



We extend a warm welcome today to members of the **United Empire Loyalist** Association of Canada who are worshipping with us as a body as part of their Prairie Regional Meeting which has been taking place in Winnipeg this weekend.

The Loyalists were the colonists who remained faithful to the Crown during the American War of Independence (1775-1783). By 1776, most of the Loyalist men were already enrolled in military units to oppose the increasingly defiant revolutionaries. Later they fought on battlefields throughout the Colonies with varying success. As hostilities increased, however, exodus became the best solution for most Loyalists, and, in fact, many had already been driven out by 1780. 70,000 Loyalists fled the Thirteen Colonies. Of these, roughly 50,000 went to the British North American Colonies of Nova Scotia and Quebec (later Upper and Lower Canada).

Loyalists were of almost every race, colour and creed and represented every class and walk of life. Some depended on the Crown for livelihood and status, but most were farmers and craftsmen. Eighty percent had originated in Germany, Scotland, England and Ireland, seventeen percent in Holland, France and Wales, and lesser numbers from elsewhere in Europe and other continents. Prominent in the exodus were His Majesty's allies, the Iroquois Confederacy. Loyalists were a cultural mosaic, but in adversity, they merged to survive. Ultimately, they helped forge a new country, Canada, which "carries forward the laws, institutions and monarchy, and continues to give its citizens freedom and rights unsurpassed in the new and old world."

For their loyalty to the Crown, the original Loyalists, and later their descendants, were awarded the title U.E., Canada's only hereditary title. The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada dedicates itself to preserving the history of Loyalism and educating the public as to its place in our nation's heritage. To learn more about the Loyalists, go to the association's web-site at www.uelac.org.

Westminster United Church
745 Westminster Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Sunday, September 26, 2010