

Sunday 11 September 2022 - Creation Time 1: *Advocate For Me*

Call to Worship

*based on Psalm 14 by Rev. Darryl Macdonald*

Awake my Body, awake my soul!  
The Holy One seeks wisdom within and without.  
Wisdom is found in the care for the poor;  
in the restoration of the people.  
Awake my sacred being.

Song

O God, Whose First Creative Word **VU322**

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, hosta and sweetgrass,  
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 15.1-10 *New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized Version*

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Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 So he told them this parable: 4 "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

8 "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

We believe in one God,  
who gave birth to the cosmos and to us,  
creating, out of nothin but his will,  
a world of rocks, plants, and human longing;  
whose eyes will not fail  
to cry for it all.

We believe in one God,  
who redeems the waste of all things good,  
weaving, from the griefs of our freedom,  
new and unhoped-for things;  
whose mercy will not fail  
to heal it all.

We believe in one God,  
who lives among all people and all places,  
calling us from our despair and sleep  
to live our Easter in our generation;  
whose love will not fail  
to hold us all.

Song

Come, Let Us Sing Of A Wonderful Love **VU574**

Reflection

Consider the following:

- What have you lost?
- What of you is lost?
- Where do you go to get away?
- What is your "last place where you look"?

If you are on-line and with someone, talk about your insights.

If you are on-line and alone, write down some of your thoughts.

Song

Long Before The Night **VU282**

Offering Time

The Creator reveals to us the abundance of the Earth every day.

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.