

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21 2021

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

***Sacred Earth: Sacred Work  
'Starlight'***

Lighting the Affirming and the Treaty 7/Metis Candles  
Introduction to worship

**Path I: Recognizing Inherent Goodness**

**Gathering and Welcoming**

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

Indeed, we gather to celebrate the goodness.....  
I invite us to sing together our gathering chant.

**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**

**Expanding Our Attention 360°**

*(Call to Worship)*

Directions Liturgy led by Mike and Dianne

*Let us face the east with arms outstretched and palms open to receive the blessings of the Spirit.*

Oh Great Spirit of the East,.....Spirit of the East, may we give thanks for the light of each fresh rising and offer our praise to you.

**We give thanks for new beginnings made possible by our Creator.**

*Let us face the south with arms outstretched and palms open to receive the blessings of the spirit.*

Oh, Great Spirit of the South, .....Spirit of the South, may we always be open to the gift and the growth of your blessings.

**We give thanks for the gifts God has given to us.  
May we share them with energy and passion.**

*Let us face the West with arms outstretched and palms open to receive.*

Oh Great Spirit of the West, ..... Spirit of the West, we give thanks for the blessings of this season that we never forget, despite life's many challenges, that life is good, that You are present, and that strength and resilience empowers.

**We give thanks for patterns of letting go.**

*Let us face the north with arms outstretched and palms opened to receive the blessings of the Spirit.*

Oh, Great Spirit of the North, we come to you ..... Do not let the winter blow us away.

**Oh, Spirit of Life, and Spirit of the North, we ask you for strength and for warmth.**

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

As we light the Christ Candle, we express our gratitude for the healing essence of Christ throughout creation. It has restored us from brokenness. It has brought reconciliation where we thought none was possible. It has restored relationship where we thought all was lost. We have come to be transformed.

**As we worship together, we share the sacred love that surrounds us, the love that created us; the love that holds us together as one sacred family through the vast and eternal love of the Universal Christ.**

### **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**

Today we affirm that the amazing interplay of all of life vibrates with divine love, that the universe, and all life within it, is fundamentally a blessing.....healing, wholeness, and reconciliation for ourselves and for the world..

### **Hymn**

For the Healing of the Nations VU #1, 3, 4

1. For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;  
For a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.
2. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:  
Pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

3. You, Creator God, have written, your great name on humankind;  
For our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind;  
That, by our response and service, earth its destiny may find.

### **Praying for Renewal**

#### **Path II: Exclaiming the Divine Creative**

##### **Bringing Scripture to Life**

(Joan Gray)

Psalm 93

John 18: 33-37

##### **Secular reading**

A Quote from Richard Wagamese (1955-2017)

“I once saw a ceramic heart, fractured but made beautiful again by an artist filling its cracks with gold. The artist offering a celebration of imperfection, of the flawed rendered magnificent by its reclamation. I loved that symbol until I came to understand that it’s not about the filling so much as it’s about being brave enough to enter the cracks in my life so that my gold becomes revealed. I am my celebration then. See, it’s not in our imagined wholeness that we become art; it’s in the celebration of our cracks...”

This is the Word of God

**Thanks be to God.**

All creation is a word of God.

**All creation speaks volumes of God.**

##### **Reflections**

Wayne Holst and Brenda Wallace

##### **Anthem**

Down to the River to Pray

Traditional

#### **Path III: Befriending the Dark Places**

##### **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 mystic theologian Rumi.***

##### **Letting Go and Holding with Love (Prayers of the People)**

*(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.**

I invite you to make a fist with your hands and imagine in those clenched fists is all that you are holding tightly...(prayers continue)...I invite you to place your hands now on your heart. In this silence we up lift all those things difficult to put into words, but are felt in the depths of our hearts...let us sing

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

Each week we have used a different version of Jesus prayer. This first week we encounter a version from writer Parker Palmer.

**Let us pray together:  
Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother,  
Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come,  
We pray for that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and earth become one.  
Give us this day the bread we need,  
Give it to those who have none.  
Forgiveness flow like a river between us,  
From each one to each one.  
Lead us to holy innocence  
Beyond the evil of our days ---  
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
For your is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**

#### **Path IV: Embodying Compassion**

##### **Hymn**

Honoring Life

(Tune VU #387)

(Text: Rev. Peggy McDonagh)

God of Wisdom, God all loving  
through your grace we long to see  
how to love each other fully,  
honor our divinity.

Unkind speaking, hurtful actions,  
break the soul and rend the heart;  
ending human thoughtless discourse,  
fear and cruelty depart.

Life is sacred, life is precious,  
life of each, a gift of grace;  
God's own presence finds expression  
in each cherished human face.

When we claim the power within us  
to uphold all human life,  
we give birth to love's own kingdom,  
peace and justice ease our strife.

### **Offering**

During this series, I have invited people to include in their worship space a special collection or offering dish and at the end of the series to send your dedications offerings to St. David's.

This is the last of the Sacred Earth, Sacred Work series so whatever you have collected during the series we say thank you and bless you for your faithful. If you have not already, your offerings can be sent to St. David's.

### **Announcements**

*Following service please join us for the St. David's Foundation and St. David's Annual General Meetings.*

*Announcement: In person worship begins next week, November 28. We will be following the protocol of wearing masks, hand washing, sanitizing, and distancing. We look forward to being in community together again.*

### **Benediction**

Return now to the larger circle of Life, knowing,  
that the love and healing power of Creator God is with us,

**With one another and the Creator of Life,  
we have honored the traditions of others**

**knowing that the Creator blesses all our sacred ways.**

As we leave this gathering of acceptance and hope,  
let us see the Great Creator in all created life.

**May the knowledge of the Creator's love empower us to create a reconciliation  
that connects each heart one with the other and with the heart of the world.**

### **Postlude**

**AGMs**