

Sunday 19 September 2021 - Creation Time 2

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

We Are Pilgrims VU595

30 Jesus left with his disciples and started through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know about it, 31 because he was teaching the disciples that the Son of Man would be handed over to people who would kill him. But three days later he would rise to life. 32 The disciples did not understand what Jesus meant, and they were afraid to ask.

33 Jesus and his disciples went to his home in Capernaum. After they were inside the house, Jesus asked them, “What were you arguing about along the way?” 34 They had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest, and so they did not answer.

35 After Jesus sat down and told the twelve disciples to gather around him, he said, “If you want the place of honor, you must become a slave and serve others!”

36 Then Jesus had a child stand near him. He put his arm around the child and said, 37 “When you welcome even a child because of me, you welcome me. And when you welcome me, you welcome the one who sent me.”

Reflection on the Scripture

Song

Jesus, Friend Of Little Children VU340

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 for Others

O great and generous God,
graciously set your eye this day on those who know their need of you
through pain, through trouble, through grief, through their own fault.

Pause

Nurse the weak, bandage the broken,
console the desolate, forgive the penitent.

O Christ who shared our flesh,
graciously set your eye this day on those who have no need of you
through pride, through disappointment, through doubt,
through the failure of false friends.

Pause

Soften the hardened heart, confront arrogant will,
uncover hidden depths and the truth that sets us free.
O Holy Spirit, breath of God, move among us this day.
Open us to the beauty of the earth so that we may become its servants.
Open us to the wonder of life
that we may recognize an angel in every corner.
Open us to the storehouse of your grace
and we will be made new for Jesus' sake.

The Lord's Prayer

God who made the earth, sky, sea, planets, stars, animals and people.
You are pretty amazing.
Help us look after the world, be kind and respectful to others and,
help us all to reach our full potential.
Provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless,
friends for the lonely and healing for those who are not very well.
Help us say sorry when we have hurt others,
and not hold grudges to those who have hurt or upset us.
Help us always, to try and do what is right
and not to be led into things that make you and others sad.
With your help, all things are possible,
today, tomorrow, next week and for ever.
Amen.

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.