Liturgical Resource

to celebrate United Church Camping Ministries in Bermuda Nova Scotia Region

- Interested in having a camp representative at your worship service? Camping staff and volunteers are available to be present to speak at your service, answer questions, share stories, lead songs and activities, and give a personal experience of the power of camping ministry!
  Camp Kidston: Bruce Gillard, executive director director@campkidston.com
  Sherbrooke Lake Camp: Alex Bawn ed@sherbrookelakecamp.com
  Berwick Camp: secretaryberwickcamp@gmail.com
- Our camps are seeking to re-build their relationships with congregations throughout the region, and are looking for a contact person within each congregation to share information and opportunities. Please take a moment to ask a member of your community of faith who has a history, connection or interest in camp to receive and share updates and opportunities!
- This resource is adapted from Pacific Mountain Region's First Third Ministry. Please use and adapt for your community of faith as needed!

Land Acknowledgement

All of our camps, and all of our ministries, take place on the sacred, ancestral, unceded territory of the MikMaw people. The Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed in 1726 between the British and the Mikmaw people. This treaty did not implicate or affirm the surrender or transfer of lands and resources from the MikMaw to the British, but set rules for a long-standing relationship between nations, to facilitate trade and prevent war. For the MikMaw, these treaties are revered as legal covenants. Out land acknowledgement is more than words: it is a commitment to upon with meaningful action to live into our treaty responsibilities. May it be so.

Lighting of The Candles (Christ and Affirming)

We gathered as a beloved community, and light candles to remind ourselves of the presence of Holy.

We light our Christ candle to proclaim the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who was born to a woman in poverty, in a time of social upheaval, and political oppression. Who knew human joy and suffering, and who preached of liberation not domination.

We light our affirming candle to represent our commitment to being an Affirming community. We Affirm the Holy beauty of every person. You are beloved because of who you are, how you identify, and who you love. May this light represent our radical welcome and remind us that the Holy spirit shines through every one of us, in all our diversity.

Let these lights warm us, sustain us, and signify our collective prayers, offered in good faith, entering the light of the Creator. We light these candles to remember, to celebrate, to welcome. Amen.

Opening Hymn Suggestions

"This Is the Day" Voices United 412

"We Are One" Voices United 402

Confession

God of Love, we bring to you the times in our lives when we speak without love or act without care. We bring to you the times when we forget that our actions impact others and impact creation. Create in us a Spirit of love and care, hope and community. Create in us the strength to live into our authentic selves and live out your love and care in our world. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen

Words of Assurance

God loves us more than we love ourselves. God set us free to love others. Thanks be to God.

Hymn Suggestions

"Like A Rock" MV92

"Spirit, Open My Heart" MV79

"In Christ There is No East or West" VU 606

"It Only Takes a Spark" VU 289

Hearing the Word

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.

Camping Sunday Video Sermon: vimeo link

For congregations who cannot project videos, or would like a something else:

Exploring the Word Intergenerationally: I spy!

Background

Campers, young leaders, and people of all ages encounter the Divine and the Holy Spirit in creation and the ministry of camps. As part of Camping Sunday, we decorate our sanctuary spaces to remind us of how we experience The Holy at camp in creation.

Set-Up Instructions

Consider placing some camping items and other decorations around the sanctuary: backpacks, sleeping bags, headlamps, paper cut-outs of birds, trees, animals, maybe even a tent or mock-campfire.

Activity

Invite the congregation to notice the items and imagery around the sanctuary. Perhaps ask some wondering conversations with the congregation: · What do you "Spy?" · Does it bring back any memories of a camping ministry experience? · Have you ever had spiritual experience in nature? What was it? · Do you remember learning something new at camp? · Does it make you think of a favourite camp activity?

Wondering

At camp we're invited to arrive as our authentic selves. We leave behind our homework, hometowns and home bases for a little while to explore new relationships and ways of being. We learn how to be humble and helpful; we lift up each other's gifts and live by community rules. The memories of the fun, trust and authentic love stay with us for a lifetime. We delight in remembering them. How can experience of camp transform our relationship with God? How can camping ministry transform everyday congregational life? What are some parts of camping ministry we can bring into everyday ministry?

Prayers of The People

Preparation

Ahead of time, prepare paper hearts to hand out to the community. Heart-shaped post-it notes are perfect for this occasion, and can be purchased at your *local, independent community supply store*, or at Staples or WalMart.

Create a 'community map' either on a cloth, Bristol board or paper locating your community of faith and the camp to which you are connected and celebrating today in worship. Traditionally, congregations within Truro and Halifax presbyteries were connected with Camp Kidston in Middle Musquodoboit, NS. Congregations in the Valley and South Shore presbytery were connected to Sherbrooke Lake Camp. Berwick Camp has relationships with campers across Nova Scotia and all of Canada! United Church camps in Nova Scotia are for all children, youth and young adults, from all parts of our region! Congregations in Cumberland, Eastern Shore, Antigonigh and Cape Breton are further afield from

our camps, but our camps are hoping to welcome your children, youth, young adults, and adult volunteers!

This 'map' can be used to receive the heart prayers. Alternatively, you may wish to simply ask people to turn in the direction of a camp to which the congregation has an affinity. For your personal prayer, I invite you to write a word, a name, a place or draw your prayer on the paper heart. This is the prayer that's in your heart

Creator God, Source of Love,

We celebrate your presence in and around us.

We give thanks for the depth of ministry in the camps within our United Church of Canada, especially for Camp Kidston/Sherbrooke Lake Camp, and Berwick Camp.

Thank you for these places and spaces of acceptance, fun, faith, and adventure that has been and is a part of our camps.

Thank you for the ways in which camp shares Your love and call to be in community.

Inspire us today to participate in the ministry of camp in concrete ways.

Compassionate God,

empower us to live out your message of love and care in our world.

Help us to see you in the face of those we meet. Hold us close in our own hurt and remind each of us of your unfailing love.

Help us to remember that your love is supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting, and to live this kind of love out in our community and in our camps.

We name out loud or write on the paper heart prayers that we hold in our heart on this day. We join these prayers together with the prayer that Jesus taught us… And at the end of this time of prayer you are invited to paste your prayer on the map.

Invitation to Offering

Videos and images of camp speak to why we need camps: connection, fun, skill building, leadership development, connection to creation. There are many ways that we serve those in need, disrupt the narratives of scarcity, act generously and work in solidarity. Our camping ministries are sustained through generosity. By working in harmony with each other we sustain the life and gift of our camps and other places and communities of welcome, love and care.

Dedication of our Gifts

Hymn: "What Can I Do?" More Voices 191

Benediction

Let us go in peace and love, knowing that we never go alone, for the peace of Jesus, the love of God, and the wisdom of the Spirit are always with us.

Closing Hymn

"Hey Nayana" MV217

Sent Out in Jesus' Name" MV 212

Other Camp Favourite Hymns

Draw the Circle Wide MV145

O Beautiful Gaia MV41

Peace Like A River VU577

When You Walk From Here VU298

Here I am Lord VU509

This Little Light of Mine (traditional)

It is with grateful hearts that we thank you for your continued support for Camping Ministries in our region!

Here are a few ways your faith community can support camping ministry all year long:

Connect with your camp!

Whether it's Camp Kidston, Sherbrooke Lake Camp or Berwick Camp, ask a member of your congregation to be a point person for sharing information about the camp with your congregation. Sharing news and opportunities will help your congregation learn about the camps and their ministry.

Promote the camps

Encourage members of your faith community to attend camp, and spread the word about camp with friends and family. Follow up with campers after camp to show continued support and interest in their spiritual growth.

Volunteer

Encourage people from your congregation to work as camp counselors, cooks or staff. Encourage folks to volunteer their skills for a camp projects, to join the board. Share news about you camp! The sharing can include in announcements during worship, bulletins, newsletters, social media, website and bulletin boards.

Donations

Consider providing financial support through donations for camp bursaries, programs, donating supplies or equipment, and/or supporting capital projects at a at your camp. Check in with your camp about their specific needs!

Prayer

Pray for the camp's ministry, it’s volunteers and staff, the campers & their safety, and the great fun and growth for all involved.