

Sunday 29 September 2024
Creation Time 4: Casting Out Demons

Introit

Lead Me Lord *The Band*

Call to Worship

by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

Listen for the song of creation in your body;
breath song, blood flow, dancing atoms.
Listen for the song of creation in this room;
friend and stranger, familiar and unknown.
Listen for the song of creation in your soul;
past experience, present being, intentions for tomorrow.
God awakens the sacred within and all around you.

Song

Sing Praise To God, Who Reigns Above **VU216**

Lighting the Christ Candle

by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

We light this candle for we are a voice in the song of creation.
God's light shines in us and, if are willing, through us.
We join with the Creator in the experience of this day;
open to wonder, to feel, to listen, to be.

Candle is lit

Acknowledging the Land and Centring our Soul

by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

Take hold of your stone and notice it; its colour, its texture; its size.
Close you eyes and feel the stone in your hand.
Notice it's temperature, and anything else that lets it become more familiar to you,
and you to it.
The stone you hold is older than you can ever be, yet younger than God.
It took hundreds of thousands of years to become what you see and feel;
first molten, then solid and mountainous, then broken and jagged,
then smoothed by wind and water and tumbling past other stones
until it became what you hold in your hand.
This stone has been hot and cold, lost and found.
Today it represents the land; the Creator's land, and your connection to that land.
So you are called to honour the land and its creatures, of which you are a part.
You are called to care for the land and its creatures, of which you are one.
You are called to recognize all beings as sacred siblings;
all because of the small stone you are holding now.
What a sacred privilege to experience this thing called life.

Song

Like A Rock **MV92**

38 John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us.” 39 But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40 Whoever is not against us is for us. 41 For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

42 “If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. 43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, 48 where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched.

49 “For everyone will be salted with fire. 50 Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.

Another Voice

Wendell Berry from Earth Gospel Copyright © 2008 by Sam Hamilton-Poore.

The world is being destroyed, no doubt about it, by the greed of the rich and powerful. It is also being destroyed by popular demand. There are not enough rich and powerful people to consume the whole world; for that, the rich and powerful need the help of countless ordinary people. We acquiesce in the wastefulness and destructiveness of the national and global economics by acquiescing in the wastefulness and destructiveness of our own households and communities. If conservation is to have a hope of succeeding, then conservationists, while continuing their effort to change public life, are going to have to begin the effort to change private life as well.

Song

There's A Spirit In The Air **VU582**

Minister's Reflection

Casting Out Demons

Offering Time

Offering Song

How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds **VU344**

Prayer Time

The Lord's Prayer (A Paraphrase) VU916

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In time of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Song

My Soul Cries Out **MV120**

Closing Responses

by George MacLeod

O Christ, you are within each of us ...

it is our own inner being you have renewed.

We are your temple not made with hands.

We are your body.

If every wall should crumble, and every church decay, we are your habitation.

Nearer are you than breathing,

closer than hands and feet.

Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,

look out with compassion on the world.

Yet we bless you for this place,

for your directing of us, your redeeming of us,

and your indwelling.

Take us outside, O Christ, outside holiness,

out to where soldiers curse and nations clash

at the crossroads of the world ...

We ask it for your own name's sake.

Amen.

Postlude