

## Worship at Home

### Garden Reflections - Weeding

20 June 2021

#### Welcome & Centring Time

Take this moment to centre yourself deeply in the love of God. Plant your feet firmly on the ground; feel your body and how you are sitting. Can you open yourself a little more to your breathing? Open your hands to give and receive God's presence. Let your in-breath bring awareness, let your out-breath help you to trust in God. Come into God's presence, let God be present in you.

Acknowledge the land you are on. This is the living land of the Creator. On this land are beings that move; feathered and furry, four legs and two legged, our companions. On this land are still beings; maple and oak, pine and fir, flowering and leafed, our wise and ancient siblings. On this land are the flowing beings; oceans and seas, rivers and lakes, ebbing and flowing, our source of being. Over this land blows the winds and breezes, our breath and life. We honour the traditions of our First Nations peoples who taught this wisdom, and we seek ways to rebuild our right relations with them in our worship and our work.

#### Focus & Candle Lighting

In the beginning, out of abundance and generosity, God planted a garden.

Here and now, among us, beside us, clearer than air, closer than breathing,

God tends the garden and all that depends on it.

In all that is to come, when we have returned to the earth, God will still be gardening.

Not despairing of earth, but delighting in it,

not condemning the world, but redeeming it through Jesus Christ,

by the power of the Holy Spirit, God plants, God tends, God gardens.

#### Song

#### In The Garden

We come to the garden to heal and to find God's loving protection

God emboldens us to accept, by trust, our sacred connection.

*And God walks with us, and God talks with us, and God tells us we are his own;*

*And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

#### A Gardener's Delight

by The Uniting Church in Australia

from Harvest for the World by Geoffrey Duncan ©2003 The Pilgrim Press

Gardeners delight in the gift of God who placed the different together - the smallest bulbs growing in the comforting shade of the largest trees. The sharp yellow of marigolds softened by the blue of forget-me-nots. They are amazed at the colours of creation.

We gardeners see that it is good, don't we?

Our Father who is in us here on earth  
holy is your name in the hungry who share your bread and their song.  
Your kingdom come, a generous land where confidence and truth reign.  
Let us do your will being a cool breeze for those who sweat.  
You are giving us our daily bread  
when we manage to get back to our lands or to get a fairer wage.  
Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice and for burying our dreams.  
Don't let us fall into the temptation of taking up the same arms as our enemy,  
but deliver us from evil which disunites us.  
And we shall have believed in humanity and in life  
and we shall have known your kingdom which is being built forever and ever.

Song

In The Garden

God's garden is filled with delights, there is food and music and dancing.  
There is fun for all at God's festival; we've all we need for living.  
*And God walks with us, and God talks with us, and God tells us we are his own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

Isaiah 61.1-11

Contemporary English Version ©1995 by American Bible Society

The Spirit of the Lord God has taken control of me! The Lord has chosen and sent me to tell the oppressed the good news, to heal the brokenhearted, and to announce freedom for prisoners and captives.

This is the year when the Lord God will show kindness to us and punish our enemies. The Lord has sent me to comfort those who mourn, especially in Jerusalem. He sent me to give them flowers in place of their sorrow, olive oil in place of tears, and joyous praise in place of broken hearts. They will be called "Trees of Justice," planted by the Lord to honor his name.

Then they will rebuild cities that have been in ruins for many generations. They will hire foreigners to take care of their sheep and their vineyards. But they themselves will be priests and servants of the Lord our God. The treasures of the nations will belong to them, and they will be famous. They were terribly insulted and horribly mistreated; now they will be greatly blessed and joyful forever.

I, the Lord, love justice! But I hate robbery and injustice. My people, I solemnly promise to reward you with an eternal agreement. Your descendants will be known in every nation. All who see them will realize that they have been blessed, by me, the Lord.

I celebrate and shout because of my Lord God. His saving power and justice are the very clothes I wear. They are more beautiful than the jewelry worn by a bride or a groom. The Lord will bring about justice and praise in every nation on earth, like flowers blooming in a garden.

## Another Voice

Robin Wall Kimmerer

*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* ©2013 by Milkweed Editions

“Know the ways of the ones who take care of you, so that you may take care of them. Introduce yourself. Be accountable as the one who comes asking for life. Ask permission before taking. Abide by the answer. Never take the first. Never take the last. Take only what you need. Take only that which is given. Never take more than half. Leave some for others. Harvest in a way that minimizes harm. Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken. Share. Give thanks for what you have been given. Give a gift, in reciprocity for what you have taken. Sustain the ones who sustain you and the earth will last forever.”

## Reflecting Song

We Cannot Own The Sunlit Sky MV143

## Minister's Reflection

Offering Time by John Johansen-Berg from Harvest for the World by Geoffrey Duncan ©2003 The Pilgrim Press

What should we give to the land?  
Perhaps some return of the abundance we receive.  
The land blesses us with grain, bread of life;  
the sky blesses us with rain, water of life.  
The land gives us abundant fruit, food of life;  
the air gives us oxygen to breathe, spirit of life.  
How can we number the blessings of earth?  
It daily grants us gifts beyond counting.  
The generosity of mother earth surpasses our expectation.  
What then shall we give to the land?  
Surely nothing less than the best stewardship that we can offer  
through all the talents we possess.

Offering Prayer by Kalinga, the Philippines from Harvest for the World by Geoffrey Duncan ©2003 The Pilgrim Press

If the land could speak, it would speak for us.  
It would say, like us,  
that the years have forged the bond of life that ties us together.  
It was our labour that made her the land she is;  
it was her yielding that gave us life.  
We and the land are one!

## Meditation & Prayer

### Sung Blessing

written by Rev. Darryl Macdonald to the tune Dark Isle

May the love of Christ Jesus be with you this day;  
the Spirit to guide you each hour and each way;  
God's shield to protect you wherever you go; God blessing you forever more.