

Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster of the
United Churches of Canada
Season of Creation
Sept 6th, 2020

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Words of Welcome, Announcements
from Each Congregation and Land Acknowledgement

Thank you for Connecting for Worship
Today's Leadership included

Preacher: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Presiding: The Rev Tim Bowman

The Rev. Michael Collison

The Rev. Bill Booth

Musician – Jacob Greenan

Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Julia Rohan

Lighting the Christ Candle for Each Congregation

People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation: Tim

Leader: We gather in the image of the creature.

All: Who is a community of love.

Leader: We gather in the name of the redeemer.

All: Who reconciles all of creation.

Leader: We gather in the presence of the Life-giver.

All: Who inspires in life and renews it.

Leader: We gather amid the beauty of creation to worship our Creator.

Our New Hymn, Written and presented by Julia Rohan

This Paradise

CHORUS:

We're all part of the miracle, God's dream still coming true
A world created out of love, a gift to me and you
Arranged in changing seasons, life to death and back again
Oh, thank you Lord, for Mother Earth, this Paradise we're in!

Verse 1: Before the universe was born God slept and had a vision,
fueled by boundless energy his dream became his mission
He raised his arms and spread them wide to all eternity
and from his hands Creation sprang in all its mystery.

We're all part of the miracle, God's dream still coming true
A world created out of love, a gift to me and you
Arranged in changing seasons, life to death and back again
Oh, thank you Lord, for Mother Earth, this Paradise we're in!

Prayer Tim

Holy Creator, Life giver, Light maker, God of all places. With the Land we are grounded in You. With wild places we dance to your creative song. With forests we make room for growth and sacredness in our lives. Like the rivers we journey home to the ocean of your loving presence and in the joy of life we become fully human. We belong in the beauty of your presence.
Amen

Hymn: "Call By Earth and Sky" MV 135

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held
high. This is our sacred living trust, treasure of
life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream, waters of healing,
rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held
high. This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.*

Precious this gift, the air we breathe:
wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit,
blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held
high. This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.*

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land. Seeds of our wakening,
rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held
high. This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.*

Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day. Fire of passion,
sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held
high. This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.*

Learning With Our Children: We Help God Create. **Bill**

Song: "Inch by Inch" by David Mallett

Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground
Inch by inch, row by row Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
Til the rain comes tumbling down

Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones,
we are made of dreams and bones
I feel the need to grow my own cause the time is close at hand
Grain for grain, sun and rain I'll find my way in nature's chain
Tune my body and my brain to the music of the land

Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground
Inch by inch, row by row Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
Til the rain comes tumbling down

Plant your rows straight and long,
Temper them with prayer and song
Mother earth will keep you strong if you give her love and care
An old crow watching hungrily from his perch in yonder tree
In my garden I'm as free as that feathered thief up there

Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground
Inch by inch, row by row Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
Til the rain comes tumbling down

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 1:1:27a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters. So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky. So God created the great sea monsters and every living

creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

Hymn: "When Long Before Time" VU 248

When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
And even our Maker had only a dream.

The silence was broken when God sang the Song
And light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
And with its first birth cries creation was born,
And creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word,
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long

Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again,
our God is with Us in the world now as then.

The Light has returned as it came out before
The song of the Lord is our own song once more,
So let us all sing with one heart and one voice
The Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice

To You, God the Singer, Our voices we raise,
To You, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise
To you, Holy Spirit, our live and our breath
Be glory forever, through life and through death.

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayer of Confession Tim

Leader:

Great Spirit,
still brooding over the world—
as we hear the cry of the earth,
and see the sorrow of land
raped and plundered in our greed
for its varied resources;
as we hear the cry of the waters,
and see the sorrow of stream and ocean
polluted by the poisons
we release into them;
as we hear the cry of the animals,
and see the sorrow of bird, fish, and beast
needlessly suffering and dying
to serve our profit or sport or vanity—
teach us, in your love:
sensitivity towards your feeling creation;
simplicity in the way we live in our environment;
appreciation of the connectedness of all things;
respect for the shalom of the universe.
Creator of all life,
we turn from our arrogant ways to seek you again.

Silent prayer

Leader: Creator of all life,
we turn from our arrogant ways to seek you again.

All:

Redeem us.
Redeem your world.
Heal its wounds and dry its tears.
May our response to you
bear fruit in a fresh sense of responsibility
towards everything you have made. Amen.
(From Celebrating God's Presence, UCC Worship resource)

Sung Response: "Day After Day" MV 123

Day after day, night after night,
You speak through everything. 3x

Words of Assurance

Leader: Behold: there is a new heaven, a new earth
and a new city, where the river of life flows,
where the tree of life bears fruit in every season.
This heaven, this city, this river, this tree are a vision
of your life reborn, restored, and renewed. Make it happen, Make it true.

By Ralph Carl Wushke, use with permission – adapted.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayers for the World and for All of the Creation **Michael**

Prayers of the People: From Chat shared prayers. **Bill**

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we sing/say together the words that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer [Sung]

“Ground of All Being” by David Poole

Taught and Sung by Deborah Handley

Ground of all being, Mother of life, Father of the universe.
May we know your presence here, seeking your will upon earth.
Grant all your creatures food for today, and strength for our families.
Pardon our falseness as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us in our need, but lead us to new birth.
For the glory of life and the light of life are your forever.

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God:

Prayer of Dedication:

These are the gifts of God, given for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn: “This is God’s Wondrous World” **VU 296**

This is God’s wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God’s wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God’s hand the wonders wrought.

This is God’s wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker’s praise.
This is God’s wondrous world:
God shines in all that’s fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God’s voice speaks everywhere.

This is God’s wondrous world:
O let me ne’er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God’s wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?

God reigns, let earth be glad!

Commissioning and Benediction: **Bill**

Sung Response: “Isaiah 55 You Shall Go Out With Joy” Vu 894

You should go out with joy

And be led forth with peace;

The mountains and the hills

Will break forth before you;

There'll be shouts of joy,

And all the trees of the field

Will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap, clap*)

The trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap, clap*)

The trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap clap*)

While you go out with joy.

Postlude

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