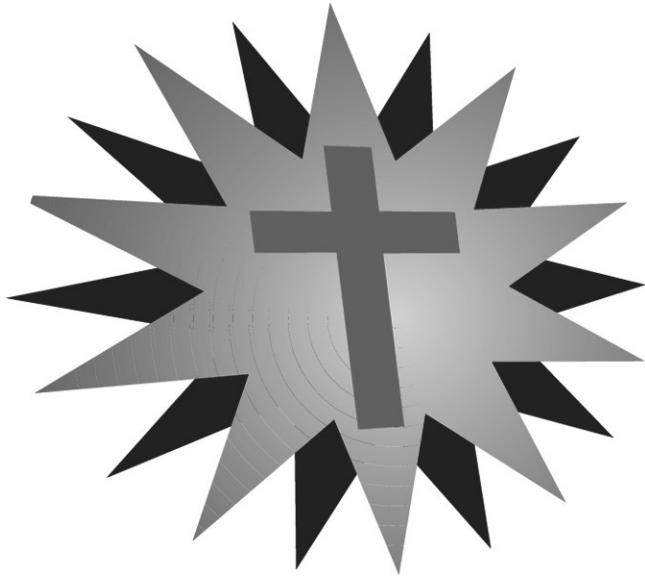


# CENTENARY-QUEEN SQUARE UNITED CHURCH



*“An Affirming Congregation”  
Within The United Church of Canada*

*Ministers: The People of the Congregation  
Clergy: Don Uhryniw  
Accompanist: Elizabeth Janes*

**CHAPEL & CHURCH OFFICE**  
215 Wentworth Street  
Saint John, New Brunswick E2L 2T4  
Phone: (506) 634-8288  
Fax: (506) 642-6514  
[cqsunited@nb.aibn.com](mailto:cqsunited@nb.aibn.com)

Order of Worship  
National Day Against Homophobia  
Service of Prayer and Hope  
Wednesday, May 17, 2006

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*Welcome to Centenary-Queen Square United Church, an affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada that is committed to welcoming and accepting all people regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, differing abilities, ethnic background or economic circumstance. Following Jesus' example and teaching, we work for justice and inclusion by offering love, hope and compassion through worship, study and service. We're glad you're here today!  
It is not our practice to “take up” an offering, however, your gift for the mission and ministry of our church, placed on the offering plates near the door prior to the service, is deeply appreciated.*

*(\* Asterisks invite all who are able to please stand)*

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Greeting

## **Gathering in the Circle of our Creator**

### **\*Gathering Dialogue**

One: Come and lodge in this place of peace

Many: for we are made in the image and likeness of the Holy One

One: Come and take your place in the wonderful rainbow of God's creation

Many: of different colours and hues, of unity within diversity

All: Let us praise our Creator!

### **\*Opening Prayer (unison)**

Holy One, who has made each one of us, who holds each one of us; who burns within each one of us; birth us all into the peace and justice that is your love, that the brokenness of the world will be made whole; wounds, healed; and hate melted into compassion, so that all of us may claim with pride our place within your universal family. May this be so, for ever and ever.

Hymn # 697 O for a World

**Claiming Our Place in the Circle**

Acts 8. 26-40  
Psalm 139, #861 VU  
I John 4.7-21  
Matthew 5. 1-12

Hymn # 684 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sermon

**Drawing Wide the Circle**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

One: Holy One, as we gather grant us your peace  
Many: Grant us your peace  
One: Goddess of creation, who has stirred within us passions and compassions, remind us that it is you who have formed us  
Many: Goddess of creation, remind us that we are your children  
One: You who are the rainbow of creation, we seek your justice  
Many: bring an end to the hate and intolerance, the discrimination, the violence  
One: Holy Friend, help us to hear with healed ears and hearts  
Many: that all of us are beautiful and unique beings, formed in the womb of the universe, blessed by our diversity and affirmed by your authority  
One: Let us remember those  
Many: who have been victims of violence.  
One: Let us remember those  
Many: who are victims of violence.  
One: Let us remember those  
Many: who perpetuate violence.  
One: Let us remember  
Many: that hate cannot win  
One: Let us remember  
Many: intolerance cannot reign  
One: Let us remember  
Many: that peace and justice are the path to the Holy

**All: And let us pledge to one another that we will no longer be victims, but let the light of the Divine burn brightly within us. Let us promise to accept our power as children of the Divine. Let us share with all of the world the gift that each one of us is. Let us embrace the mystery of God that is our sexuality.**

One: As we make all of these prayers, let us join together in a paraphrase of the Prayer of Jesus

{ Our Jesus  
Who art an activist,  
How could you be a carpenter?  
Thy Kingdom is Queer Positive  
Thou art only a human  
On Earth as you art in heaven.  
Give us your Trippy Transfiguration  
Forgive us for being judgmental  
As we comfort others who are vulnerable  
Lead us not to hate  
But teach us to love  
Fro thou art a xenophile  
All poor and displaced, forever inclusive,  
Forever we love you.  
Amen. }

*[Maritime Conference Youth Forum, 2005]*

One: And so, we prepare for our journey  
Many: the journey into a hurting world  
One: and so we seek nourishment  
Many: to confront the hate  
One: and so we must be the community of Christ  
Many: God's paradigm of love in the world  
One: So share this bread, share your life, share your passion, share your compassion,  
Many: that we may continue the journey to the New Jerusalem  
*[The bread is passed and shared]*

Duet: "I Walk Today Where Jesus Walked

Soloists: June Garnett & Victor Kindred

Hymn # 586 We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

**Lighting of the Candle of Hope**

*[The candle is lit]*

One: Once there is light

Many: there is no longer deep darkness

One: once there is hope

Many: there is no longer complete despair

One: once there is justice

Many: there can no longer be entire evil

One: Once there is peace

Many: there cannot be total war

One: once there is affirmation

Many: there cannot be complete condemnation

One: Once there is acceptance

Many: there cannot be complete discrimination

One: once there is celebration

Many: the day of the Divine has come.

Concluding Rite: #974

*As you are comfortable, please hold the hand of those around you*

Postlude