

## “A common message and a common Song”

There was something different happening at church on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Our church service included participants from the Aboriginal, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism faith traditions. The theme of our service was on “Compassion”. During the Learning Time Together, the children and members of the congregation had a chance to learn about “The Golden Rule” and the similarities of six of the world religions. It was a very meaningful and rich service for everyone right from the start with the opening Sweet Grass Ceremony, performed by our Aboriginal friends, to the Hymn called “Hope of Abraham and Sarah” to the opening prayer led by Rev. Don Parsons when “We thanked the Holy One for our world, for infinite varieties of peoples, colours, races and cultures” We had the opportunity to understand that “We are One” by singing the Hymn “Deep in our Hearts” and then the beautiful Call to Prayer (azaan) from the Muslim tradition followed by reflections from each of the faith traditions.

More music included the choir singing a Hindu Victory Chant called “Jaya Ho” and one by Rupert Lang called “Yabban, Yamman”. Who can forget the Aramaic prayer of compassion sung by the Jewish Cantor. Truly a memorable service. We thank all of the participants (shown in the picture below), Fred Graham and the Choir and especially Connie Capes-Leslie who came up with the idea of this Multi-Faith Service.

Jennie Keating

Photos by Barbara Holman

Photo – Multi Faith Service participants from left to right

Back row –

Raheel’s niece,

Falitaa Chabra-Hinduism,

Raheel Raza-Islam,

Cindilee Little Eagle Ecker-Flagg & Gord Flagg- Aboriginal,

Noman Siddiqui-Muslim call to prayer

Rev. Michael Hayashi-Buddhism

Front row –

Rev. Deborah Hart, Jennie Keating, Rev. Don Parsons, Rev. Connie Capes-

Leslie-Christianity and Honey Novick-Jewish Cantor

Missing from the photo-Jasmin Flagg-Aboriginal