

April 16, 2023
Second Sunday of Easter

We Gather In God's Presence

Land Acknowledgement

While we are the current stewards of this land, it was not always so. For thousands of years before Europeans and others arrived in this land, there were already people here who were stewards of the land: The Anishnaabe, the Attawandaron, the Haudenasounee, and others. And before there were people, the land was. As Christians and as indigenous peoples alike, we acknowledge that the land which sustains us all, the land on which we live and move and have our being, belongs to God, our Creator.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song MV 2 "Come All You People"

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come now and worship the Lord.

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship (Iona Community)

This we know: the earth does not belong to us,

we belong to the earth.

This we know: all things are connected,

like the blood that unites one family.

This we know: we did not weave the web of life,

we are merely a strand in it.

This we know: whatever we do to the web of life,

we do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,

let us give thanks that all things hold together in Christ.

Hymn VU 409 "Morning Has Broken"

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Creator God, You made all things, and all that You made You pronounced 'very good.' Help us to respect the fragile balance of life. Guide by Your wisdom those who have power to care for or to destroy Your creation, that by the decisions they make, life in all its glorious diversity may be cherished, and a good and fruitful earth be preserved for future generations; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We Worship God

Anthem or Hymn VU 296 "This Is God's Wondrous World"

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?
 Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Time for the Young and the Young @



A New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 291 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours, God made their tiny wings.
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.

The purpleheaded mountains, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky;
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one.
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.

The rocky mountain splendour, the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall;
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker, who has made all things well.
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Through our offerings we support those who suffer the effects of climate disasters, and work for ecological justice and the protection of God's creation. Our tithes and other offerings will be received on the offering plate or by e-transfer, CanadaHelps or Canada Post.

Offering Hymn VU 217 "All Creatures of Our God and King" vs. 5

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!

Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Offering Prayer

You, O God, are the Easter One. You are the holy source of resurrection. You are the dancing spirit of life. We offer these gifts in gratitude for hope returned, for the mystery of your grace, and for the promise of resurrection, for us, and for all your good creation. Amen.

Prayers of The People

& The Lord's Prayer

Creator God, you breathe your being into all creation, and set us in a garden of wonder and delight. Today you call us: "Where are you; what have you done?"

We hide in utter shame, for we are naked before you. We violate the earth and plunder it. We seek to own what is not ours, but yours. Forgive us, Creator God, and reconcile us to your creation.

O God of love, you ask that we share the gifts of creation with all your peoples, of varying cultures, races, and colours. Today you ask us: "Where is your brother, your sister?"

We hide ourselves in shame and fear. Poverty, hunger, hatred, and war rule the earth. Refugees, all who are oppressed, and all who are voiceless cry out to you. Forgive us, God of love, and reconcile us to yourself and to one another.

Teach us, God of love, that the earth and all the fullness thereof is yours, the world and those who dwell in it. Call us to safeguard the gift of life. This we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 16

Refrain: Protect me, God; I trust in you.

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I have said to God, 'You are my God;
from you alone comes all my prosperity.'

**All my delight is in the faithful who dwell in the land,
and in those who excel in virtue.**

But as for those who run after other gods,
their troubles shall be multiplied.

**Libations of blood I will not offer to those gods,
nor will I take their names upon my lips.**

Refrain: Protect me, God; I trust in you.

You, God, are my allotted portion and my cup;
you yourself have cast my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed I have a noble heritage.

I will thank you, God, for giving me counsel;
at night also you teach my heart.

I keep you always before me;
**you are on my right hand,
therefore I shall not fall.**

Refrain: Protect me, God; I trust in you.

So my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
for my body shall also rest in safety.

**For you will not surrender me to the Grave,
nor suffer your beloved to see the Abyss.**

You will show me the path of life.

**In your presence is fullness of joy;
and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.**

Refrain: Protect me, God; I trust in you.

Scripture: John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but

believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”
Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The other readings for this week are: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9

Hymn VU 307 “Touch the Earth Lightly”

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Meditation: “Creation Matters”

We Go Forth With God's Blessing

Hymn MV 30 “It's a Song of Praise to the Maker”

It's a song of praise to the Maker, the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker, the gray whale sings in the sea,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver when high tides break on the shore,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the summer breeze joins the song,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's the chorus of all creation; it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation; a song the universe sings,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Commissioning and Benediction Julian of Norwich

Be a gardener for creation.

Dig, toil, and sweat, and turn the earth upside down,
seek the deepness,
and water the plants in time.

Continue this labour, and make sweet floods to run,
and noble and abundant fruits to spring.

Then, take this food, drink, and beauty,
and carry it to God as your true worship.

Sung Response: VU 884 "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

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.

ALL:

Rev. Mark will be on vacation Monday, April 17 to Sunday, April 23 inclusive.

In response to the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and northern Syria, The United Church of Canada is working with partners in the Middle East Council of Churches, ACT Alliance, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the Humanitarian Coalition to show tangible support for the people of Türkiye and Syria. To contribute to the United Church response, you can mail a cheque to:

The United Church of Canada Philanthropy
Unit - Emergency Response 3250 Bloor Street
West, Suite 200 Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Please be sure to note "Emergency Response—Türkiye" on the face of your cheque.

Or, go online to:

<https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=1955&AID=2274&PID=6564>

UNION:

Trustees Meeting April 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Unified Board Meeting April 26, at 7 p.m.

Outreach for April is Pearce Williams Christian Centre

Wishlist items: copy paper, popsicle sticks, large bottles of white glue, art and craft paint brushes, paint roller, sleep out tarps (12x20) or gift cards to Walmart, Briwood, Home Depot.

Another option is to collect funds to pay for a camper to attend a week-long camp. The cost for one camper is \$400 - \$500. If everyone donated \$20 that would cover it.

DORCHESTER:

Ham and Oyster Supper: Homemade Oyster Soup, ham, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, cabbage salad, rolls and dessert. Friday, April 21st, 2023 at Dorchester United Church. Adults \$25.00 Children Ages 6-12 \$10.00 Children Ages 5 and Under Free. For tickets please call Marion Woods at 519-461-1136 or Betty Crockett at 519-268-0983. (Take-out Available)

Lectionary Readings for next weeks:

(April 23, Third Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

(April 30, Fourth Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10