

Sunday, October 4, 2026
Creation Time 5

Welcome and Acknowledgements

Welcome to Roxboro United Church.

Before we can begin our worship,

we need to acknowledge that the land we live on is God's land.

Called Turtle Island for thousands of years by the people in this region:

Abenakis, Algonquin, Eeyou, Huron-Wendat, Innu, Kanien'kehá:ka, Mi'kmaq
and others, who were and are faithful stewards to the Creator's land.

We worship together today seeking reconciliation, justice and well being
for all the beings, flora and fauna, who live here.

We also acknowledge that the Church has made itself the gate keeper of the faith,
excluding many for their gender, sexuality and ability.

Roxboro United is an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada
and has made public declaration of the past and ongoing sin of the Church
in denying membership and participation, and openly seeking to dehumanize
those who identify with the 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

At Roxboro you find a place of welcome, sacredness, affirmation and community.
All are welcome here.

Now we can worship God.

Centring Music

One Of Us by Eric Bazilian (as performed by Joan Osborne)
performed by Irene and Sandy

Call for Awareness

Loosely based on Psalm 19 by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

Awake my body, awake my soul!

The heavens are singing psalms of glory,

songs of beauty, the story of God's handiwork.

God's wisdom is perfect, God's vision brings rejoicing.

God's awesome nature is like sweet honey and fine gold.

Awake my sacred being.

Song

Shadow And Substance **MV44**

Candle Lighting

A Time of Centring

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

Begin with your breath.

Feel the air pass your nostrils and glide down your throat to fill your lungs.

Drop your diaphragm and let your belly and back expand.

Notice the rhythm of your breathing, and the spaces between your breath.

The air you breathe is sacred for it is the breath of God.

Your body is sacred for it manifests the Holy One in substance and form.

Be aware of your body and how you are sitting.

Let your hands fall open and your feet feel grounded.

Ask of God what you need at this moment and give space for the response.

Take some time to reflect on your relationship with God,
the world, your sacred centre.

Honour your connection to God's creation.

Offer something of yourself.

Be open to receiving God's gift to you this day.

Now, return to your body.

Imagine there is a light that softly glows from your heart,
through your limbs and head,

and radiates out into the world, connecting with people,
animals, fish and birds, with water, soil and even rock,
and give thanks to God for the experience of life.

Song

Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace **VU684**

Scripture

Matthew 21.33-46 New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.

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33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. 37 Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to

those tenants?” 41 They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes”?

43 “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Another Voice

by Richard Wagamese from Embers

It’s all about opening, really.

When I open myself to the world and its possibilities - even its hurts - I become whole. But when I choose to close, my life becomes fraught with struggle. Everything I do becomes about shielding myself rather than inviting good energy to fill me.

Everything is energy, so I try to let the negative pass through me, rather than holding on to it.

Reflection

Flourishing In The Way

Offering Time

Musical Reflection

Forever Young by Bob Dylan, performed by Irene and Sandy

Prayers Of The People

Prayer Circle

Free prayers for those who need our prayers

Alan, Angela, April, Barbara, Caroline, Dan, David, Deb, Dot, Elisabeta, Ericka, George, Johanna, Karen, Karine, Levi, Linda, Lisa, Loidi, Maria, Marg, Mark, Michelle, Monique, Nancy, Paul, Rona, Ronda, Rudy, Russell, Sandy, Sarah, Shannon, Shawn, Valerie & Zachary.

Song

We Cannot Own The Sunlit Sky **MV143**

Blessing

Flourish in the blessing of the gift of life
unfolded by those who come before us.

Flourish in the blessing of the gift of life
unfolding through those who are around us.

Flourish in the blessing of the gift of life
unfolding through what is yet unknown to us.

**God's harvest is abundant within our soul;
gracing us with new beginnings,
inviting us to flourish in every moment and encounter of life.**