

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017**

Prelude

Welcome and announcements

**Territorial Acknowledgement.**

As we gather together at Emmanuel College, we acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

**Call to Worship**

Come and seek the ways of wisdom

**We come from east and west. We come from north and south.**

Come with open eyes, open ears, and open hearts

**We come to listen for the voice of wisdom, and to see all that is good in creation.**

Come and praise God together as one community

**We come as children of the living God.**

**Opening hymn: VU371 “Open My Eyes, That I May See”**

## Prayer of Approach & Confession

Wonderful God,  
we gather today to celebrate your presence.  
Send your Spirit to meet us here  
and guide us into your depths  
that we may know your grace  
in the wisdom and way of Jesus.

*sung Kyrie* (MV67)

Forgive our closed minds  
by which we barricade ourselves  
against your new tomorrow.  
Forgive our closed eyes  
which fail to see the needs of your world,  
and your call to justice and love.

*sung Kyrie* (MV67)

Forgive our closed hands  
with which we hold on  
to our wealth and privilege.

Forgive us our closed hearts  
which limit our affections  
to ourselves and our own.

*sung Kyrie* (MV67)

Spirit of new life,  
break down the walls of our isolation.  
Open us to your love,  
your service,  
and your peace.

Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*signs of peace and reconciliation are shared*

Solo: “With Verdure Clad”

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" – these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Sermon: “An Upside-Down Gospel”

**Hymn:** VU149 “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

## Prayers of the People

### **Response: VU400 “Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying”**

“Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!”

We call on the spirits of our ancestors and our ancestral lands,  
to ground us and to bear witness to us as we cry out to God together,  
in the midst of Black History Month, in a world turned upside down.

God of darkness,  
of solitude and solace,  
you knit us together in the unlit warmth of our mothers’ wombs.  
In the still silence of night,  
you bring rest to the weary  
and safe haven to those who have none.

Envelop us in your shadow, Lord,  
and grant us refuge from the blinding light—  
of flood lamps that sweep colonial borders  
and muzzles of guns that flash at dark bodies in the night.  
Cover us in your sheltering darkness;  
shield us from the gaze that desires and fears us;  
remind us of the beauty of our bodies and truths.

[refrain]

God of darkness,  
of hidden wisdom and power,  
we turn away from the false idol of Whiteness—  
not as an identity, but as a way of seeing and being  
that promises its followers security through supremacy.  
Embolden us to denounce racist profiling, policing, and rhetoric,  
and especially the religious racism of Islamophobia;

and teach us to treat Black and brown people  
not as tokens or curiosities or threats, but as full persons  
in our communities of learning and of faith.

God of darkness,  
of intimacy and mystery,  
we pray for Black lives, Black love, Black futures.  
Remind us of the ongoing realities of Black suffering,  
of violence, impoverishment, loss of family, dignity, safety, and life;  
bring comfort to those who suffer  
under the yoke of white supremacy,  
and help us to find joy and life in resistance.

[refrain]

God of darkness,  
you know our inmost being;  
we come together now as your people,  
to pray for those who are in our hearts,  
silently or out loud.

[moment of prayer]

God of darkness,  
of beginnings and ends,  
you fill the damp earth with unseen life  
and shroud the night in holy mystery.  
Hold us in the depths of our joy and our sorrow;  
be with us in all that we do,  
and give us rest and shelter when the day is done.  
God of darkness,  
we turn to you now in prayer, in the way that Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer - A Paraphrase (VU916)

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo  
    through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed  
    by peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done  
    by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
    sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn:      VU 606 "In Christ There Is No East Or West"**

Blessing and Sending Forth (Paul?)

Postlude