

Season of Creation 4 River

September 27, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

Linda Nicholls, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada describes our Canadian reality: "As a Canadian, I am accustomed to the ready availability of fresh clean water at any moment. But it was a different story in the Himalayas, "where the provision of water was unpredictable and what was available had to be boiled thoroughly because it was not safe to drink. Like the Israelites in the desert, I readily grumbled. This became a lesson for me... of the privileges I enjoyed and took for granted in Canada. I became acutely aware that lack of water was a daily reality for millions of people... and of those who profit from the bottling and selling of a resource that is a necessity of life and a gift of the Creator.

Today, on this River Sunday, we acknowledge "the ongoing protection and sharing of clean water are part of our baptismal vocation to love neighbour as self... and respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth."

GATHERING

INVOCATION

In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, the name of +Christ, the pulse of life, and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. **Amen.**

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

Christ we come into your presence today to worship in this sanctuary called Earth.

A planet filled with your presence, quivering the forests, vibrating the land, pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering in the rivers.

God, reveal yourself to us in this place and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

"Crashing Waters at Creation" ELW455
(to the tune of "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" ELW 494)



Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit's breath,



First to witness day's beginning for the brightness of night's death.

REMEMBERING

We remember the rivers God created in Eden and across our planet; rivers that are the lifeblood of Earth and vital for all that lives.

We remember the streams of our past, the pools and ponds where we played; the water fights and the cool refreshing feeling as we ran through the sprinkler and splashed each other.

We remember ice cold water from our taps and water coolers, on hot and sunny days when our throats were dry and when we were thirsty; and warm, steaming bubble baths at the end of a long day.

We remember the waters of our baptism and say thank-you for God's gift of the Holy Spirit and of new birth.

We remember and rejoice.

Thank you, God, for rivers and streams that flow with the water of life.

"Crashing Waters at Creation" ELW455
(to the tune of "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" ELW 494)

*Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the One foretold,
Washing off the chains of bondage –channel to a life made new.*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Gracious, Creative and Creating God we remember and confess:

That we have become alienated from Earth have polluted the rivers of our garden planet. We are sorry. We have polluted our rivers with poisons. We have treated our streams as waste dumps. We have turned living waters into deathtraps. We have wasted precious waters in luxury living.

Gracious, Creative and Creating God we remember and confess. We are sorry.

We are sorry. Forgive us, renew us and all creation we pray. Amen.

In the mercy of God, Christ hears your confession from the river Jordan and forgives your sins against the rivers and against all creation. In the name of God, the Creator, and of +Christ, God's own heart; and of the Spirit of Breath, your sins are forgiven. **Amen!**

"Crashing Waters at Creation" ELW455

(to the tune of "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" ELW 494)

Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul,
Well-spring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the rivers, the streams and waterways of Earth. Help us to empathize with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the flowing, refreshing, life-giving world of the rivers. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:1-3A, 16-21

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

REVELATION 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.

On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

GOSPEL Matthew 10:40-42

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "When the Poor Ones" (vs 1 leader, vs 3-4 all) ELW 725



Cuan-do el po-bre na-da tie-ne y aún re-par-te,
 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;

When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;
 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed y a-gua nos da,
 when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;

when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;
 when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



cuan-do el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:
 when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing;

when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble:
 when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

Refrain / Estribillo



Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;
 We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar.
 we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became one in and with creation; a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe in the church and as created beings; the communion we share in kinship with all creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, creator of the Universe, you know every creature and its needs. With great trust we turn our hearts to you.

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with the earth...We pray for the world that You will call us to radical action to care for the oceans, lakes and rivers and all the creatures within.

Jesus Christ, make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation...We pray for the world we live in that we become aware of how fragile and unstable our water sources are.

Jesus Christ, make our ears sensitive to the cries of justice from the hills and trees and for the endangered species of our forests...We pray for our local community that we nurture a more sustainable world.

Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit, groans from the deserts, the salt plains, and the winds...We pray for our world leaders that they have the courage to take responsibility for our changing climate and the part we play in it.

Jesus Christ, make our souls sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the sea, the land and the air...We pray for our church that we will speak out for wisdom, restraint and compassion in protecting all the waters within this precious world.

Jesus Christ, teach us to care.

Today we offer special prayers for Marion and Cheryl. We continue to offer prayer and support for Pastor Kathy and for Creative Fingers.

Grant healing and wholeness to those suffering from COVID. We pray also for the grieving, for people facing adversity and for the sick and those in need of care.. We pray today for Sharla , Debi, Renee, Marion, Arne, Eva, Olai and Suzy, Dave and Trudy, Lyle and Marlene, Olivia, Syd, Pastor Dick and Jan, Corrie, Patrick, Myrna, Klaus, Harriet, Shirley, Eowyn, Lorraine, Catherine,

Grace, Lilian, Margaret, Lars and Hazel, Clayton, Montgomery, Rosemary, Landon, Wayne, Elizabeth, and Judy and Ron.

Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us.

We pray these things in Jesus name, Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

May God who established the dance of creation;
Who set the stars to twinkle in the heavens;
Who causes the waves to crash and foam;
Who makes the calf skip for joy and the trees clap their hands;
May God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit;
Fill you with joy and transform your lives; that with all the earth you might reflect the glory of God. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "Many & Great" ELW #837

Wa - kan-tan - ka ta - ku ni - ta - wa tan - ka - ya
 1 Man - y and great, O God, are your works, mak - er of
 2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O Star - a -

qa o - ta. Ma - hpi - ya kin e - ya - hna - ke ca,
 earth and sky. Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
 bid - ing One. Come un - to us and dwell with us;

ma - ka kin he du - o - wan - ca. Mni - o - wan
 your fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your
 with you are found the gifts of . . . life. Bless us with

ca - sbe - ya - wan - ke cin, he - na o - ya - ki - hi.
 word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.
 life that has no . . . end, e - ter - nal life with you.

SENDING

Christ calls you to be disciples, to serve others with love and compassion and to serve Earth by caring for creation.

- We will remember the rivers!**
- We will care for creation!**
- We will rejoice in the waterways!**
- We will revive the wetlands!**
- We will celebrate life!**

Go in peace, serve Christ, care for the Earth.
Thanks be to God! We will!

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