this time of worship, seeking to be agents of peace and love in the world.

May we continue to grow in faith, as we seek to live the way of Jesus.

Amen.

Choral Benediction MV 224 May the God of Peace

Postlude

Thank you for taking time to be part of the Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge and Knox (Didsbury) Pastoral Charge worship experience.

Olds and Didsbury alternate hosting live worship each week, while live-streaming to the other church. You are welcome to attend either location at 9:30. Sundre continues to have in- person worship at 1:30. All are welcome there as well.

The bulletin and sermon will continue to be posted to the websites, for those who are unable to join us. Messages will also be posted to the Facebook Page, Olds and Sundre United Churches.

Each week, via email, there will be updates and announcements. If you'd like to receive those emails, please contact your church office and ask to be included.

Questions? Wish to financially support our ministries? To Contact us:

Olds United Church

4810 50th Street, Olds AB. T4H 1E4

email office@oldsunited.ca website www.oldsunited.ca 403-556-3052

Sundre United Church

Box 614 118 Centre Street North, Sundre AB. T0M 1X0

email sundreuc@telus.net website www.sundreunited.ca 403-638-4428

Knox United Church

P.O. Box 57 1406 - 19th Avenue Didsbury, AB, TOM OWO

email knoxdidsbury@shaw.ca website www.knoxunited.com 403-335-8373

Rev. Tammy's confidential email minister@oldsunited.ca