

**Order of Service for June 28, 2020:  
Celebrating Our Grads and our Sunday School!**

**~Gathering & Welcome**

**~Lighting Christ Candle**

**~Call to Worship:**

**In your house or in mine,  
in the great cathedral of the earth or a simple backyard;  
in all our places of prayer,  
God is here, let's worship together.**

**~Opening Prayer:**

This is your day, Amazing God, and we are here to celebrate and give thanks!

**Thank you for Sunday School: for Bible stories and crafts, and prayers.**

Thank you for our graduates!

**Thank you for teachers and friends.**

Thank you for ordinary days, and for special days like today, even when we cannot be together!

**Thanks for hot dogs and ice cream; or bread and fish;**

Thank you for people to share it with.

And thanks for Jesus, who taught us to pray together, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**Thy will be done,**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**But deliver us from evil,**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,**

**For ever and ever. Amen.**

**Honouring Our Graduates:**

**-Amber Knorr:** Amber is the daughter of Deborah and Jeff Knorr, and she graduates from Fredericton High School (FHS). She is heading to Oulton College in Moncton for the next 2 years. Amber is studying there to become a Veterinary Technician.

**-Brooke-Lyn Power:** Brooke-Lyn is the daughter of Sheila and Tom Power, and she graduates from Fredericton High School (FHS). She is heading to UNBSJ for the next 4 years to study Marine Biology.

**-Lauren Halle Stewart** is the daughter of Jennifer and Wade Stewart and the granddaughter of David and Loraine Ward. She graduates from Montague High School in PEI and will be studying Kinesiology at UNB.

**- Cole Wight** has graduated from UNB with his MA, Master of Arts in Sport and Recreation Studies. Cole's wife Shannon and their three children Kailey, Becca and Brayden are ready to celebrate with him.

First, I want you graduates to know how proud we are of you. And how much we have learned from being around you. This has not been an easy time in which to graduate, and so I want to offer you an extra portion of blessing as our ancestors in the faith would say! So, to do that, I want you to hear some powerful words from Amanda Gorman. She is the first Youth Poet Laureate, who graduated herself this past May, from Harvard. She knows all about the things you are missing. But in the face of it all, she has something to say. So: put me on pause and take a listen to this link I am attaching. I know some of you cannot do that, so I will include the words here. But I really want you to hear the words from her mouth: she is quite a gift!

<https://twitter.com/somegoodnews/status/1257335130903007237?lang=en>

**From the first American Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman,  
written for her graduating class:**

Today, we burst into a new world.

Around the globe,

You might not have your robe,

But this is our ode, our moment. Let's own it. Let's smile, because we didn't mount this milestone alone.

This took a village.

We are the impossible image seen

Only in our ancestors' wildest dreams.

This is a rite of passage, but more so a passage of light.

We're the bright torch that

Never quits burning, never stops learning. This night too shall pass,

And when it does,

This 2020 Class

Won't just navigate a new normal.

Together, we'll build a better one.

We come to this commencement to search no more— We're the good news  
we've been looking for,  
Demonstrating that every dusk has a dawn disguised within it.  
Today, we don't burst into a new world.  
We begin it.

### **A Blessing For The Graduates:**

Friends,  
“life is short,  
and we have so little time  
to gladden the hearts of those  
who travel the way with us.  
So be quick to love,  
make haste to be kind,  
hold fast to family and friends,  
reach out into the world,  
stand up for what is right,  
be strengthened by the witness  
of those  
who have gone before you.  
Know that Love will bless you  
and that Love will always find a way.  
May it be so for you,  
this day,  
and forevermore. Amen

### **Scripture: John 6: 1-13**

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?’ Philip answered him, ‘Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.’

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Jesus, ‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?’

Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down.’ Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that

nothing may be lost.’ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

**~Reflection: *The Child Who Begins A New Way In The World***

Jesus spent a lot of his time outside. Do you like being outdoors? One day Jesus got into a boat and crossed the Sea of Galilee...sometimes called the Sea of Tiberias.

We do that too. Like the Saint John River, here in N.B.. But it has another name: the first peoples call it the Wolastoq; it means the beautiful, bountiful waters...isn't that lovely?

Once Jesus and his friends had reached the other side, they pulled the boat safely up on shore. But their adventure wasn't over yet: next they walked from the shore and then they went up a mountain. I wonder where you have climbed? A hill near your apartment? Mount Carlton? Maybe you have travelled out west and have even climbed the big Rocky Mountains.

Now Jesus has been spending the day with his close friends, the disciples. He loved being with his friends. But he also loved meeting new people, and making new friends. Good thing, because there were all kinds of people coming to join them on the mountain that day.

And you know how after a long day outside, you feel hungry?

Mmmmmmm. Jesus's tummy was ready for food – and he knew that all the people must have been feeling like that.

So, Jesus turns to his friend Phillip and says: *Where do you think we can go and get some food for everyone?*

Phillip just stares at Jesus for a moment. And then he says: “Jesus, look around: there are soooo many people! We can't get enough for everyone. We. Just. Can't! Do you see all these people?”

Well, then another friend, his name was Andrew, came and joined them. And Andrew had someone else with him: a young boy. Jesus smiled. Do you know, Jesus always said that no one should shush the children or make them go away. Jesus knew that they often had really good ideas, and he liked spending time with them. Now Jesus could see that this boy had something in his hands. Andrew was encouraging him to show Jesus. But Jesus could see that the boy was feeling a little shy.

I wonder if you ever feel like that when you are in a big crowd? Or maybe when you are meeting someone for the first time? We can suddenly get quiet, and not know what to say.

Jesus got down and looked at the boy, and opened up his hands. The boy then opened his: and showed Jesus that he had brought some lunch. There were 5 little loaves of bread, and 2 small fish.

What do *you* like to pack for lunch? If you are going for a picnic, what do you love to have: sandwiches? Vegetables and dip?

Normally when we celebrate Sunday School Day, we have hot dogs. I remember an awful lot of grown ups liking them too. One day long ago, I remember a man named Charlie Bruce leaving church after SS celebration. He had the biggest smile on his face: He said: “that was the best! I had 3 hot dogs And an ice cream sundae!” That sounds pretty good, doesn’t it?! Bread and fish, like the little boy had brought, that was looking pretty wonderful to the people that day on the mountain. But Andrew just shook his head and said: “It’s not enough though: 5 loaves and 2 little fish won’t go very far.”

The boy still didn’t say anything but he didn’t take his eyes off Jesus. But Jesus didn’t pay any mind to Andrew. He just called out to all the people: “Come on everyone, come and sit down.” And you know, all those people did: they all found a spot on the grass...and there were a LOT of people. The story says there were 5,000.

That is a lot.

But Jesus...he just turned back to his new friend, the little boy, and he said “May I take this food to share it?” And the little boy put that lunch: that precious wonderful food, he put it right in Jesus’ hands.

And Jesus thanked him.

And then he thanked God: a meal time blessing. Jesus said thank you to God for bread and fish: and for people who caught the fish and grew the grain; for people who cooked the fish and baked the bread. For little children with generous hearts. For new friends, and grassy places for picnics, for rivers with many names...So many things to be thankful for.

And then they passed that blessed food around. And everyone ate. Everyone. And everyone had as much as they needed...just like Charlie Bruce said: it was a greatest!

There was even enough left over for another day – for more people to share! Some people in the story looked at things and said: there is not enough. Or we can’t do this. Or why should I have to do this?

Sometimes things do feel hard.

But the little boy, he saw what he had. He saw it as a gift. A gift he could share. He knew that there was something he could do.

And so he did.

And everything changed: EVERYTHING!

Grumbling voices became happy.

Rumbling bellies became full.

People turned and looked at one another: people they had never met before, and said “Hello. Would you like some?” as they passed the food – the love - all around.

You know at the very end of the story, the writer says all the people realized that Jesus was a prophet in their midst. A prophet is someone who knows God’s heart, and what God would like the world to look like. God knew

there was another prophet in the crowd that day: a little boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish and a great big heart. And that day, that very day he brought a glimpse of that new world into being!  
Amen.

**~The Prayers:**

Holy God, in our time together you meet us as we are, separated from one another. But by your spirit you gather us up, like so many loaves and fishes: and you re-make us as one family.

You meet us as we are, with all of our wants and our needs.

We can be a fretful people, can't we, O God? "We can't do it!" we exclaim. "It's too hard," we say. "It's impossible," we cry.

And seeing only lack, we close the door on so many holy possibilities.

Forgive us, O God, and remind us that we are made in your image.

Forgive us, and remind us that we have everything – *everything* – we need, in our very midst!

And when we allow ourselves to be still, to be quiet, we *do* remember that.

And so we will pull out our gifts, a little shyly at first, and offer them up: to you, and to the world, that together, we might build a new and better place: a Beloved Community. Amen.

**~The Benediction:**

**So go forth this day all you children of God; and know that the love of God, the grace of Jesus, and the wonder of the Holy Spirit will be with you all, this day and forevermore. Amen and Amen.**