

Sunday 13 November 2022 - Pentecost 23

Call to Worship

based on Isaiah 12

Awake my body, awake my soul!
Give thanks to the Holy One; trust and don't be afraid.
Hear the song of the Creator vibrating in the earth;
bursts of joy in the soil of your soul,
God's sacred presence within and without.
Awake my sacred being.

Song

My Soul Is Thirsting For You **MV109**

Placing the Symbols

Before time, when it was very quiet, the Spirit sang, *(An open Bible is placed in the table)*
and the song became our sacred story.

In the beginning, when it was very dark,
the Creator said, 'Let there be light,' *(A candle is lit and placed in the table)*
and there was light.

When the time was right, God sent a child. *(A cross is placed in the table)*
Jesus came among us and was one of us.

Centring and Land Acknowledgment

Take this moment to centre yourself deeply in the love of God
and prepare yourself for an encounter with the Holy.
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, mums and sweetgrass,
multicoloured 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.

Song

Seek Ye First The Kingdom **VU356**

Scripture

Luke 21.5-19 *Common English Bible Copyright © 2011 by Common English Bible*

5 Some people were talking about the temple, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and ornaments dedicated to God. Jesus said, 6 “As for the things you are admiring, the time is coming when not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished.”

7 They asked him, “Teacher, when will these things happen? What sign will show that these things are about to happen?”

8 Jesus said, “Watch out that you aren’t deceived. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I’m the one!’ and ‘It’s time!’ Don’t follow them. 9 When you hear of wars and rebellions, don’t be alarmed. These things must happen first, but the end won’t happen immediately.”

10 Then Jesus said to them, “Nations and kingdoms will fight against each other.

11 There will be great earthquakes and wide-scale food shortages and epidemics. There will also be terrifying sights and great signs in the sky. 12 But before all this occurs, they will take you into custody and harass you because of your faith. They will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13 This will provide you with an opportunity to testify. 14 Make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance. 15 I’ll give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to counter or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed by your parents, brothers and sisters, relatives, and friends. They will execute some of you.

17 Everyone will hate you because of my name. 18 Still, not a hair on your heads will be lost. 19 By holding fast, you will gain your lives.

Another Voice

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Song

We Cannot Own The Sunlit Sky **MV143**

Reflection

Consider the following:

- Can you find a calming sacred centre in the midst of crisis?
- What centres you?

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

My Life Flows On **VU716**

Offering Time

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

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

As God and the earth have blessed us, so may we, in turn, be a blessing to others.

Offering Prayer

Blessed Holy Presence,

you ask us to value our souls, our minds and our bodies
and so we ask your blessing on us,

knowing that you have already blessed us;

you ask us to value our work, our rest and our play
and so we seek your blessing on all that we do and say;

you ask us to 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

Mysterious Wisdom, who spoke light into glowing,

Intimate Creator, who sang earth into growing,

Sacred Womb, 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.