

Key Scripture - Genesis 3: 11

"Who told you that you were naked?"

Theme - Who Shames Us?



Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Special requests may be made through Facebook
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation

† This week was and continues to be filled with News and reactions to the discovery of 215 graves at the Kamloops Residential School. It is difficult to know how to be helpful. Some folk may have placed shoes or Teddy Bears on their front steps on Monday. These are acts of acknowledgement. Please pray that we will find the wisdom and courage to exercise meaningful acts of reconciliation and restoration.

† **This message comes from Indigenous Ministries and Justice, The United Church of Canada.**

- As news came on May 28, 2021, that the remains of 215 children were found in a mass unmarked grave on the grounds of the former Kamloops Residential School, we entered into a time of mourning for these relatives, their families, and their

communities.

- Indigenous Ministries asks all of the church to continue in this time of mourning and of support for each other as we grieve this loss, and others that we do not yet know about.
- You can support those organizations in your community, such as Friendship Centres, that support Indigenous people who live with trauma every day.
- We understand the desire to do “something” that will make this right. But we ask you, right now, to come together as people of the United Church and take the first step of mourning and remembering.

† Given the Stay at Home Order, the likely uncertainty afterward and the fact that the population may not be fully vaccinated by the end of the Summer or early Autumn; Council has moved that Trinity not reopen for “In Person” Worship until September.

† Services are posted to [Facebook](#). You will find a window to Facebook Page on our [Website](#). You will also find a link to our [Bulletin Page](#). Services are rebroadcast on COGECO (Your TV) the following Sunday 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

† **The Annual Congregational Meeting June 13 has been postponed.**

- Rescheduling will coincide with the provincial reopening guidelines so that when we do meet we will be able to have more than 10 people in person present.
- Thank you for your understanding and patience.

† **We are pausing the Grocery Gift Card program.** We do have some cards left that are still available for purchase. The Stewardship Team will decide in the Autumn if or how the program will continue.

† If you do not already track news and events in our larger Church Community, you may wish to [visit the United Church of Canada Website](#). [E-ssentials](#) is a helpful NewsLetter you may wish to consider.

**Healing Pathway Ministry – Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls –
Distance Healing Circle**
trinitysmithsfallsh healingpathway@yahoo.com

While in-person sessions are inadvisable during the Pandemic, the Healing Pathway Ministry will be offering a group distance healing session for twenty minutes starting at 1:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Distance healing is a form of prayer which recognizes that we are all One in the Source of Life. Both the receiver and practitioner set their intention to open to the Sacred Spirit and to allow the Healing energy of the Spirit to flow in and through them.

We suggest that everyone participating imagine themselves to be in the sanctuary at Trinity, with the Healing Pathway practitioners forming a circle around those who are receiving. You may wish to set a timer to give you a better sense of the timeline.

If you would like to receive this offering of healing prayer, you could follow these steps:

- Imagine yourself sitting in a small circle in the sanctuary. You may use the following prayer for centering if you choose

I am created by Divine Love,
I am sustained by Divine Love,
I am surrounded by Divine Love,
I am growing into Divine Love

- Find a quiet place before 1:00, where you are not likely to be interrupted. If you wish, light a candle for the duration.
- Name for yourself your need or intention for this time and sit quietly, until you feel ready to move out of the experience.
- If you find your mind wanders or is distracted, gently bring your attention back to your need or intention.

- When you are ready to move out of the experience, open your eyes, take a moment to reflect on the experience and know that, if you want to, you can bring your attention back to those positive feelings at any time.

You are invited, if you wish, to join the virtual circle via [Zoom](#)

If you wish to have a conversation about your experience, and/or book an individual healing session, email trinitysmithsfallshealingpathway@yahoo.com

You could also explore the First United, [Ottawa Healing Pathway Care Package](#) which is packed with reflections, meditations and other resources.

Blessings from the Healing Pathway team

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Introit 290 "Nothing Can Trouble"

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.

Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.

God alone fills us.

Call to Worship

We give God thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.

We give thanks for your steadfast love and faithfulness.

We call on you, for you increase our strength of soul.

Though we walk in the midst of troubling times, you stretch out your hand to us.

So we gather to worship, trusting your goodness and guidance.

We come to offer our prayers and praise, seeking your renewing love day by day.

Opening Prayer

God of creation and compassion,

We praise you for your attention to every creature,
marvelling at the detail and the grandeur you call into being.

You tend the fragile beauty and balance in the world,
receiving praise from the depths of the sea to mountain tops.

You have seen your church grow from tiny beginnings
to a worldwide community of those who follow Jesus,
full of diversity in voice and vocation.

Receive our praise as we witness your patience and perseverance
with all you have made.

Open our eyes to the purposes you have for us,
for our church in our community.

Awaken us with the insight of your Spirit
and reveal to us how best to serve you in the world.

For we offer ourselves to you in the name of Jesus.

Hymn 218 "We Praise You, O God"

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Time With Children

This week we heard some terrible news about Indigenous children who were taken away from their homes and families and never returned. This news is not really new. It is a new story that is part of an old story. It has been known for a long time that what was happening and what happened was wrong.

Our congregation is part of the United Church of Canada. The United Church of Canada is called a Denomination and our Denomination ran some of the schools and we later realized that what we were doing was hurtful. The leaders in the United Church of Canada made an apology in 1986, about 35 years ago. Indigenous Elders who heard the apology did not 'accept' the apology, they 'received' it. This is an important difference because to 'accept' the apology might make people think that the hurt was a thing of the past. To 'receive' the apology acknowledges that we admit we were wrong but it also waits to see how we are going to learn and change and heal.

I am proud of the United Church of Canada. I think the folk in our churches are good people. I think our Denomination is good. So, how did we go along with something that was so hurtful? We thought our way was good, which may be true, but we also thought that our way was better. So, we took people who were good but not exactly like us, we tried to take

away their way of being good because we thought that our way of being good was better.

In our apology we said -

“We tried to make you be like us and in so doing we helped to destroy the vision that made you what you were.”

In one of the very first stories in the Bible we hear how the first people, who were made in the image of God, were told that the thing that God said was very good, was not good enough at all and it should be better. This caused the first people to feel ashamed and they hid from God. In that first story, everybody is hurt.

The whole rest of the Bible story is about the path to be reconciled. To be “reconciled” is to be put back in the right relationship with another.

The story of the treatment of Indigenous Folk including Residential Schools is like that first story in the Bible. People who were created very good were told that they were not good enough. There is hurt in both stories. In both stories we are called to find the right path to being in right relationship with the One and Ones that were hurt and broken.

The story in the news this week reminds us how horrible the hurt was. Let us always pray for, seek out and walk upon that path that leads to Good News of relations made right.

Children’s Prayer

Modified Prayer for the Students of Kamloops Residential School
by Moderator Richard Bott, The United Church of Canada

O God, we are sad.

O God, we are surprised.

O God, we are shocked.

But, the Elders and the Communities had already told
us and the world,

the stories of the children, lost,
unnoted but never ever forgotten by their families
and their communities.

We are sad for the Indigenous children,
taken from their homes and parents,
never to be held by their families,
never to be returned to their communities.

We pray for the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools,
the children who did come home,
but were changed by their experience,
the children who grew up,
and have the pain of remembering, again,
what happened to them.

Help us to honour the names we do not know.
May their spirits have peace,
and their bodies be brought home to their lands.

Help us to take this grief,
this shock,
this horrible thing,
and turn it into right action—
action that works for right relations—
action that works for healing and justice and hope.

And, please,
don't let the shock, and the sadness
just be empty words,
or tears.

Let this be a moment that changes,
that we might walk in right relations,
for the good of your children,
for the good of your world.

These things we pray,
in the name of the one who brought Creation into being,
in the name of Jesus, our teacher and friend,
in the name of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer of Reconciliation

God of purpose and possibility,

You give us work to do and the skills we need to accomplish your calling.

Yet we prefer our own ways.

We resist your wisdom and fail to consider the suggestions of others.

We think we know better.

Forgive our stubborn nature

and our unwillingness to reconsider our own views.

By the power of your Holy Spirit and the grace of Christ our Lord,

give us a teachable spirit to learn new ways to serve you

and live as good neighbours in church and community.

Assurance of Blessing

God requires three things of us:

to do justice, to love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

To all who turn away from self-interest

and seek reconciliation with God and neighbour in kindness and humility,

God offers forgiveness and peace.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Scripture Genesis 3:8-15;
 Psalm 130 (VU 853);
 Mark 3:20-35

Genesis 3:8-15

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “*Who told you that you were naked?* Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
 and you will strike his heel.”

Psalm 130 (VU 853)

Refrain -

*Out of the depths I cry to you;
my hope is in your promise true.*

Out of the depths have I called to you.

O God, hear my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss,

O God, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you,
therefore we will honour you.**

Refrain -

*Out of the depths I cry to you;
my hope is in your promise true.*

I wait for you, God;

my soul waits, and your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for God more than the watchers for morning,
more than watchers for morning.**

O My People, wait in hope,

for with God there is love unfailing.

**With God is great power to redeem,
to redeem you, O My People, from all your sin.**

Refrain -

*Out of the depths I cry to you;
my hope is in your promise true.*

Mark 3:20-35

... and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.

When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

Meditation "Arioso" (Bach)

Reflection “Who Told You You Were Naked?”

When you believe a lie, great hurt and shame follows.

“Who told you you were naked?” is sometimes translated, “How did you know you were naked?” The answer to both questions is similar. In the ancient story, the answer to “Who told you you were naked?” was, “the Serpent, the Father of lies.” The answer to, “How did you know that you were naked?” was “By believing the lie.” No matter how you read it, the belief that God’s Creation,... including you and your neighbour; are not part of what God declared as very good is a consequence of a lie and is always disruptive and destructive.

The truth of today’s Scripture became quite clear as a Chaplain at the Royal Military College in Kingston. From time to time excellent young folk would visit with their doubts. In a great sea of success, some feared being a failure. Bouts of insecurity and anxiety are common in many folk. But these were exceptionally high achievers. All who came with concerns were still finding success ... They were just finding success harder than they expected and the community against which they measured themselves was populated with other exceptionally high achieving young women and men.

Acceptance to one of Canada’s Military Colleges is not a small thing. Every student has, in effect, been awarded a scholarship that carries enormous value. These scholarships are not random. They are earned. At that time a cohort was about 250 Cadets. These are 250 young men and women from across Canada who were selected because they excelled in academics, leadership and physical fitness. These are top tier. These young people came from an environment where they were the Captains of their Team, Presidents of their Student Councils, Top of the Class in Academics. Clearly, in the schools from which they graduated, ***they were not just good enough, they were the best.*** From there they enter a community in which they are surrounded by 249 other top students. This is a much different feeling than that to which they had become

accustomed. Most understood and expected this, some did not. They felt vulnerable, exposed, naked.

“Who told you you were naked?”

Who told you that out of a sea of 250 top achievers, you *would be* at the top of that? Who told you that out of a sea of 250 top achievers that you *should be* at the top of that? One Cadet out of a cohort of 250 will lead the parade on graduation day. To believe that you and 248 others are failures is ridiculous, it is a most blatant lie ... yet some grieved because they believed it to be true and in the midst of this wonderful success, they felt shame.

The first story in the Bible is about our propensity to believe even the most egregious lie about our worth in our community and worthiness before God and hide in shame even after God’s own self has proclaimed that all of creation, including you, is very good.

When you believe a lie, great hurt and shame follows.

June is Pride Month. Pride is brilliant. Pride is a direct response to the lie that permits folk to believe that their place in the created order is shameful.

This week we were reminded of a great lie that saw a whole culture and generations of human beings isolated, effectively exiled on land that was once theirs because of a lie that their way of being that supported them for millennia was not part of what God declared as “very good.”

When you believe a lie, great hurt and shame follows.

With respect to Pride and the pain inflicted on our Indeginious neighbours, the answer to “Who told you you were naked?” is, “We did.” This part of our painful truth.

When you believe a lie, great hurt and shame follows.

In our first great story, we learn that both those who proclaim the lie and those to whom it is applied were equally naked.

In our first great story, we learn that both those who proclaim the lie and those to whom it is applied were equally naked and unashamed ... until, ... one member of this very good creation tells another that their nakedness is shameful.

In our first great story, we learn that both those who proclaim the lie and those to whom it is applied are wounded deeply as is the whole created order.

The whole rest of our story is a quest for reconciliation. Reconciliation, then, is our most important Ministry. Without it we will continue to live out a variety of abuses and apartheid.

When you believe a lie, great hurt and shame follows.

Our Gospel Lesson today began with lies and accusations -

“He has gone out of his mind.” “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.”

Our Gospel ends with the path to Reconciliation -

“Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

This month started heavy. Renewed evidence of a horrible lie thrust upon our Indigenous neighbours. Our story needn't rest in this shame. We can walk the path of Reconciliation. We can expand our sense of kinship and community. The emerging strength of Pride and our participation in it is evidence that we can be freed, we can be reconciled, we can be each other's mother and brother and sister, unafraid and unashamed. Let us pray

that God will give us the strength and wisdom to follow this path until
“Thy Kingdom come.”

Hymn 628 "Come, My Way, My Truth"

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

Invitation to the Offering

Our offering supports Ministries and Services we undertake together, in our community and beyond. Consider how your gift is multiplied in the witness of our congregation, combined with so many others!

Offering Prayer

God of grace and goodness, we offer our gifts in gratitude for all we receive from you. We trust you can multiply them in ways we cannot even imagine. Bless the ministries of our congregation and of The United Church of Canada in these challenging times. Surprise us by what you accomplish through us as we sow seeds of generosity in the gifts we bring to you. Amen.

Hymn MV 178 "Who Is My Mother?"

Who is my mother, who is my brother?
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Differently abled, differently labelled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.

Love will relate us colour or status
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings
all are accepted round Jesus Christ.

Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the People

We give you thanks for our life together in Jesus,
and the work of the Spirit that draws us closer to you and to each
other.

Speak through your Spirit to open minds and hearts to your leading.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ sustain us in communion and
community,
even when we differ over decisions and directions.

God of compassion and concern,

Thank you for all the ministries and service undertake together
in Canada and in many places throughout the world.

Thank you for lessons learned and hope inspired

by all the partners we have worked with, over this difficult year
and throughout many years past and to come.

God of our hearts and our hopes,

We pray for those you have given us to love.

Hear us as we place their needs and hopes before you in this silence.

We pray for those who serve our nation as leaders in business,
politics, health care and education. Grant them wisdom in this challenging
time, so that their choices consider the needs of the most vulnerable whom
we name before you in silence.

We pray for those who face uncertainty, unrest and threat from
violence day by day. In this moment of silence, we bring before you
people in our own community who know upheaval because of the
pandemic, and those in places around the world where injustice is
unrelenting.

God of the earth and all its fullness,

In this season of planting and growing, of nesting and nurturing,
we pray for the environment and all the creatures it supports.

Protect species and habitats at risk,

and awaken us to better stewardship in the garden you have
entrusted to us.

Hear our prayers for everything and everyone you have created in
love
as we pray the words Jesus taught us

Prayers conclude with:

We experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength,
courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;
Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn 334 "All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name" vs. 1,3,4,5

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,

Refrain -

*and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.*

Crown him, you martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call:
praise him whose way of pain you trod,

Refrain -

*and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.*

Let every tongue and every tribe,
responsive to the call,
to him all majesty ascribe,

Refrain -

***and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.***

O that, with all the sacred throng,
we at his feet may fall;
join in the everlasting song,

Refrain -

***and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.***

Benediction

Now, let us go into the world as God's children.

**We will go to walk beside all who are in the shadows,
for there, we will find God journeying with them.**

Now, let us go into our communities as the family of Jesus.

**We will walk with our sisters who work multiple jobs;
we will walk with our brothers who raise children on their
own.**

Now, let us go into our neighborhoods as companions of the Spirit.

**We will walk in peace with those who are angry,
we will walk with those who have been damaged by hate.**

Choral Amen

Postlude "Arioso" (Handel)