

## Monday Musings-Pride Month

Peace be with you....

Psychiatrists tell us that to be truly at peace a person needs to have a healthy sense of self...and a sense of how they fit into society.

Finding one's identity...finding out who we are as a person, deep inside.....and feeling comfortable with whom we are...can be very challenging.

This is especially true for some people today when it comes to gender identification. Many struggle with the basic question, "Who Am I?"

How people look on the outside doesn't necessarily match with how they feel on the inside.

They are often bullied by others and disowned by their families.

The fact that this month of June is called Pride Month illustrates how we are moving forward in supporting these individuals, not just as a society but also as a church.

Our goals are to be a learning church... a diverse church... and the Proud Anglicans of Huron Committee is helping us achieve these goals. You'll find an informative article in the June edition of the *Huron Church News* entitled "Pride and the Pandemic: drawing our rainbows outside the box."

This committee has also offered us different liturgical resources to use in support of individuals who identify as LGBTQ, (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer).

I would like to share some of these resources with you.

First, let us pray...

*We pray for people of varying sexualities and gender identities – that they may love and be loved, and that we might create communities where love is nurtured and human dignity restored. God of love: hear our prayer.*

*We pray for all who are still in the closet, who must hide for fear of reprisal and whose lives are not safe. May they know Your love for them remains true even when they are hidden from view. God of love: hear our prayer.*

*We pray for all who have suffered rejection of family and friends because of their sexuality or gender identity. May they have grace and courage to find new ways forward, and receive the gift of chosen family. God of love: hear our prayer.*

*We pray for all those whose lives are bound in mutual love, but whose existence has only been recently recognized by the church and government. With gratitude for institutions that move slowly, but do move: God of love: hear our prayer.*

*We pray for the church – that our leaders may proclaim the Gospel of love and find a way to welcome the many gifts of all people as we work towards the realm of God. God of love: hear our prayer.*

Next, let us sing...*The Dove Will Fly on Mended Wing*, lyrics by Tim Reaburn, Traditional English, harm. C.J. Redden-Liotta

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRZUks\\_OVcBQeOw1Iayw9kg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRZUks_OVcBQeOw1Iayw9kg)

In case you cannot open the link, I want you to “hear” the meaningful words.

Chorus:

Religion, culture, creed and race:  
each human spirit and each face.  
We celebrate, we dance and sing:  
The talents here each one might bring.

A people stand, a people call:  
come gather here and welcome all.  
Diversify and celebrate  
that hopelessness is not our fate.

And take away a newfound song  
a newfound voice to act on wrongs.  
To trust, to heal, to help us cope,  
To stand as one, renewing hope.

And chains will fall, the shackles break,  
the earth will rise, and powers quake.  
Justice will roll, and freedom sing:  
The dove will fly on mended wing.

Chorus

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In closing, let's feel our togetherness, our oneness, through love and prayer,

God, we continue to dream of a world in which your love for all is revealed and made known. May you work within each of us as we build communities of acceptance and love, and so establish your reign on earth. We pray all of this in the name of the one who paved a pathway of unconditional love, of welcoming the out-cast, and of celebrating true inclusion: Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Peace be with you...  
Bernadette