Hello friends,

I don’t know whether you still notice it, but I sure notice the back-to-school feeling in the air: the first leaves are beginning to turn yellow, the nights are just that little bit cooler, and sunrise is a little bit later. Even as a graduate student, I’m still always excited for back to school shopping: multi-coloured pens! Pristine notebooks! A long-coveted electric pencil sharpener! The possibilities are endless.

This Sunday we will conclude our series on the Book of Joshua. Coming in September, we will turn to the New Testament and the presence/absence of Jesus and God.

What’s in this email:

* An introduction to our guest preacher
* The scripture reading
* A link to the movie from which I showed a clip last Sunday
* A video from Keri Wehlander, pastoral care minister for Summerland, link is at the bottom of the email
* The Zoom link to the service

GUEST PREACHER:

* Elder Lorna Standingready is a Cree elder from the White Bear First Nation of Saskatchewan
* She was the Leading Elder of the All Native Circle Conference of the United Church of Canada
* She will be joining us live from Regina
* Here are some links about her:
  + <https://kaitlinbardswich.ca/2014/04/04/lorna-standingready-a-survivors-story/>
  + <https://www.cjme.com/2019/06/21/proud-to-be-who-i-am-regina-marks-indigenous-peoples-day/>
  + <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/beyond-orange-shirt-day-documenting-the-lasting-impact-of-indian-residential-schools-1.5305975/road-trip-with-my-kokum-a-family-history-of-residential-school-and-resilience-1.5305976>

SCRIPTURE:

* Joshua 8:1-2, 24, 27
* Ezekiel 34:13-15, 25 - 27
* The Joshua verses for this Sunday are some of the verses we read on August 16, about the destruction of the city of Ai
* This was a distressing passage and many people afterward shared that they couldn’t hear any good news in it
* I know it is daunting to face them again. My trust is that Elder Lorna, as an Indigenous woman who attended residential schools, is going to present them in a new and more hopeful light for us.
* The Holy Spirit has mysterious ways of moving - I think this could be a healing moment.

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**August 30, 2020**

**A Sunday Service for Summerland and Westbank United Churches**

**Elder Lorna Standingready preaching**

**Frances Kitson presiding**

**Music: M’Girl (Renae Morriseau and Jenifer Brousseau)**

**Power Point:  Judi Ritcey (SUC)**

**GATHERING TIME: 9:45AM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Frances

**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** Frances

**BELL RINGING:  10AM**

**WORDS OF WELCOME:** Judy Nagus (WUC)

*A warm welcome to our friends from Summerland and Westbank United Churches who are with us today and to all those joining us from other locations. If there are any visitors joining us today from other congregations or other places, we would love to know your names. The host will now unmute everyone, and if you are comfortable, we invite visitors to introduce themselves.*

**MOMENT OF SILENCE TO VIEW THE CONGREGATION –** Frances

*Friends, we gather apart but together. I invite you now to switch to gallery view or scroll through your screen to witness the children of God gathered with us today, and to know that we are not alone.*

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE** Frances

**OPENING SONG:**                 Gathering Song - M’Girl

**GATHERING PRAYER** Frances

**WE SING TOGETHER**Morning Has Broken (VU 409)

**OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**Frances

**WE SING TOGETHER:**       For the Beauty of the Earth (VU 226)

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

Joshua 8:1-2, 24, 27  
Ezekiel 34:13-15, 25 – 27 (RSV) Ron Rosher (SUC)

**REFLECTION:** Elder Lorna Standingready

**ANTHEM:** Honour Song - M’Girl

**WE SING TOGETHER:**What Does the Lord Require of You (VU 701)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** Lois Jefferis (WUC)

**LORD’S PRAYER:** Frances

**WE SING TOGETHER:**Come, You Thankful People Come (VU 516)

**BLESSING:** Frances

**BREAK INTO CHAT ROOMS**

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**Joshua 8:1-2**

**Revised Standard Version**

**Ai Captured by a Stratagem and Destroyed**

**8**And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear or be dismayed; take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai; see, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land; **2**and you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king; only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves; lay an ambush against the city, behind it.”

**24**When Israel had finished slaughtering all the inhabitants of Ai in the open wilderness where they pursued them, and all of them to the very last had fallen by the edge of the sword, all Israel returned to Ai, and smote it with the edge of the sword. **25**And all who fell that day, both men and women, were twelve thousand, all the people of Ai. **26**For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the javelin, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai. **27**Only the cattle and the spoil of that city Israel took as their booty, according to the word of the Lord which he commanded Joshua.

**Ezekiel 34:13-15**

**Revised Standard Version**

**13**And I will bring them out from the peoples, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the fountains, and in all the inhabited places of the country. **14**I will feed them with good pasture, and upon the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on fat pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. **15**I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

**25**“I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. **26**And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing. **27**And the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its increase, and they shall be secure in their land; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I break the bars of their yoke, and deliver them from the hand of those who enslaved them.

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**We have a Gratitude video for you to view from Keri Wehlander. To view left click on the icon below and from the box that appears select the Open Hyper Link. You  will then be able to view the video.**

[** Gratitude.mp4**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-tjHYY8v8ITAHPOBYEohWBidH-0nrQGC/view?usp=drive_web)