

Clifton Pastoral Charge

Old Barns and Hilden United Churches

We are Affirming Churches in an Affirming Pastoral Charge

Clergy: Reverend Phillip Kennedy

Organists: Old Barns--Beckie Burrows, Hilden--Edith Selwyn-Smith

Church Bulletin Secretary: Judy Loughhead

Mission Statement: To provide a friendly welcoming, caring, and safe environment to promote spiritual growth.

(Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice)

Pride Celebration Worship for Clifton Pastoral Charge November 17th, 2024

INTROIT- *“God Gave this World a Gift”* - Text © 2017, Carmen Llanos,
Arr. From Evangelical Lutheran worship © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATIONS

GREETING EACH OTHER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We give thanks today that we are able to worship on land that is the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. As Treaty people, may we continue to seek ways to foster peace and friendship among all.

ALL MY RELATIONS.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *(OB-Leslie Burrows)*

LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

RED: The rainbow is a sign of diversity and hope, a reminder of the promise made between God and humanity. Red is the colour of strawberries and rose petals, passion and birth. Sweet and lively, the colour of life: red. *(Light red candle)*

ORANGE: Orange is the colour of pumpkins and flame, warmth and compassion. Bright and awakening, the colour of healing: orange. *(Light orange candle)*

YELLOW: Yellow is the colour of lemon and sun, joy and excitement. Radiant and bold, the colour of hope: yellow. *(Light yellow candle)*

GREEN: Green is the colour of inchworm and pine trees, calm and growth. Restful and abundant, the colour of nature: green. *(Light green candle)*

BLUE: Blue is the colour of sky and rushing rivers, depth and inspiration. Soaring and fluid, the colour of harmony: blue. *(Light blue candle)*

PURPLE: Purple is the colour of grape and amethyst, strength and dignity. Profound and majestic, the colour of spirit: purple. *(Light purple candle)*
In God's sight, all humanity is a rainbow people.

YELLOW: As we worship today, everyone is invited into the rainbow as we celebrate our decision to publicly, intentionally and explicitly declare that the Clifton Pastoral Charge commits itself to being an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada: a ministry that welcomes all people, including but not limited to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, skin colour, race, creed, age, cultural background, economic status, language, and ability; to fully participate in all aspects of our life and work.

ANTHEM- (OB only) *“With Open Hearts”* Words & Music by Mary Ellen Kish, arr. by Gwen Chapman, © 2008 www.mekishmusic.com

READING OF OUR OF VISION AS CLIFTON PASTORAL CHARGE
We are committed to a vision of ministry that is welcoming, inviting and affirming of all people. The vision we boldly claim is one which we identify in Jesus' ministry among the people of his own time, teaching through word and action that each person is a beloved child of God, and worthy of God's, and therefore our love, care and compassion. We celebrate the richness that diversity brings to our church, as it transforms our concept of community. We journey in faith, publicly declaring our commitment to create a community where

people of every age, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental and physical ability, family status, economic level and cultural background are welcome to take part in every aspect of church life, including membership, leadership, fellowship and celebrating life's milestones. By word and action, with God's spirit to guide us, we will work to counter injustice, which violates a person's right to respect, dignity, and a fair and equitable treatment in church and in society.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (MV #21 X2) "Open our Hearts"

SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION – 'First Creation Story'

RED: Our Sacred Story teaches us that from the very beginning, God crafted a marvelously diverse world and deemed that magnificent diversity was GOOD!

ORANGE: Our first creation story, from Genesis 1, is a beautiful story that starts like this:

YELLOW: "When God began to create the heavens and the earth,

GREEN: the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." (Gen 1: 1-2)

BLUE: And from this chaos God created light and darkness, day & night (Gen 3-5)

PURPLE: sea and sky, (Gen 1: 6-8)

BLUE: water and land, (Gen 1: 9-13)

GREEN: Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness.

YELLOW: God created them; male and female." (Gen 1:26-27)

ORANGE: God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was good. (Gen 1: 31)

ALL: It was very good.

RED: a Transgender person of faith, loved this story of creation as a young person. He was really drawn to it and believed it was "just about perfect." There was a place for everything, and everything was in its place.

ORANGE: Somehow life feels so much easier... so much neater when things fall into binaries...

YELLOW: EITHER this... or that...

ORANGE: black or white...

YELLOW: sweet or salty...

ORANGE: cat person or dog person...

GREEN: The Transgender person said "I appreciated [it] up until my teen years, when I began to get a sense that life sometimes falls outside black-and-white categories."

BLUE: Yet this creation story is full of binary categories: LIGHT-DARK, LAND-SEA, MALE-FEMALE.

PURPLE: And this type of binary thinking has limited our imaginations and, in some cases, has caused harm. In fact, this creation story has often been weaponized against LBGTQIA+ people!

BLUE: The phrase: "God created them; male and female" has been narrowly interpreted to mean that God created loving partnerships LIMITED to people who were male and female.

RED: This part of the Bible has been used to propagate HATE against anyone who did not fall into this binary of male and female.

YELLOW: It has been used to exclude anyone who was not heterosexual or cis-gender from faith communities!

GREEN: It has been used to exclude people.

BLUE: Our story the story where God created magnificent diversity and said it was very good... has been used to say some of creation is NOT good.

PURPLE: This Transgender person says that it is true that our story says....
God created light and darkness... (but creation isn't distinctly separated into day and night. There is dawn and dusk which aren't exactly day OR night but something different.)

RED: There isn't *just* land and sea,
(but also marshes, estuaries, bogs and coral reefs.)

ORANGE: *In the same way....*
God created them male and female,
... does not have to discredit other sexes or genders, any more than the verse about the separation of day from night rejects the existence of dawn and dusk.

YELLOW: The reality is....
our creation story names only some plants God created... it doesn't mean God didn't create the other ones.

GREEN: The Bible names some animals God created... but that doesn't mean the other animals aren't also part of God's creation.

PURPLE: God created men, women, AND ALSO non-binary, trans, two spirited, and all gender queer people.

RED: And God looked at what God created and said...
IT IS GOOD. IT IS VERY GOOD.

FOCUS ON GIVING (OB-Jim Burrows)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE

HYMN – (MV #138) “*My Love Colours Outside the Lines*”

STORYTIME “**God Made Me Wonderful**” (OB-Glenda Kent)
~ Written by Katie Logan, Illustrated by Jarrett Castle

SOLO (OB)- Tony Spina “*The Village*” by Wrable.
Accompanied by Linda Wallace on the piano.

SOLO (H) - Vicki Canton-Austin “*Hallelujah in My Heart*”
Written by Carlene Carter/Howie Epstein 1993, © ATV Music LLC,
Wixen Music Publishing

BUILDING A GARDEN

God Made YOU Wonderful. You - are - beautiful.
Just take a moment to look around the room
at this beautiful group of people.

John O'Donohue said:

“When we devote some calm time to the heart
and come off the treadmill of stress and distraction
we can enter into the beauty within.”

So, let's take a moment to enter into the beauty within...
On your table, there is a brightly coloured flower petal.
Take a minute or two and write on your petal one way
you are beautiful, wonderful, beloved.
Then the petals will be collected and
assembled into a beautiful flower garden:
representing the beauty of this affirming charge.

(Quiet music for 3ish minutes, while people write on, and, the petals are collected.)

HYMN (MV #145) “*Draw the Circle Wide*”

A LITANY FOR PRIDE ~ Written by Sam Lundquist & Lady Gaga

PURPLE: Blessed are your children, God.

Blessed are the sacred weird ones.

Blessed are the holy and wholly different.

Blessed are the ones who are too loud, too bold,
too wild, too much.

BLUE: Blessed are your children, God.

Blessed are your gay, lesbian, and bisexual children.

Blessed are your trans, non-binary,
and gender non-conforming children.

GREEN: Blessed are your children

whom we are all learning to name, describe, and know.

YELLOW: Blessed are your children, God.

Blessed are those who have come out.

Blessed are those who cannot.

Blessed are those who are still finding their way.

ORANGE: Blessed are your children, God.

Blessed are those who feel boxed in.

Blessed are those who feel shackled by tradition.

Blessed are those who are suffocated
by the roars of expectation.

RED: Blessed are your children, God.

Blessed are those who struggle
with self-harm and self-hatred.

Blessed are those who strive to accept
the person they see in the mirror.

Blessed are those who strain each day just to survive.

ORANGE: Blessed are your children, God.

Blessed are those who persist.

Blessed are those who persevere.

Blessed are those who prove to the world each day
that diversity is divine.

YELLOW: Blessed are your children, God. Blessed are the
chosen families who have taken in the lost and forgotten.

GREEN: Blessed are the friends and family who have helped
rewrite the stories of lives. Blessed are the allies who have
loved those unable to love themselves.

BLUE: Blessed are your children, God. Blessed are those
whose ancestral queer footsteps we walk in.

PURPLE: Blessed are those who marched and marched
and marched before us.

BLUE: Blessed are those who have dared to dream and
dared to demand justice.

GREEN: Blessed are your children, God. Every single one of
them.

YELLOW: And blessed are we as we Tirelessly,
Courageously, Imaginatively, Co-create with you
a world where ALL people know and feel and have love.

ORANGE: All sexualities.

RED: All genders.

ORANGE: All gender expressions.

YELLOW: All families.

GREEN: All bodies.

BLUE: Holy One, guide us toward your strange,
boundless, undefinable love.

PURPLE: And when we are met with the sneers, side-eye,
and shame of the world, remind us who walks this journey
with us. You.

RED: You: the One who has shattered every norm,
every box, every shackle that holds us down
and calls us to do the same. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN (OB) *"This Little Light"*

(H) *"Go, Make a Difference" (MV#209)*

POEM by Edwin Markham (OB-Tony Spina)

"He drew a Circle that shut me out, heretic, rebel a thing to flout. But Love and I had the wit to win, we made a circle that drew him in."

A PRIDE BLESSING

**Beloved, there is only love.
In you, only love.
Around you, only love.
Not a touchy-feely, pop song kind of love.
But a love that knows every secret corner
of your fragile, fabulous being and says, "Yes!"
"Yes!" to your difference.
"Yes!" to your diversity.
"Yes!" to your desire.
Whoever you are,
whatever beautiful spirit
God created you to be,
shine fearlessly and courageously.
We need you
and the divine light within you
to sparkle through the prism of your body
and brighten the world
with a glorious rainbow.
Never forget you are loved.
Fiercely and forever.**

SUNG RESPONSE "God Gave This World a Gift" Text © 2017,
Carmen Llanos, Arr. From Evangelical Lutheran worship © 2003 Augsburg
Fortress.

HILDEN ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Special Thank You to the Guest Soloist: Vicki Canton-Austin, and a Big Thank You to all the participants in the service.

Hilden Cards/games -

Nov. 22nd (Fri) 1:00 p.m.

November 23rd - Saturday, 9:00am to 2:00pm, Craft Sale will be held at the Hilden Church Hall.

November 29th & 30th - Friday & Saturday, 2:00pm to 6:00pm, Brown Bread and Baked Beans Take-out will be held at the Hilden Church Hall.

OLD BARNs ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Special Thank You to the Guest Soloist: Tony Spina, and a Big Thank You to all the participants in the service: Koray Demirbag, Matthew Shannon, Sandra Matthews, Debbie Rutherford, Jim and Leslie Burrows, Glenda Kent.

The UCW is once again collecting donations for the **Christmas Index Program and the Colchester Food Bank**. Donations should be placed in an envelope with your name on it and indicating it is for the UCW. Place in collection plate or get to Leslie Burrows on or before December 8th. Thank you to all those who support these Christmas donations.

November 21th - Thursday, 9:45 a.m. Bible Study in Old Barns.

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 23rd - Saturday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm, "Christmas Tea in Harmony" - at McCulloch United - 3321 Camden Rd. Truro. \$12.00 per person. There will be a Christmas Sale Table and Baked Goods available. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets phone Norma - 902-895-2008 or Pat - 902-895-2966

November 24th - The Future Visioning Committee has exciting news to share! There will be a *JOINT SERVICE* in Old Barns at 11:00 a.m. **Guest speaker: Sharon Ballantyne, Growth Animator for United Church of Canada**, "Unbinding New Things" John 11: 32-44. Pot luck lunch, sandwiches and sweets, after the service; followed by a motivational presentation by Sharon, and table group discussions. So please come with your ideas and vision for the future of our Pastoral Charge, and invite a friend to come along too!

PLEASE NOTE: We have a dietary request that there be NO FISH OR SEAFOOD items at the lunch due to a serious (airborne) allergy to them. Thank you.

Lectionary Readings Next Week - November 24th - JOINT SERVICE in OB

(Guest Speaker: Sharon Ballantyne)

Scriptures: John 11: 32-44

Theme: "Unbinding New Things" and focus on the story of the raising of Lazarus

Worship Services Schedule

Nov 24 - *JOINT SERVICE* 11:00 a.m. in Old Barns - (Guest Speaker: Sharon Ballantyne)

Dec 1 - 9:30 a.m. in Old Barns (Led by Leslie Burrows), 11:00 a.m. in Hilden (led by Sylvia Patterson) - 1 Advent

Dec 8 - 9:30 a.m. in Hilden, 11:00 a.m. in Old Barns - 2 Advent, White Gift Service

Dec 15 - 9:30 a.m. in Hilden, 11:00 a.m. in Old Barns - 3 Advent

Bookings -

Old Barns - contact Reg Henderson at 902-895-0740 or

rhenderson8@hotmail.com

Hilden - contact George Creelman at 902-897-4493 or

georgecreelman@hotmail.com

Bulletin Announcements - contact Judy at 902-895-7243 or

lougheadjd@gmail.com by Wednesday evening.

Charge Website - cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

Church bulletins & video of services are available on the website under the heading "Worship". **All Policies** - (Funerals, Marriages, Baptisms or Blessings) are located under the heading "About Us".

Clerks of Sessions - to contact the Session with any questions or concerns regarding the Spiritual Life of the church or to request a baptism or wedding, please contact your Clerk of Session:

Old Barns - Leslie Burrows 902-890-4682 or email obsession@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

Hilden - TBA or email hildensession@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

Minutes for Mission playlists at www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada

stories and photos on www.united-church.ca

Need a Drive to Church (OB) - Contact Gordie at 902-895-6833

Old Barns Treasurer - regarding church business or etransfer donations contact Bob Francis at oldbarnstreasurer@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

Social Committee (OB) - contact Julia Blois at 902-893-2641.

The Reverend Phillip Kennedy can be reached at 902-957-4727 (cell) or by email at phillip.kennedy@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

Visitation - If you, or someone you know, want or need a pastoral care visit, please contact either the Clerk of Session or the minister, Rev. Phillip Kennedy.