



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany, February 05th, 2023 – 10:30 am

Black History Month

**You are invited to say or sing the bold print*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Blessed are you, O God, who made us in your image.

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Hymn for Solidarity (In Christ There is No East or West)” arr. R.J. Hughes

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hewitt Holmes



We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the people with whom the Three Fires Confederacy: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, was agreed upon.

We accept our responsibility as Treaty people on this territory wherein Collier Street United resides.

We honor the heritage and stewardship of this land.

As we gather to worship and work at Collier Street United,

***we recognize that we have assembled on sacred ground,
a traditional gathering place for many peoples of Turtle Island.***

***We commit to honoring the covenantal relationship with the
First Peoples: Métis and Inuit.***

***We move forward with reconciliation and good relations with all
people.***

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LAMENT AND LOVING

RESPONSE: VU #646 “We Are Marching” v. 1

WELCOME & NEWS

Hewitt Holmes

How are you today? **We are blessed and highly favored.**

WE PRAISE AND PRAY

Blessed are you, O God, creator of all that is.

SILENCE

^WORDS FOR THE GATHERED:

In this month of February,

we remember the story of Black people,

We are reminded that all are created in the image of God.

God from the beginning,

you fashioned the heavens and the earth

from a formless void.

God, your creative energy has done marvelous works,

all around us.

May your creative Spirit

be at work in our hearts and minds today

as we worship you and, always,

as we strive to live in obedience to your will.

We come to sing your praise in word and deed!

*HYMN MV#30 "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" v.1,2,3

^OPENING PRAYER

^WORDS OF GRACE:

As Black people lament the injustices of our time.

We are reminded that God is our refuge and home.

God is our strength and center.

God is our very present help.

God has always been, and always will be, our very present help.

We rejoice in the healing presence of God.

*HYMN: MV#79 "Spirit, Open My Heart" chorus, v.2, chorus

WE GROW TOGETHER

Blessed are you, O God, creator of all that will be.

^WORDS FROM SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:26-31 & Psalm 13 (Inclusive Bible) *Elizabeth Chevrefils*

Let us listen to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground."

²⁷ Humankind was created as God's reflection: in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the earth—and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things on the earth!”

²⁹ God then told them, “Look! I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the earth, and every tree whose fruit carries its seed inside itself: they will be your food;

³⁰ and to all the animals of the earth and the birds of the air and things that crawl on the ground—everything that has a living soul in it—I give all the green plants for food.” So it was.

³¹ God looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good—very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Psalm 13:1 How long, YHWH? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I wrestle with my anguish, and wallow in despair all day long? How long will my enemy win over me?

³ Look at me! Answer me, YHWH, my God! Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

⁴ lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed,” lest my foes rejoice when I fall.

⁵ I trust in your love; my heart rejoices in the deliverance you bring.

⁶ I’ll sing to you, YHWH, for being so good to me.

*This is Life-giving Word for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.***

THOUGHTS TO PONDER: “Everyone – Created in God’s Image!”

Hewitt Holmes

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Jamaican Dance No. 2” by Oswald Russell (Jamaican composer)

PRAYERS FOR OFFERING, OURSELVES, & OTHERS

Hewitt Holmes

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*Kum-Ba-Yah Version*)

SANDRA RUTTAN/Choir

WE GO TO BE GOD’S PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

May God's creative Spirit help us to see with new wonder
the splendor of your creation all around us
and inspire us to preserve and protect it.

^HYMN: MV#145 "Draw the Circle Wide"

^BENEDICTION

Hewitt Holmes

In Uganda there is a saying:
One who experiences something good must share it.
We who have heard, seen, and experienced
the good news, we are all made in the image of God.
Go, then, into the world
to proclaim the gospel of love,
in your words, actions, and deeds. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: VU#884 You Shall Go Out with Joy

(We remain grateful for the offerings given today and electronically)

ELEVATOR DEDICATION

For I know the plans I have for you, declares God, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope - Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

WORDS OF THANKS

Maureen Attwell-Murdock

Elevator Modernization Project

The Church Improvement Task Force (C.I.T.F.), as part of the "Time, Treasure, and Talent Team," began in the spring of 2020 to secure quotes from three elevator companies to replace our aging elevator at Collier Church. In May 2021, the Church Board approved the contract proposal for Elevator One Inc. of Barrie.

This project focused on the modernization of the elevator, the replacement of the hydraulic cylinder, and a cab upgrade that included: wall paneling, a control panel, porcelain tile flooring, stainless steel handrails, and interior lighting.

The project was temporarily delayed due to supply issues but was finally completed in October 2022. A successful T.S.S.A. Inspection followed, and the

new elevator went into operation. Today, we gather to dedicate it to Collier's continued ministry and to God's glory.

Thanks to the entire C.I.T.F. team, Hewitt Holmes, Terry Tizzard, Laurie Crosson & Maureen Attwell-Murdock involved in this project. Special thanks to Vickie McMillan, office administrator, for her on-site coordination during the COVID19 Pandemic, our contractor, custodian, the Capital Campaign, the City of Barrie, and the Board of Trustees for funding this project.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION & SPRINKLING OF HOLY WATER

CUTTING OF RIBBON

BLACK HISTORY MONTH INFO.

Black History is Biblical – It is our Story!

Bible characters are usually portrayed as white and European, all except one of the wise men. But the spiritual history of Africa is imprinted in every book and chapter of the Bible beginning with Genesis. When God creates Adam out of the dust of the ground it contains the soil of Mesopotamia and the sun-warmed earth of Africa.

But it isn't just earth and soil that indicates African presence in the Bible. It is the people themselves. The lands of the Bible span the continents of Africa and Asia — both home to peoples of color.

People of African descent, Asian descent, and of mixed descent all lived in ancient Israel. In general, the people of Ancient Israel were probably more African than Asian and they looked it.

Consider the story of Joseph. Sold into slavery and taken down to Egypt he rises in the ranks of Pharaoh's government. While his brothers intend it for evil, God intends it for good; Joseph is able to bring his father and 11 brothers down to Egypt to escape a devastating famine.

This means all 12 tribes of Israel and their descendants live in Africa for over 200 years until Moses leads them to freedom. They go down as 70 souls and they come back one and a half million strong. Through intermarriage, African blood flows freely through their veins.

Even so, the people are called Hebrews, not Egyptians. Why? Not because of race or racism; that construct doesn't come into existence until the 1600s.

It is because of tribe. Tribal affiliation is what matters in the ancient world. Nevertheless: In the Bible, Hebrews and Africans are one and the same people. The first Hebrews are African and many Africans are Hebrews.

Long before slave ships bring Africans to American shores, many enslaved Africans already worship the God of the Bible. In fact, I went to seminary with a student from Kenya who told me that the African tribal practices of his people were straight out of the Old Testament. They're living now like the Jews did millennia ago.

The African presence in the Bible can be traced even deeper in the Bible. Moses, "The Prince of Egypt," is born of Hebrew slaves, but is raised by Egyptians. Remember how Moses' mother and sister put him in a basket in the Nile so that Pharaoh won't find him and kill him? But Pharaoh's daughter finds him, keeps him, and raises him in the royal palace right under Pharaoh's nose. Now if Pharaoh's daughter and Moses look all that different, it stands to reason that Pharaoh would take the baby and kill him. But he doesn't. Why? Probably because Moses fits right in: an Egyptian among Egyptians.

Moses isn't the only one who fit right in. Here's where it gets really interesting. Remember how Mary and Joseph take Jesus and flee when King Herod wants to kill him? Where do they go to hide out? Where do they go to find sanctuary? Where do they go to blend in? Egypt.

Now if Joseph, Mary and Jesus look all that different from the native Egyptians, they would never pass. But they do. They too had African blood flowing through their veins. Even Jesus. Especially Jesus.

As Dr. King so famously said, "...all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Black history is biblical history. Black history is all our history.