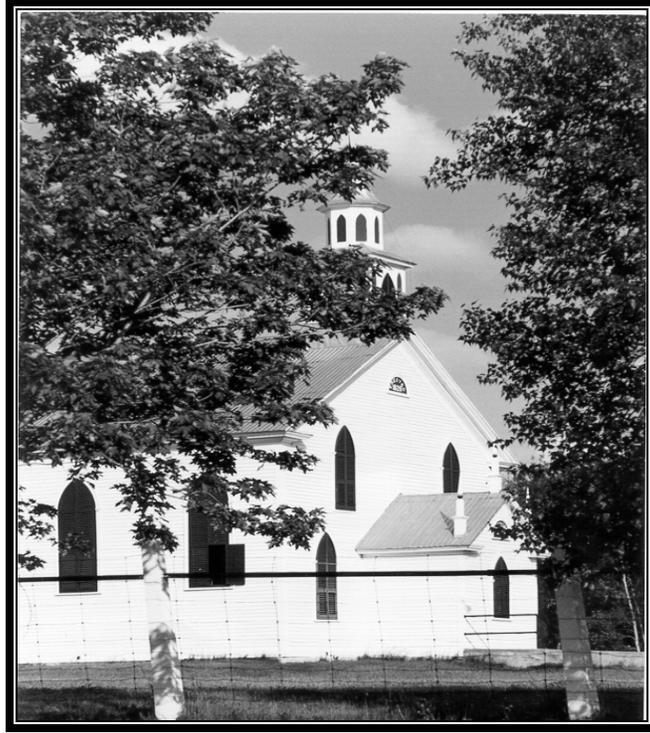


1826 – 2001
His Truth Endureth
From Generation to Generation



The United Church of Canada
The Little White Church

Russeltown Flatts, Québec
175th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, July 29, 2001

Guest Speaker: Debbie Gaese
Rev. Mark Rawlings

**The United Church of Canada
The Little White Church – Russeltown Flatts, Québec
July 29th, 2001 – 2:30 pm**

Welcome, Announcements, Correspondence

WE GATHER - Lighting of the Christ Candle

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: In the celebration of life, and in the inspiration of the heart, we are nurtured and uplifted.

All: Let us gather to seek new life, to welcome renewed vision, to find new hope.

One: Let us return to the Holy One who gathers us together, who blesses us in Christ with light and life.

All: In Jesus Christ, we see our humanity, as God intends it to be.

One: Come then, let us rejoice and worship together.

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: **#315 V.U. Holy, Holy, Holy**

Prayer of Confession (in unison):

Forgive us, O Lord, for being so caught up in the “everydayness” and the “business” of our lives. We are so intent upon “arriving”, that we sometimes forget the journey that takes us there. Remind us of the truth – that life in Your Spirit is simple, and abundant, and joyous. Breathe into us new life, new perspectives, and new understanding. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Psalm 40 (p.764 V.U.)

Reflection: Symbols of the Past

Response (in unison): **We accept these symbols as signs of our growth, tradition and history. We remember, and honour, what they stand for in our lives.**

Hymn: **# 288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

WE HEAR THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: 1 Chronicles 17:16-27

New Testament Reading: Romans 8:22-30, 37-40

Doxology

Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-5

Reflection: Symbols of the Present Congregational Response (in unison): We accept these symbols as signs of our growth, tradition and history. We remember, and honour, what they stand for in our lives.

Choir Anthem

Message

Hymn: **#595 V.U. We Are Pilgrims**

Offering

Offertory Hymn: **#543 We Give Thee But Thine Own**

Offertory Prayer

New Creed (in unison):

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

WE COME TO THE TABLE

Hymn **#480 "Let Us Break Bread Together"**

COMMUNION LITURGY

The Invitation:

One: People of faith, welcome to this table of blessing.

All: We seek to be fed and nurtured.

One: Christ meets you here, and accepts each one of you just as you are.

All: Thanks be to God.

Passing of the Peace:

One: Let us stand and greet one another with signs of love and reconciliation. The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord God of all creation.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Preface (in unison):

God of all, we give You thanks and praise, that when we were still far off, You reached out to us in the person of Jesus. Dying and living, He declared Your unconditional love, gave us grace, and opened to all the gate of the kingdom to come on earth. May we, Your rainbow people, who share Christ's body, live His risen life; we who drink this cup, bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope You have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise Your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sanctus (in unison):

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Power and Might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Wine

The Communion Meal is served by Intinction

Prayer After Communion

WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Reflection: Symbols of the Future Congregational Response (in unison):

We accept these symbols as signs of our growth, tradition and history. We remember, and honour, what they stand for in our lives. May we continue to grow as individuals, to celebrate the gifts God has given us, and to be faithful followers of Christ's community. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

#509 Here I Am, Lord

Commissioning and Benediction

Today we celebrate this Church's 175th birthday. Imagine the hardships of 1826 when this Church began, and picture if you can, the cold winters when people would bundle up and head out to faithfully come and worship. As important to this Church's history, try to image the despair that was felt by people in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when all the efforts of their ancestors were on the verge of elimination and ruins. In a fast-paced modern time, there was little use for a small, old, paint-peeled Church. It was a time when society was looking for efficiency, not high-maintenance relics. The spirit of the Church guided them through an almost unimaginable time of neglect. These people did many of the maintenance projects on an ad-hoc and voluntary basis. In addition to the physical maintenance of the property, they established a framework to support the Church by people both locally and abroad.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the group who first gathered in June 1976, at the residence of Donald E. Black, to formally create the Russeltown Flatts Church Maintenance Committee. At that time, the Committee consisted of Donald E. Black, Calvin Edgerton, Lyle Gilmore, Wilfrid Robinson, and Lyman A. Roberts. A few years later, Ronald Yull and Brand Edwards joined the Committee. Since those early years, others have joined the team, each reinforcing the spirit of the Little White Church. These people, with the help of their friends and family, were driven by a desire to keep this Church alive and to ensure that it be opened yearly for an anniversary service, so others may experience its beauty and peace. The best way we can thank these people, is to continue to value and worship this Church to the best of our ability, and to ensure that we will continue to spread both the word of God, and of the spirit of the Russeltown Flatts "Little White" Church. Thank you all for coming.