Welcome and Acknowledgements

Welcome to Roxboro United Church.
Before we can begin our worship,
we need to acknowledge that the land we live on is God's land.
Called Turtle Island for thousands of years by the people in this region:
Abenakis, Algonquin, Eeyou, Huron-Wendat, Innu, Kanien'kehá:ka, Mi'kmaq
and others, who were and are faithful stewards to the Creator's land.
We worship together today seeking reconciliation, justice and well being
for all the beings, flora and fauna, who live here.
We also acknowledge that the Church has made itself
the gate keeper of the faith,
excluding many for their gender, sexuality and ability.
Roxboro United is an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada
and has made public declaration of the past and ongoing sin of the Church
in denying membership and participation, and openly seeking to dehumanize
those who identify with the 2SLGBTQ+ communities.
At Roxboro you find a place of welcome, sacredness,
affirmation and community.
All are welcome here.
Now we can worship God.

Centring Music — Green Fields of France *performed by The Band*

Call for Awareness

Awake my body, awake my soul!
In silent fields, poppies blow.
In empty streets, silence dwells.
In vacant rooms, photos sit.
War does not end with a pen or a parade.
Into the silence, the emptiness, the sorrow,
we pray for God's peace, we sing of God's hope, we live for God's love.
Awake my sacred being.

Song — For The Healing Of The Nations **VU678**

Candle Lighting — *by Rev. Darryl Macdonald*

We light the Christ Candle, who was called the Prince of Peace.

A Time of Centring *by Rev. Darryl Macdonald*

Take this moment to centre yourself deeply in the love of God
and prepare yourself for an encounter with the Holy.
Begin with your breath.
Feel the air pass your nostrils and glide down your throat to fill your lungs.
Drop you diaphragm and let your belly and back expand.
Notice the rhythm of your breathing, and the spaces between you breath.
The air you breathe is sacred for it is the breath of God.
Your body is sacred for it manifests the Holy One in substance and form.
Be aware of your body and how you are sitting.
Let your hands fall open and your feet feel grounded.
Ask of God what you need at this moment and give space for the response.

Take some time to reflect on your relationship with God,
the world, your sacred centre.
Honour your connection to God's creation.
Offer something of yourself.
Be open to receiving God's gift to you this day.
Now, return to your body.
Imagine there is a light the softly glows from your heart,
through your limbs and head,
and radiates out into the world, connecting with people,
animals, fish and birds, with water, soil and even rock,
and give thanks to God for the experience of life.

The Lord's Prayer (A Paraphrase) **VU916**

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In time of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Song — Put Peace Into Each Other's Hand **MV173**

Scripture — 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 *New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.*
Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Another Voice — The Wound In Time *by Carol Ann Duffy*
the UK's first woman poet laureate wrote this sonnet for commemorations being led by the director at beaches around the UK and Ireland ©Carol Ann Duffy, 2018

It is the wound in Time. The century's tides,
chanting their bitter psalms, cannot heal it.
Not the war to end all wars; death's birthing place;
the earth nursing its ticking metal eggs, hatching
new carnage. But how could you know, brave
as belief as you boarded the boats, singing?
The end of God in the poisonous, shrapneled air.
Poetry gargling its own blood. We sense it was love
you gave your world for; the town squares silent,
awaiting their cenotaphs. What happened next?
War. And after that? War. And now? War. War.
History might as well be water, chastising this shore;
for we learn nothing from your endless sacrifice.
Your faces drowning in the pages of the sea.

Song — When Quiet Peace Is Shattered **VU615**

Minister's Reflection

Offering Time — Dona Nobis Pacem *performed by The Band*

How can we withhold our gratitude in the face of such wondrous love?
With glad and generous hearts, we bring our offerings to God.
We acknowledge the gifts given and those we have received in our lives,
especially those we love, those who have taught us,
the earth and all its goodness; life and its abundance.
God continues to bless us and makes us a blessing to others.

A Time For Listening, A Time For Hope — From Holy Ground ed. by Neil Paynter & Helen Boothroyd

©2005 Neil Paynter & Helen Boothroyd, Wild Goose Publications

Sisters and brothers, the conflict of nations can sadly escalate into war, however unwanted. When that happens, a mixture of thoughts and feelings fill us all: fear for those standing in harm's way, worry about the possible length of the conflict, concern for our own safety and that of our loved ones, sorrow that war can seem unnecessary for the sake of peace. As people of faith and citizens of a nation that values freedom and justice, peace is indeed our deepest desire; peace for our hearts, peace for our lands, and peace for all the world. Therefore let us call upon God, the One who alone can bring peace that endures.

Two Minute Silence in honour of all who gave their lives in conflicts

Sung Response — Peace For The Children **MV149 v.1**

A Time For Listening

A reading from the Psalms

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
may they prosper who love you.
Peace within your walls, and security within your towers.
For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.'
For the sake of the House of the Lord, our God,
I will seek your good. Psalm 122

Sung Response — Peace In Our Families **MV149 v.4**

A reading from the Qur'an

And who could be of better speech than he who calls others unto God
and does what is just and right
and says: I am of those who have surrendered themselves to God.
Good and evil are not equal;
repair the evil that is done to you with something better.
And lo! The enemy who did evil to you may turn into a close and true friend.

Yet to achieve this is not given to any but those who are
wont to be patient in adversity.
It is not given to any but those endowed with the greatest fortune.
If it should happen that a pointing from Satan stirs you to blind anger,
seek refuge with God.
Behold, He alone is all hearing, all knowing. Sura 41

Sung Response Peace For The Nations **MV149 v.5**

A reading from the Atharva Veda

Peace be to the earth and to the airy spaces.
Peace be to heaven, peace to the waters.
Peace to the plants and peace to the trees.
May all the gods grant me peace.
By this invocation of peace may peace be diffused.
By this invocation of peace may peace bring peace.
With this peace the dreadful I appease.
With this peace the cruel I appease.
So that peace may prevail, happiness prevail.
May everything for us be peaceful.

Sung Response Peace For Our Planet **MV149 v.7**

A reading from the New Testament

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come from above but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3

Sung Response Peace In The Universe **MV149 v.8**

A Time For Prayer

Lord of the nations, God of peace and love
in your hands are all the people of this world;
one flesh, one blood, created by you.
You alone, O God, can curb the passions
that take us from you and turn us upon each other.
You alone can save us from ourselves.
Be with us now and hear our prayer for peace.
Forgive us for participating in that which turns people against each other;
for fuelling anger and harbouring vengeance,
and not heeding your call to love one another.
Forgive us for not always sharing with the world
the blessings of prosperity that we have received as a nation.
In our comfort, we have not always seen the uncomfortable.
In the caring for our own,
we have not always cared for the least of your kingdom.
Renew us in faith, Lord, and grant us peace.
Open our eyes and help us to see the world around us as you see it.
Open our hearts and help us see where your love is needed most.
Open our selves to your truth.
As we seek justice, make us just.
As we seek forgiveness, make us forgive.
Guard and protect those who stand in harm's way.
Inspire the leaders of nations to pursue equity and peace.
Grant wisdom to our leaders, and to the United Nations.
Grant peace in our land, in our homes,
and in our places of work and play.
God of our ancestors, God of all who are in need,
heed our call and answer our prayer.
Send peace in our time,
peace for our hearts, peace for our land, peace for all the world,
peace that abides as we abide in you.

Sung Response — Peace In The Soul **MV149 v.10**

Blessing *by Rev. Darryl Macdonald*

Great Weaver of the Tapestry of Life,
you lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust,
from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

Song When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides **MV169**

Music To Send Us On Our Way Imagine by John Lennon *performed by Irene & Karen*