



**Memorial Service Honouring Murdered and
Missing Indigenous Women and Girls**

Acknowledging A National Sin

Celebrant

The Rt. Rev'd Linda Nicholls, Bishop of Huron

Preacher

***The Venerable Val Kerr, Archdeacon for Truth, Reconciliation and
Indigenous Ministry, Diocese of Niagara***

Deacon

The Rev'd Lorraine Brooks

***November 9th 2018 7:30 pm
St. James Anglican Church, Stratford***

A drum beat sounds

Jingle dancers enter in silence

They carry the names of the
murdered and missing women and girls.
The names are placed at the front of the church.

Processional Hymn

Many and Great

The Bishop, Archdeacon and Clergy enter

First verse instrumental – organ and drum

Many and great, O God, are your works,
Maker of earth and sky;
Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
Your fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at your Word the waters were formed;
Deep seas obey your voice.

Grant unto us communion with you,
O star-abiding One;
Come unto us and dwell with us;
With You are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
Eternal life in You.

Opening Prayer

in the Oneida Language by Olive Elm

Celebrant: The Grace and Peace that Creator God alone can give
be with you all.

**All: We will walk the sacred path with all our
brothers and sisters.**

Celebrant: Tonight we remember and pray for murdered and missing women and girls knowing the violence and injustice that happens in our world.

All: Help us to listen and then speak our truth in the name of Jesus who brings healing to the hurting and light in the darkness

Celebrant: Thank you for the Gift of Mother Earth and all our Relations, as we open our hearts and minds to your Word and to all that we share together this evening. Help us to grow in relationship with Jesus in a Circle of Restoration and hope. Enable us to listen and hear your voice so that we bring the stories to be part of your story guided by the winds of the Spirit. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who knows us by name, Jesus Christ

Yaw^ko Nya'weh, Chi Miigwech Amen.

The Readings

During the readings a Red ribbon will be woven between the readers and at the end they will come together to restore the Circle of life

Reader 1 Isaiah 43: 2-7

Reader 2 A personal story of a missing and murdered young woman.

Reader 3 The story of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Reader 4 2 Samuel 13:10-20

Reader 5 A personal story of a missing and murdered young woman

Gospel Procession to a drumbeat

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All And also with you

Deacon: The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All: Awaken our listening to Jesus

John 8:1-11

At the end of the Gospel...

Deacon: You have heard the Good News

All: Place it in our hearts and in our living

Sermon Archdeacon Val Kerr

Hymn On Eagles Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

Who abide in His shadow for life

Say to the Lord

"My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain:

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings

Bear you on the breath of dawn

Make you to shine like the sun

And hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you

And famine will bring you no fear

Under His wings your refuge

His faithfulness your shield.

Refrain

You need not fear the terror of the night

Nor the arrow that flies by day

Though thousands fall about you
Near you it shall not come.

Refrain

For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Refrain

The Reading of Names
Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls

997 names will be read together out loud by 20 readers
When all the names have been honoured
there will be a moment of silence

a drum will beat ends the silence

Prayers of the People

Great Spirit, We honour all Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls and think of your compassion and love with all their families and friends in their grief and their pain. You are with them in their hurts and in their ceremonies that express their hopes for future generations. May we in our actions honour those who are missing and families seeking truth and justice.

Leader: Creator of all
All: **We bring our prayers to you**

We pray for those who have told their stories and those that still need to be heard. They will be blessed by the Circle of your love and by those who take action for justice, restoration and reconciliation.

Leader: Creator of all
All: We bring our prayers to you.

Holy Mystery, Enable us to be vision seekers so that we can be better keepers of your resources and recognize in our Sisters in Spirit the gifts you gave them. Help us to listen, learn and grow in walking your way, embracing the wisdom of the Elders and the insights of Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Leader: Creator of all
All: We bring our prayers to you

Compassionate One, Jesus experienced the violence and hatred that can come through people and systems in his journey on Mother Earth to the cross. Forgive us for the times we have failed to listen or ignored the long term effects of power over, assimilation and lack of consultation. Forgive us for any attitudes, racist thoughts or stereotypes that have blocked our vision. We ask for your cleansing from colonial actions so that we can take seriously and make visible the fresh start you offer to all in Jesus the Peacemaker.

Leader: Creator of all
All: We bring our prayers to you

We pray for those who are in leadership positions in the church and across Turtle Island that they will have the courage and insight to name the injustices they see and enable others to open closed ears to the cries of those who are not heard. May the Chiefs and all the leaders of this land be aware of their responsibility to make others aware that their actions for justice, no matter how small, are really important in eliminating violence to indigenous women and girls.

Leader: Creator of all
All: We bring our prayers to you

Holy One, May your grace and words to all of us in honouring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls bring a full Circle moment that will

lead to further conversations, deeper relationships and action together. In Christ we are a new creation so in the words of Leah, one of the many missing and murdered indigenous girls, “shine bright like a diamond” with the Light of Jesus.

Yaw^ko,Nya’weh,Chi Miigwech Amen.

Offertory Hymn

Healer of our every ill

Refrain:

**Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

Refrain

In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love.

Refrain:

Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother.
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

Refrain:

You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing.
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

Refrain

*An offering plate is provided for the
Native Women’s Association of Canada.
Bread wine and medicines are brought forward*

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: Creator God, receive these gifts from Mother Earth and the sacred medicines, prayerfully given, to honour you and the many women and girls we are remembering. through the movement of your Holy Spirit. Renew us so that we are ready for the sacred path where Jesus leads us in our daily lives.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Celebrant: Creator God is with you

All: And also with you

Celebrant: Offer all that you are

All: We give ourselves to Jesus.

Celebrant: Deep thanks to the Creator

All: For the web of all creation

Celebrant: Amazing Creator, You are at the centre of the web and every part of it tells your story. When we see the stars, the morning sunshine and the dew drops lightly touching the trees, we wonder at the beauty of the world around us, for it carries your message.

You invited us to take our sacred walk with you and it wasn't always easy. Abraham and Sarah took a long journey to live their sacred story and follow your voice. Spiritual elders, like Moses and the prophets too left us memories of their encounter and mission for you. They and the stories of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls have a place in your story and a message for future generations.

Creation did much groaning and grieving awaiting the presence of the One, who would remind us of our covenant and that your kingdom is around and within us. Through Jesus' gift of the Spirit we are connected to all who have left Mother Earth as we soar in praise like the eagle, the prophets, Elders and all the Saints in saying:-

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy
Wonderful Creator and Life Giver**

**In Jesus' overflowing love
True life is revealed.
Blessed is the One who comes into our hearts
His heart beat will be felt for ever.**

Celebrant: Jesus, like Elijah, could hear the still small voice of Spirit and helps us to listen and respond in our honouring of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Jesus mended broken hearts and reached out to the vulnerable and the oppressed. He healed hurts that no one else could heal and on the cross felt the pain of human choices. Through the Resurrection, he showed us that death was not an ending but a new beginning. Jesus' story is interwoven with ours, guiding us as church to keep it within memory and lived experience. He challenges us to restore what was lost and show what living in the Spirit looks like.

In sharing bread and wine, as Jesus did at the Last Supper with his disciples, it became our collective story. We become one family as we hear his words in the midst of our stories. Jesus at the feast with his friends took bread, thanked Creator, broke the bread and gave it to them saying:

“Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you
Do this for the remembrance of me”

Then Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this all of you. This is the blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many,
Whenever you drink it,
Do this for the remembrance of me”

Generous Creator, we offer you these gifts from Mother Earth, so that in receiving them, we may become one with you and one with each other. Come with the sacred fire of your Spirit and make them holy gifts for all who receive them, or are blessed at this table. Connect our hearts together to beat in rhythm with yours, so that we can carry your story acting justly, loving with compassion and tenderness, and walking with humility. Wonderful Creator, we are yours in Jesus and through the Holy Spirit now and always

Yaw^ko, Nia'weh, Chi Miigwech Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: The fruits of Mother Earth have been made into this bread
and wine and blessed.

**All: We who share them will continue to grow
as a community for you**

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: God of hope for the future, you have come close to us through
this holy food. May all you have given us this day, foster
deeper relationships and help us to walk with our Sisters in
Spirit until the sacred journey is complete.

Yaw^ko,Nia'weh,Chi Miigwech Amen

Blessing The Rt. Rev'd Linda Nicholls, Bishop of Huron

Dismissal

Deacon: Go with the wind of the Spirit
and find Creator's rainbow of hope in all people.

All: Thanks be to God

Closing Hymn Sister let me be your servant.

Sister, let me be your servant.
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey.
Fellow travellers on the road.
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you;
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant.
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

*After the hymn, Jingle Dancers as signs of new life,
like the Butterfly, dance out.*

***Change is possible.
Let's raise our awareness of the needs of our Sisters in Spirit
and take action wherever we are***



The jingle dress dance celebrates the healing power and dignity of women and their close connection to Mother Earth. Its origins are found in the story of young Ojibwa girl who was deathly ill. Her father had a vision in which he saw the jingle dress dance and was told to make a jingle dress for his daughter and to teach her the dance. At first she had to be carried in the dress, but became able to do the dance, and was healed of her illness. The jingle dress dance was a gift from Creator that carries a healing vision to the people.

The drum often is called “the heartbeat of Mother Earth”. Many Indigenous stories tell of Creator giving the drum first to a woman, and telling her to share it with men to create peace between warring nations. In this way, the drum is often seen as possessing a feminine spirit, sharing a likeness to Mother Earth, and to be treated with care and respect.

Sponsors for this Service:

**St. Stephens Anglican Church, Stratford
St. Pauls Anglican Church, Stratford
St. James, Anglican Church, Stratford
The Regional Ministry of South Huron**

Worship Team

**Thr Rev'd Canon Gaye Whippey
The Rev'd Rosalyn Kantkaht'ant Elm
The Rev'd Steve Greene
The Rev'd Canon Lorne Mitchell
The Rev'd Tom Patterson
The Rev'd Steve Martin
The Rev'd Dan Bowyer**

**Susan Nagtegaal, Music Director
Peter Ryde, Chimer
Bobbi-Jo Alley, Crucifer
Stephanie Donaldson, Server**