

Worship with McClure United Church

September 27, 2020

Opening

Welcome to worship with the McClure United Church.

Thank you for spending this time with us.

It is my prayer that what is offered here today will be a blessing to you as you live out your call as a disciple of Jesus.

McClure is a church of welcome and mission. It is with gratitude that we offer this ministry on Treaty 6 land and the traditional homeland of the metis.

Here are a few things to keep in mind this coming week.

Rainbow Village is up and running on line –10am via Zoom. If you have not received the Zoom link, please let Laura know or join the Rainbow Village Facebook Group for more information.

Also, Laura has prepared Faith at Home kits for families with children and will be delivering those in the next couple of weeks. These kits include stories, games, craft ideas and discussion starters for the whole family. If you would like one or know someone who may, please let Laura know and she will happily delivery one to you.

Youth group has started and this week they are meeting in the Youth Lounge in the building at 11am. Masks are necessary and physical distancing observed.

Noon on Sundays - Laura and I are going to host a coffee time on for those who are missing those post worship debriefs. Check out our Facebook page for information as to how to join in.

Important Pie News!! McClure United Church is having a pie sale fundraiser on September 30th. Whether you are an experienced pie-baker or pie-eater - we would love for you to take part!

If you would like to make a pie DONATION, please contact Ebba Eggleston at (306) 373-0525.

To ORDER your pie you make a donation of \$10 or more, and you contact Marlene Kells at (306) 374-0238.

A selection of apple pies, pumpkin pies and other fruit pies will be available. For complete details, please visit the pie sale page on our website at www.mcclureunitedchurch.org/pie-sale.

We are working on providing more print material for those who do not have tech access but in the meantime if you have a neighbour who would appreciate church news, please give them a call and help keep us stay connected.

And please – please do not hesitate to reach out to Laura or I if you have worries or concerns and need a chat. If you have something you have to celebrate and just can't hold it in please pick up the phone and let us in on the news. We are not too busy.

I want to thank all those who are part of keeping this worship connection alive and well. I want to thank Andrew for his many skills and Tannis Schmidt for offering a ministry of music. Tannis is an ecumenical musician on the UofS campus primarily for St. Andrew's college and her song "We are United" is one of her own creation. Tannis is no stranger to McClure as she was a part of our choir in the early years when we first sang in our new building. Tannis asked that I remind folks that the St. Andrew's no gala - gala is coming up September 29th on line - information can be found on the colleges website.

Keep connected to the website for information.

Opening Prayer

And so, now as we prepare our hearts for worship I invite you to take a moment now to open yourselves to the light and love of Jesus – our teacher and our friend. I light this candle as a reminder of Christ's light and I pray you will feel the warmth of that light move through the airwaves and settle gentle on your heart. (*light candle*)

Let us pray:

We gather now God in your loving presence and in community with all those near and far who are watching this now. Open us to your love – inspire us with your wisdom – and challenge us to live in your way... as your beloved disciples. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

May God bless to our understanding and our living these words of scripture. Amen.

Reflection

Prayer: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you O God, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

This week we learned of the death of two significant leaders one here in this country and one in the United States. Here in Canada we mourn the

death of John Turner, 17th Prime Minister of Canada. Brian Mulroney says of John Turner that he was a “true gentleman” who brought a great sense of dignity to his long career as a politician. Mr. Turner is described in a CBC article as a humble man with a strong social conscience who supported many charitable organizations including Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, he was an honorary director of the World Wildlife Fund in Canada and an advocate for the protection of Canada’s lakes and rivers. He served his family and country with great dignity, his legacy and commitment to public service will be remembered for generations. In an interview John Turner talked about the privilege of serving his fellow Canadians. As I read about John Turner’s life I discovered that he was also a man of faith and do you know how I discovered this, apparently in the early 60s he had a relationship with Princess Margaret, in fact, letters found several years after their relationship ended indicate that Princess Margaret was interested in marrying him, the problem however was that John Turner was Catholic and Buckingham Palace would not approve of the match. John Turner was a man with faith filled roots.

This week we were also informed of the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, long serving member of the supreme court in the United States, I must admit I didn't know much about her until this past week but as I read some of the tributes that have been shared about her I am impressed and inspired. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a tireless advocate for women's rights in the United States, she drafted legislation that gave women the ability to have a mortgage without a male co-signer, and for women to have her own credit cards she was also instrumental in assuring women’s reproductive rights. I was fascinated to know that though she graduated at the top of her class in Law school she could not find work as a lawyer; she said there were three things against her: one she was married, two she had a baby and three she was Jewish. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a woman of faith. These words are attributed to her: if you want to be a true professional you will do something outside yourself something to repair tears in your community something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you that's what I think a meaningful life is, living not for oneself but for one’s community. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a woman with faith filled roots.

In the light of the loss of these leaders comes our scripture lesson from exodus today. Once again, our lesson invites us to consider the people of God and their time in the wilderness. Last week it seemed easy too equate

our experience in wilderness with the people of Israel, we could see ourselves perhaps in the lives of those who were complaining, frustrated, tired and hungry. In this week's lesson the people are, a bit further down the road but now they are thirsty. And they are still complaining to their leader, Moses. But this week I invite us to **not** equate ourselves with the complaining ones but rather to acquaint ourselves with Moses their leader.

Have you ever felt like Moses? Have you ever felt like the one who is absorbing the pain, frustration and grief of others? Have you ever felt that burden of responsibility that comes with people turning towards you, looking to you: to help, to lead, to feed, to take care.

It's funny isn't it that because we don't see ourselves in the same category as a John Turner or a Ruth Bader Ginsburg or even that of a Moses we have a tendency to downplay our **own** leadership, within our circles of influence. We forget that John Turner and Ruth Bader Ginsburg did not start out to be great leaders but rather they started out being people of faith committed to compassion and justice. It was this deep commitment to compassion and justice that made them exceptional.

If you recall Moses did not see himself as a great leader in the beginning either in fact he complained often to God that he didn't have the skills that were necessary to lead the people of Israel out of slavery and into the promised land but he was a person of faith and that faith caused him to see differently. Moses didn't chose his leadership roll it was given to him by a God that saw more in him then he could ever see. And when Moses was faced with a complaining, thirsty people, he knew that the way through the wilderness was found in his roots – in this God who had chosen him. Moses turned to the God power.

Marianne Williamson writes:

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other

people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

I believe we are all leaders - we are leaders in big and small ways but each of us have others looking to us for support, example and love. Whether that be within our families, amongst our friends, in our communities, in our places of work, within our schools, within our church, within our city. Whether we are caring for a pet or a loved one, whether we are a member of the car club or the Outreach committee, whether we have a small group of friends or a whole stadium full. Whether we are young, not so young, not yet old or older there are others looking to us. We are all leaders. And let's face it – it has not been easy to be a leader in these days of wilderness.

Our kids need us to make hard decisions about their safety, and our parents need us to be present. Our partners need our energy and our work needs our time. Our community needs volunteers and our church is calling us to serve others. As elders our families look to us for assurance and our friends seek our company. And as we tend to all this we feel our own hunger and thirst and the need to tend to our own mental health. I think we can understand Moses and the heaviness of his time and place.

So what do we do?

Well we are people rooted in our faith and our scripture lesson suggests that first we lament or share our concern with the God Power that gives us strength. And then we dive deep into our faith and we will find a God who provides food for the hungry and drink for the thirsty. A faith that is about compassion and justice, a faith that leads the leaders and assures all that we are not alone and that whatever we do - it is enough.

Amen.

"[I would like to
be remembered as]
someone who used
whatever talent she had
to do her work to
the very best of
her ability."

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

Holy One,

draw us now to be with you as you are always with us.

As we prepare our hearts for this sacred time of prayer, may we feel your love surround us, giving us what we need right now to be fully present to you... for the sake of our community, our world, and ourselves. In opening to you... to your power, strength and wisdom – we open ourselves to be channels of your goodness in the world.

And we remember your goodness now... goodness of caring community – friends and neighbours... the goodness of autumn – the beauty and the bounty... goodness of your love – the strength and resilience...

and we take a moment in quiet to give thanks for all of the blessings you have shared with us... in gratitude we pray: (*silence*)

And now with hearts touching gratitude, we are ready to offer our prayers of care and concern for the world... for our friends, families and for ourselves.

We hold before you, O God, those who are in need of our love, our kindness, and our compassion... those in need of our prayers:

the ones who are struggling right now – with worry, fear, sadness, loneliness, anger

the ones who are living with health concerns...

the ones who are grieving...

the ones who are addicted...

the ones facing loss and change and uncertainty...

and we pray for the ones who care for them – for the support workers,
family members and friends...

We pray all the painful places of injustice in our world and in our
communities...

For the ones who live with trauma... the trauma that comes from
discrimination, rejection, violent words and actions...

For the ones struggling with their commitment to be good allies, friends and
neighbours...

We pray God for all the places of brokenness in your world...

We pray for your healing love and light to reach into those places, offering
even a moment.. even a glimmer of hope to those who most need it.

And knowing that we all have our own places and people where
brokenness exists, we take another moment now in quiet to hold our
brokenness before God – opening even further to the love that is within and
all around us. (*silence*)

O God, hear our prayers, receive our hearts and from your deep love may
we find the healing and hope we need... today and every day.

And now, we share together the prayer that Jesus taught his friends and
disciples:

Our Father...

Blessing

Let us continue our journey through this wilderness

Let us continue our journey walking in love

Let us care for each other,

Let us care for the earth,

Let us seek justice

And make peace,

God goes before us so let us live our lives boldly.

We go in the light of our Parent God,

The rebel son and

the relentless spirit.

Amen.