

- ## Welcome and Announcements

## **Land Acknowledgment**

***For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.***

## **Mission and Service Story**

### ***Threads of Identity***

In Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Mamohkamatowin Spiritual Community Inc. is helping Indigenous people reconnect with culture and community through a ribbon skirt-making program. Supported by Mission and Service, the program provides Indigenous participants living in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods with the materials, tools, and teachings needed to create their own ribbon skirts at no cost.

For many Indigenous women and girls, a ribbon skirt is more than a garment. It is an expression of identity, culture, and belonging, worn during ceremonies, celebrations, and other cultural and spiritual gatherings. For people living on low incomes, the cost of making or purchasing a ribbon skirt can place that expression of identity out of reach.

Participants learn how to use a sewing machine while making a skirt that reflects their own style and story. Alongside the practical sewing skills, they also receive teachings from an Elder, creating opportunities to deepen their understanding of the cultural and spiritual significance of ribbon skirts.

With support from Mission and Service, the program first started in 2024. Since then, community support has made it possible to purchase sewing machines and tables so participants have the tools they need to learn. Our support through Mission and Service helps provide fabric, ribbon, and other materials for each skirt, ensuring that cost to participants does not become a barrier.

The impact has been evident and ongoing. The women who completed the first sessions wear their ribbon skirts with great pride, knowing they had made them with their own hands while learning traditional teachings and connecting with community.

Programs like this reflect our commitment to supporting Indigenous leadership, strengthening community, and creating opportunities for people to reconnect with culture in meaningful ways. By combining practical skills with cultural teachings, Mamohkamatowin Spiritual Community Inc. is helping participants build confidence, celebrate their identities, and carry their traditions forward.

Our gifts through Mission and Service help support Indigenous-led ministries and community programs like this one. Together, we can help ensure more people have opportunities to learn, connect with culture, and participate fully in the traditions and communities that are meaningful to them. Let's give generously.

### **Call to Worship (Responsive)**

God of all People, we come to worship you.

***We come before you to give you thanks and praise.***

God of all people, we come to you as people whom you love.

***We worship you today and always with our whole selves.***

Come everyone. Let us worship God.

### **Sung Call to Worship      MV 1 (vs 1)      "Let Us Build a House"**

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

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### **Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle**

As we light our candles this morning, we are invited to consider what liberation and justice is for us as Christians.

A moment of silent reflection: Where do you come from? Why did your family end up in Canada?

Listen to God's words for us this morning from Romans 12:

*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.*

*Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.*

### **Opening Prayer**

God of all people,

we come acknowledging you in all your majesty and glory.

We thank you that we share with all humanity your divine grace and favour.

Help us in our worship to lift to you all of creation in its beauty and splendour.

Help us in our worship to remember the pain inflicted by our ancestors.

Help us to journey with pride strengthened by those whose struggles and sacrifice have paved the way of liberty for us.

Help us in our reflections to recommit to seeking justice and liberty for all who are devalued, exploited, and oppressed.

To you be all honour and glory today and always.    Amen.

## **Opening Hymn**

**VU 678**

***"For the Healing of the Nations"***

- <sup>1</sup> For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.**
- <sup>2</sup> Lead us forward into freedom, from despair your world release;  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.**
- <sup>3</sup> All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.**
- <sup>4</sup> You, Creator-God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that, by our response and service, earth its destiny may find.**

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## **Passing of the Peace**

### **Prayer for Reconciliation**

Liberating God,  
you heard the cries of enslaved people and led your people toward freedom.  
On this Emancipation Day, we remember the courage and endurance of  
those who resisted slavery,  
and we give thanks for every witness to dignity, freedom, and justice.

Yet we confess that we have not always lived as people you have set free.  
Like Israel in the wilderness, we grumble in fear and forget your faithful  
provision.

We cling to comfort, scarcity, and self-interest rather than trusting your  
daily bread.

We confess the sin of racism:

in the histories we neglect, in the inequities we tolerate,  
in the voices we fail to hear,  
and in the systems that still deny full freedom, safety, and opportunity to  
Black people and other racialized communities.

Merciful God, transform us by the renewing of our minds.  
Receive our lives as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to you.  
Teach us to love sincerely; to honour one another;  
to persevere in hope; to share with those in need;  
to welcome the stranger; and to pursue peace with all.

Where we have repaid hurt with hurt, forgive us.  
Where we have remained silent before injustice, awaken us.  
Where we have been conformed to the patterns of this world, renew us in the way of Christ.  
By your Spirit, make us people who overcome evil with good.  
Amen.

### **Assurance of Love**

Hear the good news:

The God who provided bread for Israel in the wilderness is faithful still.  
In Jesus Christ, God meets us with mercy, restores us, and calls us into new life.

By the mercies of God, we are forgiven, freed, and renewed.  
We are invited to offer our whole selves in love and service,  
to seek justice, practise peace, and live as one body in Christ.

Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free. Amen.

### **Theme Conversation**

***Where did you come from?***

### **Our Scriptures Today**

#### **Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15**

- In response to the people's grumbling and physical hunger, God provides manna and quail in the wilderness as a sign of divine faithfulness and a call to trust in daily, life-sustaining grace.

#### **Romans 12: 1-18**

- Paul calls the community to offer their whole lives as a living sacrifice by being transformed through the renewal of their minds and practicing sincere, humble love in all relationships.

### **Reflection**

#### **Hymn**

**VU 376**

***"Spirit of the Living God"***

**<sup>1</sup> Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**<sup>2</sup> Spirit of the living God, move among us all;  
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:  
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.**

**Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!**

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## **Invitation to the Offering**

### **Offering Music**

**Offering Response      VU 542      “We Give You But Your Own”**  
**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;**  
**all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

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### **Offering Prayer**

#### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Responsive)**

God of liberation and daily bread,  
you led your people out of bondage and sustained them in the wilderness.  
On this Emancipation Day, we give thanks for the courage, wisdom, and  
perseverance of all who resisted slavery and worked for freedom—especially  
Black communities whose strength and leadership have helped shape  
Canada.

***God of freedom and faithfulness, hear our prayer.***

We pray for all who still hunger:  
for food, safe housing, meaningful work, health care, and belonging.  
Where there is scarcity, fear, or despair, provide what is needed for this day.  
Make us generous stewards of the gifts you place in our hands, that none  
may be left without bread.

***God of freedom and faithfulness, hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who continue to experience racism, exclusion, and  
oppression.  
Forgive the sins of prejudice, silence, and indifference that remain among  
us and within our institutions.  
Strengthen all who work for racial justice, truth-telling, reconciliation, and  
the full flourishing of every person.

***God of freedom and faithfulness, hear our prayer.***

We pray for your Church.  
Renew our minds, that we may not be conformed to the patterns of this  
world, but transformed by your love.  
Teach us to offer our lives as a living sacrifice: to love sincerely, honour one  
another, serve with joy, welcome strangers, share with those in need, and  
pursue peace.

***God of freedom and faithfulness, hear our prayer.***

We pray for leaders in Canada and throughout the world.  
Give them humility, courage, and wisdom to govern for the common good.  
Guide them to protect the vulnerable, uphold human dignity, seek peace,  
and confront the systems that perpetuate poverty, violence, and injustice.

***God of freedom and faithfulness, hear our prayer.***

We pray for all who are weary, grieving, ill, or afraid;  
for those carrying burdens known to no one else;  
and for those whose names we now hold before you in silence.  
(*Silence may be kept.*)

Surround them with your comfort, provide companions for their journey,  
and renew them with hope.

***God of freedom and faithfulness, hear our prayer.***

Faithful God, you provide grace for each day and call us to overcome evil  
with good.

Receive these prayers, and send us out as people of freedom, compassion,  
and peace;

through Jesus Christ, our Liberator and Lord.

Today we have special prayers for:

|        |          |             |       |
|--------|----------|-------------|-------|
| Joy    | Fran     | Bill        | Robin |
| Leah   | Lainey   | Chris       | Grace |
| Liam   | James    | Ellen Jane  | Helen |
| Janet  | Brynnley | Jennifer    | Lynda |
| Carol  | Kim P.   | Sandy       | Sarah |
| Kim H. | Haley    | Ellen & Art | Rae   |

And as a community we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

***Our Father....***

**Closing Hymn**

**VU 602**

***"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"***

- <sup>1</sup> Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**
- <sup>2</sup> Before our Maker's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our  
cares.**
- <sup>3</sup> We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**
- <sup>4</sup> This glorious hope revives our courage on the way;  
that we shall live in perfect love in God's eternal day.**

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## **Living our Faith this Week**

This week, as you reflect on the long journey toward freedom, pay attention to the moments where you might be tempted to settle for "*how things have always been.*" See if you can practice the "*renewed mind*" Paul speaks of by noticing one small way you can offer sincere love or make room for someone else in your daily life.

## **Commissioning and Benediction**

### **Sung Benediction**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,  
God will go with you each hour of everyday.  
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching us in love.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen**

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