

Sunday 26 June 2022 - Pentecost 3

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 77 by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

Awake my soul!

The Holy One is within and all around.

The sea, the mountains and the sky join you in the song of creation.

Who can miss your wonders, or not see your way laid out before us?

Awake my soul.

Song

This is God's Wondrous World VU296

Placing the Symbols

In the beginning when it was very quiet,

the Word was with God, and what God was, the Word was. *(A Bible is placed in the table)*

In the beginning when it was very dark,

God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. *(A candle is lit and placed in the table)*

When the time was right God sent the Son.

He came among us and was one of us. *(A cross is placed in the table)*

Centring and Land Acknowledgment

Take this moment to centre yourself deeply in the love of God.

Feel the ground beneath your feet.

Become aware of your body and how you are sitting;

open yourself a little more to your breathing.

Let your in-breath help you to become more aware.

Let your out-breath help you to trust in the Holy One.

Come into the sacred presence and let the sacred presence be in you.

Worship helps us to become aware of the sacredness of all life.

We acknowledge the sacredness of the land on which our churches and homes sit.

The St. Lawrence Valley has sustained much life throughout the millennia,

including the Kanien'kehá:ka, "Mohawk" peoples,

those of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the neighbouring Huron-Wendat,

Anishinaabeg, and Abenaki peoples, as well as traders and settlers,

refugees and immigrants, plants and animals.

We acknowledge how poorly we have honoured the wisdom, traditions,

cultures and languages of all who have called this place "Home."

So, today, we join our hearts and minds as one and honour the sacred beings that move;
feathered and furry, four legs and two, swimming and flying; our companions.
We honour the sacred still beings; cedar and maple, tulip and lilac,
leafed and flowering, our wise and ancient siblings.
We honour the sacred flowing beings; oceans and seas, rivers and lakes,
ebbing, coursing, misting, our source of being.
We honour the sacred winds and breezes, our breath and our life.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Scripture

Luke 9.51-62 *New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized Version*

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51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.
52 And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; 53 but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. 54 When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 Then they went on to another village.
57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' 58 And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' 59 To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' 60 But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' 61 Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' 62 Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

Another Voice *Sallie McFague, from Earth Gospel: A Guide To Prayer For God's Creation ©2008 by Sam Hamilton-Poore*

Since, for the Christian, God is always incarnate and present, there is no place on earth, no joy or wish that any creature experiences, no need or despair that they suffer, that is not a possible route to God. Wherever reality is seen as hopeful, joyful, and loving, God is there; wherever reality is experienced as despairing, cruel, and hopeless, God must be there also. If God is love, then where love is, God is; where love is not, God must needs be. In nature's health and beauty, I see God; in nature's deterioration and destruction, I see that God is here also. In the first case as a Yes and in the second case as a No: in the first case as a positive affirmation of God's glory through the flourishing of creation; in the second, as a negative protest against whatever is undermining God's creation.

Song

Touch The Earth Lightly VU307

Reflection

Consider the following:

- Do you get angry with others because they don't do what you want?
- How do we put down our 'agenda' and let others be?
- What gets in our way of our sacredness?

If you are with someone, talk about your insights.

If you are alone, write down some of your thoughts.

Song

We Are Pilgrims VU595

Offering Time

The Creator asks us to see the abundance of the Earth.

We give thanks for her generosity as we bring our gifts.

As God has blessed us, so may we be a blessing to others.

Offering Prayer

Blessed Holy Presence,

we value our souls, our minds and our bodies

and so we ask your blessing on us, knowing that you are always there;

we value our work, our rest and our play

and so we seek your blessing on all that we do and say;

we value the earth, sea and sky

and so we acknowledge your blessing in the very fabric of creation.

Bless us God, that together with you we may produce a harvest of light.

Meditation

Play a piece of meditative music and focus on your breathing.

Breathe in ... I am.

Breathe out ... a positive affirmation.

Closing Responses

by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

Mystery, who spoke light into glowing,

Sacred Womb, who sang earth into growing,

Intimate Creator, who breathed life into being

continue to weave the tapestry of life;

each day and each night, each life and each love.

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.