

**Worship Service at the Closure of**

**Calling Lakes Centre**

**October 18, 2014**



**165 MV      There Is a Time**

1. There is a time that we must rise  
There is a time that we must stand  
There is a time that we must come (come)

*Refrain*

together (together)

For blessed are our lives (our lives)

Blessed our love (our love)

and blessed the promise gathered now.

2. There is a time that we must leave  
Go from the place where hatreds breed  
and, turning, feel the Spirit breathe (breathe) us R
3. There is a time we know the way  
There is a time we watch and pray  
In living faith we make our way (way) R
4. Upon the dry a cloud will rise  
And truth will shine among the lies  
And wisdom sing as we arise (rise) R
5. There is a bow within the rain  
And it will come and bend again  
And colours shine where we have been (been) R

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Calling Lakes Centre (Prairie Christian Training Centre)  
Closing Worship October 17, 2014

From the First Principal of PCTC - Bill Clarke in 1954: A new concept of Christian vocation is emerging. The importance of these 'islands of Christian culture' where the power of the Christian community is being rediscovered, and where the norm of the program is an inclusive Christian fellowship leading naturally to commitment, is making real the possibility of a Christian ministry for all members of the church. We hope our Workers' Centres will help lead the way to the Christian revolution so greatly needed today."

Greetings : The Moderator , Dohoku Centre in Japan

#### **Opening**

**What is permanent is the energy of the universe- in earth, sky, water and fire-- yet even in its permanence, the constant is change. The cycle of the life of Calling Lakes Centre (PCTC) has spanned a good and productive sixty- three years – its essence now distributed among faith filled people of all ages. What lasts forever-- is the enlightenment conceived here, the depth of soul engaged and opened, the melodies that found sacred space and the endearing and enduring bonds formed.**

#### **A Reading from Ecclesiastes**

#### **A History of Calling Lakes Centre**

Music: There is A Time #165 More Voices

#### **KATEPWA ROOM**

**The Hebrew Scriptures are full of images of fullness and emptiness, pregnancy and barrenness: Sarah; the famines. They are an interwoven theme that describes the cycles that are indeed part of all life. This barren and empty room is a stark reminder of the emptiness now present at Calling Lakes Centre. Here we cannot deny that the fullness of this place has ebbed away. We may feel grief or acceptance of the change already upon us.**

(Silent pause).

Calling Lakes Centre (PCTC) has been a place of fullness where meaning was created in our lives. We ask those who would like to do so to speak a word into this empty room, to remind us of the growth that has happened as result of Calling Lakes Centre (PCTC).

**We place these branches as a reminder of the growth that has taken place among so many at Calling Lakes Centre.**

(Branches placed—exit room)

We leave something very valuable behind as we close this place, something that will not happen in the same way in other places.

## DR. JESSIE SAULTEAUX RESOURCE CENTRE

We enter this room honouring the work of the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Centre. The vision of Dr. Jessie Saulteaux stated:

**"At the time of the first step to having a resource centre for Native theological students in 1984, I was standing at the opening ceremony, and it seemed to me that I saw a clear light around the people gathered there. Later on I saw many little lights--and I think that those lights are like many little stars and those lights are the lights of our young people as they begin training and become leaders in our communities."  
"We are going into a brighter future. All those little stars are going to get bigger, they are going to shine brighter. There are going to be more and more Native leaders to serve in our communities."**

We embrace this vision. It was a gift and privilege to host this program. Their presence here enriched the life of Calling Lakes Centre in innumerable ways.

These rocks were brought by First Nations and non-First Nations persons to a Kairos Event with the intent that they be placed in a circle representing the covenant of mutual respect. While this place will no longer host events to strengthen trust, we desire that this trust be honoured moving into an ever widening circle.. We place these rocks as a reminder of this sacred covenant.

(The rocks are placed in a circle on the top of Vesper Hill.)

## THE DINING ROOM

**Memories fill this place: Marleen's stew, Johnny Appleseed, the shared set-up and clean-up, the communal table. In this place everyone in the house was together. It was often the place where new connections were made, disagreements settled and new paths opened.**

The dining room was bread for the journey – wholesome food, meaningful conversation, laughter, song –enhanced by glimpses of the water, glistening ice and wide open skies. Our memories of this room are of a blessing, a light heart, and full tummy.

One last time, we break bread at these tables  
--The Breaking of the Bread--

**Break off a piece of bread—for your own memories and the many who have shared this space with us. Take the bread with you as we continue our journey.**

## THE DORMITORIES—

These quilts were a part of everyone's experience when staying at Calling Lakes Centre. Made by folks from every corner of our conferences, they are the gathered labour of loving hands. We fold them as a symbol of closing these dormitories.

-- The quilts are folded--

**Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." John12:3**

Pure nard was an exquisite symbol of hospitality. Expensive, lavish and given with no sense of reward. Lavender is a form of nard -- so we offer you the opportunity to take a small handful of lavender, go to one of the door steps (or on the path) and sprinkle the lavender in thankfulness for the generosity of hospitality of this place. A gesture that reminding us of the unselfish gifts that enabled this ministry.

#### **The Labyrinth:**

**We stand on the original site where PCTC gatherings were held in the Markinch church - moved here for the first "classes." We honour the vision, hard work and integrity of those who purchased the land, who believed in the spiritual growth and transformation of United Church people.**

**We invite you to name those whose vision contributed to the seven decades of PCTC-Calling Lakes Centre (Naming..)  
We give thanks for those, named and unnamed whose vision surrounds us and will live into the future.**

After the removal of the church, a labyrinth was placed here: which represents spiritual journey and transformation.

As we stand here we recognize our inability to control the use of this land into the future. We bless this sacred space, and entrust this labyrinth to the ancient spirit that has moved through this land since time immemorial. May all who walk upon this ground recognize this as hallowed space. May this land remain a source of peace and inspiration to all who enter here.

**In the spirit of the gospel of Mark: "Have the salt of friendship among yourselves and be at peace with one another."**

**We encircle this labyrinth with salt, in our desire that this space remain a source of peace and friendship.**

#### **The Lakefront**

**We walk in this space to honour the land itself , the water, the wide expanse of sky , the beautiful sunsets and risings that have stirred the hearts of so many.**

**( Turning to the hills)We name the untouched prairie grasses that extend within the hills and ask for their protection.**

(Turning to the water). This lake is an enigma - so beautiful yet often filled with poisonous algae. We are in awe at its beauty - yet recognize that the poisoning of these waters represent the very essence of why the spiritual awareness and deepening that Calling Lakes Centre brought needs to exist.

Yet water is the source of all life and we give thanks for water.  
We are mostly water, it is our baptism, and so also our  
sending forth.

**We breathe in what trees and grasses breathe out - pure air  
their gift. We know the mystery of the Spirit that blows as  
the wind. We ask that it blow anew upon this land and  
within and among us that we may know the depth and  
breadth of the energy of the universe as we journey forth.**

The rising of the sun, the fire of the Spirit, the energy at the  
centre of all that is – is life itself. We give thanks for the gift of  
life in such a rich diversity. Rekindle in us a passion for the  
pathways that lead to goodness, justice, love, awe and  
wonder, that we may honour the Spirit that has woven a  
sacred path in this place as we journey on.

**In Ecclesiastes 2 we read**

**"Cast your bread upon the waters for you will find it after  
many days." This passage was written to reflect times of  
uncertainty. We are in that time.**

**We cast our bread into the waters. We recognize Calling  
Lakes Centre has now finished its work. We pray that what  
has happened here may return in the lives of all who have  
been touched by its Spirit - becoming goodness, wholeness,  
authenticity, faith and justice across a wide expanse of living.  
--The pieces of bread are cast upon the waters—**

Music . This Ancient Love  
Benediction

## 282 VU      This Ancient Love

1. Long before the night was born from darkness  
Long before the dawn rolled unsteady from fire  
Long before she wrapped her scarlet arms around the hills  
there was a love this ancient love was born
2. Long before the grass spotted green the bare hillside  
Long before a wing unfolded to wind  
Long before she wrapped her long blue arm around the sea  
there was a love this aching love rolls on
3. Long before a chain was forged from the hillside  
Long before a voice uttered freedom's cry  
Long before she wrapped her bleeding arms around a child  
there was a love this ancient love was born
4. Long before the name of God was spoken  
Long before a cross was nailed from a tree  
Long before she laid her arm of colours 'cross the sky  
there was a love this ancient love was born
5. Wakeful are our nights and slumbers our morning  
Stubborn is the grass sowing green wounded hills  
As we wrap our healing arms to hold what her arms held  
this ancient love this aching love rolls on

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