

CC, Wesley, SA, SL, TS and DSM United Churches

Canada Day – July 7, 2024

Prelude:

O Canada:

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise, the True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Welcome from South Raleigh Fire Station 16:

Introduction of Guests:

Moment of Silence: *We will observe a moment of silence to remember those who have served in the past and are now serving in the presence of God. Three rings of the bell will mark the end of our moment (traditional call to "return to the station"). Today, the bell is rang by Firefighter Steve Walker. Today please remember those firefighters who have died since we last gathered. Eric will close with prayer.*

Call To Worship:

Eric: O God, sustain us in the complexity of our humanity as you sustained David;

People: **playing the harp of youth, throwing stones at giant problems, loving our friends beyond wisdom, dancing worship, mourning children, breaking our hearts in psalms, and longing for warmth in our old bones.**

Eric: Come, let us worship the God of Love.

Opening Hymn: VU 122 "All Glory, Laud and Honour"

*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

You are the King of Israel,
and David's royal son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and blessed one.

*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children*

made sweet hosannas ring.

The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.

*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.

*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious king.

*All glory, laud and honour
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

Opening Prayer:

Merciful God, in this time of reflection, we acknowledge our strengths and weaknesses, and how they help and hinder our ministries in this place. As we bring ourselves to you in this worship, may we trust in your grace to enable us to be leaders in this community. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "Shine Jesus Shine"

by Charing Cross & Wesley Choirs

Children's Time: "C.H.I.R.P."

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 48

The City of God

The Lord God is wonderful! He deserves all praise in the city where he lives.

His holy mountain, beautiful and majestic, brings joy to all on earth. Mount Zion, truly sacred, is home for the Great King.

God is there to defend it and has proved to be its protector.

Kings joined forces to attack the city, but when they saw it, they were terrified and ran away.

They trembled all over like women giving birth or like seagoing ships wrecked by eastern winds.

We had heard about it, and now we have seen it in the city of our God, the Lord All-Powerful.

This is the city that God will let stand forever.

Our God, here in your temple we think about your love.

You are famous and praised everywhere on earth, as you win victories with your powerful arm.

Mount Zion will celebrate, and all Judah will be glad, because you bring justice.

Let's walk around Zion and count its towers.

We will see its strong walls and visit each fortress.

Then you can say to future generations,

“Our God is like this forever and will always guide us.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5: 1 – 5, 9 - 10

Israel's leaders met with David at Hebron and said, “We are your relatives. Even when Saul was king, you led our nation in battle. And the Lord promised that someday you would rule Israel and take care of us like a shepherd.”

During the meeting, David made an agreement with the leaders and asked the Lord to be their witness. Then the leaders poured olive oil on David's head to show that he was now the king of Israel.

David was 30 years old when he became king, and he ruled for 40 years. He lived in Hebron for the first seven and a half years and ruled only Judah. Then he moved to Jerusalem, where he ruled both Israel and Judah for 33 years. David became a great and strong ruler, because the Lord All-Powerful was on his side.

Message: “Three Oaks Cabin” – Diane Bergsma

Because we are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: VU 343 “I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.

I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.

And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Sharing Of Our Gifts: MV 191 – “What Can I Do?”

(repeat as needed)

What can I do? What can I bring?
What Can I Say? What can I Sing?

I'll sing with joy, I'll say a prayer
I'll bring my love, I'll do my share

Doxology: VU 541 “Praise God From Whom...”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Offertory Prayer:

People: Gracious God, as we bring our offerings before you, we acknowledge the gift of your grace, freely given and yet calling us to respond. May our actions reflect the transforming power of your grace as we open our hearts to love, to vulnerability, and to relationship, trusting in the abundance of your grace to guide us. Amen.

Firefighter's Prayer: *Station 16 - Captain Ken Wood*

When I am called to duty God,
Wherever flames may rage,
Give me the strength to save some life
Whatever be its age.

Help me embrace a little child,
Before it is too late,
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert,
To hear the weakest shout,
Then quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling Lord,
To give the best in me;
Halting all the fear and pain;
Protecting Life and property.

And when that moment comes, dear Lord,
When end of life draws near,
I trust to your eternal love
All those whom I hold dear.

Firefighter's Spouses and Families: (Chief Russell)

Pastoral Prayer:

Closing Hymn: VU 509 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Benediction:

Eric: May you go from this place carried by the grace and peace of the Triune of God who holds you, surrounds you, and keeps you, now and forever more.

Go Now in Peace:

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He 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 from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.**