

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

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.
As we begin worship, we acknowledge the land we 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, crawling and flying; our companions.
On this land are still beings; cedar and maple, oak and pine,
flowering and fruiting, 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 acknowledge the lands our church and many of homes sit on
have been stewarded by the first peoples of Turtle Island,
among them the Kanien'kehá:ka, "Mohawk" peoples,
as well as nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy,
the neighbouring Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabeg,
and Abenaki peoples.
We commit ourselves to the multi-generational work of reconciliation
and the pursuit of true justice and flourishing wellbeing for all peoples
of all races and ethnicities who now call Canada home.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We take a moment to light a Christ candle, reminding us
that we are called to live in the light of the Risen Christ.

Prayer of Awareness

From before the world began and after the end of eternity, you are God.

From the sea bursting from its womb

to the wind ceasing from its chase, you are God.

In the vastness of the universe

and the forgotten corners of our hearts, you are God, and we bless you.

Because the world is beautiful, and beauty is a tender thing,

and we are caretakers of creation, we need you, God.

Because human knowledge seems endless, the world is our oyster

and we do not know what we do not know, we need you, God.

Because we can live without you and are free to go against you

and could worship our wisdom alone, we need you, God.

Because you came among us and sat beside us, and heard us speak,

and saw us ignore you, and healed our pain, and let us wound you

and loved us to the end, and triumphed over all our hatred,

we need you, God.

Because you, not we, are God, we need you, God.

Pause

Listen, for the God who created us says, 'Do not be afraid,

for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine.'

'You are precious to me. I love you. I honour you. I am with you.'

Silent Meditation

Maker of all, we are your children, the creatures of your kindness,
the bearers of your image.

This day, we will walk by your light,

follow your Way, and live by your Spirit.

This day, we will not offer to you offerings that cost us nothing.

For this is the day that the Lord has made;

we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Song

Come And Seek The Ways Of Wisdom MV10

27 Jesus and his disciples went to the villages near the town of Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, “What do people say about me?”

28 The disciples answered, “Some say you are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah. Others say you are one of the prophets.”

29 Then Jesus asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

“You are the Messiah!” Peter replied.

30 Jesus warned the disciples not to tell anyone about him.

31 Jesus began telling his disciples what would happen to him. He said, “The nation’s leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly. He will be rejected and killed, but three days later he will rise to life.” 32 Then Jesus explained clearly what he meant. Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that. 33 But when Jesus turned and saw the disciples, he corrected Peter. He said to him, “Satan, get away from me! You are thinking like everyone else and not like God.”

34 Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said: If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. 35 If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me and for the good news, you will save it. 36 What will you gain, if you own the whole world but destroy yourself? 37 What could you give to get back your soul?

38 Don’t be ashamed of me and my message among these unfaithful and sinful people! If you are, the Son of Man will be ashamed of you when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Reflection on the Scripture

Song

Take Up Your Cross VU561

Offering Time

Generous and loving Creator,
you have poured out your blessings in the air we breathe,
the land which nourishes us
and the life we share with the plants and creatures around us.
We reflect your generosity with the gifts we share,
especially our very lives in how we live with creation.

As you have blessed us, make us a blessing to others.

Prayers of the People

We cannot escape you nor will we resist you;

for though your ways are not our ways

nor are your thoughts our thoughts,

it is on your Word and will that all life depends.

You convert wrong into right; therefore we trust you.

Therefore we pray: God of justice, show yourself.

Where the hungry go unfed, while the privileged gorge themselves;

where the poor go begging where the rich amass greater fortunes;

where tyrants have bitten the dust but their successors prove no better;

God of justice, show yourself.

Where the prisoner is not prepared for freedom

and the refugee is not accorded dignity;

where those who are disadvantaged and excluded

and those who are disabled are left on the margins;

where gender, race or religion are grounds for suspicion,

or confer unmerited privilege,

God of justice, show yourself.

To those who speak for the voiceless and defend the persecuted,

to those who protest for a fairer world and practice simpler living,

to those who share their faith in Jesus in places where faith is suspected;

God of justice, show yourself.

And to us, that we might serve and love you with body, soul and mind;

God of justice, show yourself.

God, hear our prayer

and make us willing agents of your generous purposes, in Jesus' name.

The Lord's Prayer (Translated from Aramaic)

Oh Thou, from whom the breath of life comes,

who fills all realms of sound, light and vibration.

May Your light be experienced in my utmost holiest.

Your Heavenly Domain approaches.

Let Your will come true - in the universe just as on earth.

Give us wisdom for our daily need, detach the fetters of faults that bind us,
like we let go the guilt of others.

Let us not be lost in superficial things,

but let us be freed from that what keeps us from our true purpose.

From You comes the all-working will, the lively strength to act,

the song that beautifies all and renews itself from age to age.

Sealed in trust, faith and truth, I confirm with my entire being.

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.