

Sunday 20 November 2022 - Reign of Christ

Call to Worship

based on Luke 1.68-79

Awake my body, awake my soul!
Be filled with the blessings of the Holy One.
Prepare the way of justice, forgiveness, knowledge and holiness
for I have been made in the image of God;
light shining in darkness and the shadow of death,
guiding the way of peace!
Awake my sacred being.

Song

A Light Is Gleaming **VU82**

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.

Song

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear **VU44**

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 of the sacred presence in you.
Let your out-breath help you to trust in the sacred presence around you.
Worship helps us to become aware that all life is sacred.
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.
This is also the home of the multitude of plants and animals, waters and soil.

We acknowledge how poorly the wisdom, traditions, cultures and languages
of all who have called this place “Home” have been honoured,
especially the first peoples of this land
and so we seek to join our hearts and minds as one with them
and honour the sacred beings that move; the feathered and furry,
those with four legs or two or none, crawling, walking,
swimming and flying; our companions.

We honour the sacred still beings; spruce and pine, Christmas cactus and poinsettia,
bare or evergreen, our wise and ancient siblings.

We honour the sacred flowing beings; oceans and seas, rivers and lakes,
ebbing, coursing, misting, frozen; our source of being.

We honour the sacred winds and breezes; our breath and our life.

Song

All Creatures Of Our God And King **VU217**

Scripture

Colossians 1.11-20 *New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized Version*

©1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

11 May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, 16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Song

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours **MV171**

Reflection

Song

My Life Flows On **VU716**

Offering Time

by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

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

We give thanks for the generosity of the earth and the Creator
as we acknowledge our gifts.

We have been blessed, so may we, in turn, be a blessing to others.

Offering Prayer

by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

Blessed Holy Presence,

you ask us to value our souls, our minds and our bodies

and so we ask your blessing on 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.

Decorating the Sanctuary

Song

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus **VU2**

Blessing

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 Darwall's 148th VU213

The love of Jesus shine from deep within your heart;

The Spirit guide your steps and set you on your mark.

God be your joy, and fill you with hope, light and life.

Amen! Rejoice!