

Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster of the
United Churches of Canada
Season of Creation
Sept 13th, 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. Tim Bowman
Presiding: The Rev. Michael Collison &
The Rev. Tracy Fairfield
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: **Mike**

Leader: We gather in the image of the Creator.

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. **Chorus**

Verse 2: God separated light from dark, She made the night and day
So we could have our time to sleep, our time to work and play
She separated sea from land, so grasses could grow green
Made tiny seeds and towering trees and fruits that we could eat. **Chorus**

Invocation Prayer **Mike**

Lord of creation, Your world reveals your glory, Grant us eyes to see your glory in all that you have made, from the beauty of a sunset to the pattern of a snowflake.

Give us minds to grasp something of your purposes in creation
and the humility to take our place as co-workers serving you in your garden

Give us hearts to love you in loving all your works,
and tenderness in nurturing life in all its fullness.
Through Jesus Christ,
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: "Let All Things Now Living" VU 242

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine,
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The depth of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise:
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Learning With Our Children: Tracy

Song: "Praise God for This Holy Ground" MV 42

Praise God for this holy ground, Place and people, sight and sound.

Refrain after each verse:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal!

Praise God in whose word we find Food for body, soul, and mind. **R)**

Praise God who through Christ makes known All are loved and called God's own. **R)**

Praise God's Spirit who befriends, Raises, humbles, breaks, and mends. **R)**

Though praise ends, praise is begun Where God's will is gladly done. **R)**

GARDENING TALK with Kate Jordan

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 139: 7 - 12

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Genesis 3: 14 – 19; 4: 8 – 16

The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him.

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” And the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen; your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”

Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.” Then the Lord said to him, “Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him.

Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “Cursed is the Ground” Tim

Hymn: “Soil of God, You and I” MV 174

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear

Seeds of faith nourished by God’s tender care.

Growing in everyone for here God is found. All stand together, we are Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be

Part of God’s promise, for others to see.

Open to everyone for here God is found. All stand together, we are Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to re-birth,

Joining as partners with all of the earth.

Living in harmony for here God is found.

All stand together, this is Holy ground.

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayer of Confession Mike (People’s response – bold type)

Based on Lev. 25: 1 - 25

We praise you God, for the Earth that sustains life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give all creatures our food in the proper time. In your Wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demand for growth, and an endless cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world.

The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. Humans and animals are forced to flee in search of security. We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to renew. And so we confess:

You tell us the land must rest, free from the burden of production.

We confess our demand that the Earth produce beyond its limits, and our bondage to desire more.

You call us to pause from sowing, pruning, and reaping in ways that destroy the soil.

We confess our vicious consumption of food and energy.

You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.

We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the Earth's limits.

You affirm that our security is found in enough.

We confess our lack of courage to resist the myth of endless growth.

You tell us that the land must not be sold permanently, because the land is Yours, and everything in it.

We confess to thinking of creation as given, instead of a gift.

You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the fields to feed our neighbours, animals, and replenish the Earth.

We confess our failure to share what we receive from the Earth.

You call us to fairness and justice.

We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbours as ourselves.

Turn us from fear and mistrust,

and free us to imagine a life reconciled to the Earth and all creatures, through the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26–

Amen. *(adapted from the Lutheran World Federation)*

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 Bill

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 - Adapted [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: "We Praise You, Creator" VU 293

We praise you, Creator, in earth, sea and sky:
Our Ruler, our Maker, our Sovereign most 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 brings forth its rich store.
With witness compelling our praise and our prayer,
Creation is telling of your faithful care.

Your wondrous works teach us, Creator, to trace
The limitless reaches of your love and grace.
Your grace dwells among us, your love goes before:
From eldest to youngest we praise and adore.

Commissioning and Benediction: Mike

The power of God, displayed in creation,
fill you with grace to serve God in his world;
The peace of God, breathing in every living thing,
enable you to spread God's peace wherever you go;
The love of God, which fills the universe,
flow through you that you might reflect his image,
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go into God's world in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sung Response: "Isaiah 55: You Shall Go Out With Joy" VU 884

You shall 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. Repeat X3

Postlude

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