

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY AUGUST 30, 2020

Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and Inclusive Community

Series: Sacred Earth: Sacred Work

“The Paths of Life”

Lighting the Affirming and the Treaty 7/Metis Candles

Introduction to worship

Creation Spirituality follows a rhythm of four paths as follows:

- recognizing the inherent goodness of all creation (including our own potential for good)
 - befriending dark places and times in our lives as fodder for new life
 - exclaiming divine creativity and our role in co-creating with God
 - embodying compassion and power to bring more wholeness and justice to the world.
- The worship series incorporates these as four sections of the worship experience.

Path I: Recognizing Inherent Goodness

The first path invites us to celebrate! The pulse of creation is singing the goodness of God and God's gift of goodness in all things. We become more aware of the beauty of all that is and tap into gratitude as our first task in creating more goodness in the world.

Gathering and Welcoming

God is good!
All the time!
And all the time!
God is good!

Indeed, we gather to celebrate the goodness of God and all of God's creation. I invite you to stand in body and/or spirit as you are comfortable. Let us give thanks for this opportunity to be together in this time of worship! Share with someone you are with or write down or say aloud WHAT and WHO you are thankful for this morning!

Expanding Our Attention 360° (*Call to Worship*)

Gathering chant

(adapted from a Chant written by Phil Porter)

**Gathered now in the mystery of this hour
Gathered now as one strong body
Gathered now in the struggle and the power
Spirit draw near**

To worship is to heighten and expand.....doors to God's Love coming in many ways.
Let us turn to the East as we sing "Spirit draw near."

Spirit draw near

In the East, the rising sun and gentle breezes, we honor each new day and new beginnings made possible by the breath of the Creator.

May the air we breathe be purified and may our lives feel that breath of Spirit anew. May we receive the gifts of dawning insight and inspiration.

Let us turn to the south as we sing "Spirit draw near."

Spirit draw near

In the South, place of the desert warmth, we honor the gift of fire and all forms of energy. As the sun in the sky makes life possible on earth, we know that God set that sun and its course, we are children cared for in many ways.

May we be open as children to receive and share the gifts of food, learning, and creativity. May we share our play and our work with energy and passion.

Let us turn to the west as we sing "Spirit draw near."

Spirit draw near

In the West, in the setting sun and the many forms of water, we welcome the wellspring and flow of God's healing presence.

May water be pure and available to all, and may we be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth. May we let go and be cleansed of all that keeps us from living as we were created to be.

Turn to the north as we sing "Spirit draw near."

Spirit draw near

In the North, in the mountains and rooted plants, we welcome the wisdom of being present and manifest here on the earth.

We welcome those who came before us and the ways of living and spiritual wisdom they shared with us.

Let us turn and face the center as the Christ light comes into our midst.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We complete our 360-degree expansion of God's presence and turn to face the Christ candle.

Christ, our Light, is the center of this community!

We affirm that each one of us is created in the image and likeness of God and so when we see one another, we see more of the Divine shine through.

May we walk good paths, living on the earth in Oneness as siblings, rejoicing in one another's blessings, supporting and caring in one another's sorrows.

Teach us to live as spirit in flesh like Jesus.

Gathering chant

**Gathered now in the mystery of this hour
Gathered now as one strong body
Gathered now in the struggle and the power
Spirit draw near**

And all God's people said, "**Amen!**"

Praising

Hymn

We Praise You, Creator vs. 1 & 2 VU #293

We praise you Creator, in earth, sea, and sky:
Our Ruler, our Maker, our Sovereign, on high.
Each new generation lifts voices in praise;
How good your creation, how gracious your ways!

Each springtime the blossoms bloom fragrant once more;
Each summer and autumn bring forth its rich store.
With witness compelling our praise and our prayer,
Creation is telling of your faithful care.

Praying

Guiding God,

You who never leave our side in all the paths of life,

**be with us as we traverse the pain and delight of loving and living
so that we might be with others in the seasons of their lives.**

We praise you for setting in motion the cycles of creation and setting us among it.

And all God's people say,

Amen.

Path II: Befriending the Dark Places

This second path recognizes with open hearts the pain that coexists with goodness and gratitude. We listen to the groans of the world and the Spirit helps us to grieve and to intercede on behalf of all those who suffer, letting go of our fear that can make things worse at times.

Listening

You are invited to settle yourselves for the depths of stillness and prayer with the sound of the singing bowl. We open this section with a quote from a mystic theologian.

Apprehend God in all things,.....
- Meister Eckhardt

Letting Go and Holding with Love

(Prayers of the People interspersed with the Chant "Breathe in the Pain")

**Breathe in the pain
Breathe on out the love
May my heart be the place
Where this world is changed forever.**

Each week we say a different poetic version of the prayer Jesus taught. This week encountered a version from Hawaiian poet and artist, Kaleo Ching. He starts with the Hebrew words for Father and Mother – Abba, Imma. Let us pray together.

**Abba Imma in heaven, holy be your name.
Your reign come, your yearning be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day the bread we need.
Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors
Guide us through life's trials
Shelter us all from evil
In your Grace, your wisdom, and your love.
Amen.**

Path III: Exclaiming the Divine Creative

This third path creates space to explore how God is working in and through us and all of the universe to renew each day every direction. Each moment offers opportunity to express our God-gifted creativity. We hear messages—ancient and new—that express and affirm the Divine at work and encourage us in our creative collaboration with the Divine.

**Bringing Words to Life
Psalm 30 with refrain VU #757**

I exalt you, Lord, because you pulled me up;
you did not let my enemies celebrate over me.
Lord, my God, I cried out to you for help,
and you healed me.
Lord, you brought me up from the grave,
brought me back to life from among those going down to the pit.
You who are faithful to the Lord,

sing praises to him;
give thanks to his holy name!

Refrain: Through tears flow for a night, the morning brings new joy. (x2) VU #757

God's anger lasts for only a second,
but God's favor lasts a lifetime.
Weeping may stay all night,
but by morning, joy!
When I was comfortable, I said,
"I will never stumble."
Because it pleased you, Lord,
you made me a strong mountain.
But then you hid your presence.
I was terrified.
I cried out to you, Lord.
I begged my Lord for mercy:
"What is to be gained by my spilled blood,
by my going down into the pit?
Does dust thank you?
Does it proclaim your faithfulness?
Lord, listen and have mercy on me!
Lord, be my helper!"

Refrain: Through tears flow for a night, the morning brings new joy. (x2) VU #757

You changed my mourning into dancing.
**You took off my funeral clothes
and dressed me up in joy**
so that my whole being
might sing praises to you and never stop.
Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Refrain: Through tears flow for a night, the morning brings new joy. (x2) VU #757

This is a Word of God.
Thanks be to God.
All creation is a word of God.
All creation speaks volumes of God.

Reflection: The Saving Grace of a Positive Attitude

Anthem

Celebration of Communion

Invitation to Communion

Come you who live the way of Christ, the way of love,
you who are called to be the outlets of love, as compassion.

We come to this meal with thanksgiving.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer

[To the tune of "Be Thou My Vision"]

Our God be with you, now lift we our praise.

And God be with you too, now and always.

Let us give thanks to God, so right to do.

All-loving Maker, we give back to you.

It is right and good, always and everywhere,
To give praise to God, the Creator of all that is. . .
And so, with all creatures of the earth we sing:

Holy of holies, of power and might

So full of glory, your Word and your Light

Bless-ed are those who come in your name,

Praise and hosannas, we offer the same.

Creativity and Being is who you are,
and so, with dancing in the arms of your beloveds
you came to us in human form. . .
keeping alive the reminder to "do this in remembrance of me."

Taking the bread and lifting the cup

Giving his lifeblood, he opened to us

Path of salvation, a meal full of grace

Let us remember and join in this place

Like the fresh rain in a drought,
like sunshine breaking through clouds, . . .
and the salve we require to heal a hurting planet.

Give us your vision, the world cries in need;

Let us make room for all, love is our creed.

Open our hearts and our hands and our eyes,

Prayers lift unceasing, our hope in you lies!

Communion is taken.....

Show us our oneness, our connections,
always and already there.

Open our eyes and once we see it,

let us never un-see it.

**Let us know it
Let us live it
Let us share it.**

**We pray this in the name of your holy dance three-in-one,
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of all! Amen.**

Path IV: Embodying Compassion and Power

The fourth path will lead us out. We pray for movement within our own hearts to embody peace and passion—compassion and power—on behalf of spreading goodness throughout the week. We are not at the mercy of “the way it is,” we can claim our agency to be fully present and fully active in the world into which we now go.

Offering and Song of Dedication VU #538
**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
We thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Holding On

Announcements: ACTS MINISTRY STUDIES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER!!

This Autumn, Our Groups Meet on Zoom

Monday Night Study 7:00PM to 8:30PM (90 minutes)
Online classes run from **September 14th to November 23rd.**
Our Book - "**The Universal Christ**" by Richard Rohr
You buy it from Amazon.ca or Indigo
It will be your only cost for the series.

Thursday Morning Bible Study 10:00AM to 11:00AM (60 minutes)
We meet **September 17th** to make our fall study Bible selection
Classes run until the end of November

Invite new friends to join us via Zoom.
If you have questions, contact Wayne at waholst@telus.net

Before we head out, I invite people to find opportunities this week to hold onto our connection to each other and compassion for the world.

Go for It!

Spiritual practice: It is through the work of spiritual practice that we move beyond fear into compassion and discover our deep and true selves. Engaging in spiritual practices—

whether that looks typically religious (like praying) or not (like walking) have intentionality in common. They draw us closer to the Creator and who we were created to be—free and compassionate beings. This week engage in one spiritual practice that draws you closer to your true essence and enables you to experience the rhythms of life with a positive attitude.

Benediction and sending out

As we leave this worship time, I invite you to remember that.....

Benediction Song VU #477

"I Come with Joy"

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
a love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

**Together we, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**