

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26 2021

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

Sacred Earth: Sacred Work
'Creation as Blessing'

Lighting the Affirming and the Treaty 7/Metis Candles
Introduction

Path I: Recognizing Inherent Goodness

The first path invites us to celebrate! The pulse of creation is singing the goodness of God and God's gift of goodness in all things. We become more aware of the beauty of all that is and tap into gratitude as our first task in creating more goodness in the world.

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)

Lighting the Christ Candle

Christ, our Light, is the center of this community! And when we turn to face that light in our midst, we see one another. We affirm God's divine light that seeps through and permeates all creation,

We affirm that each one of us is created in the image and likeness of the Divine because we carry within us the first burst of the divine light of love; when we see one another, we see more of the Holy Oneness of God shine through.

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, wonderfully good, and created to flourish—including us.

"For the Beauty of the Earth" VU, 226

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.**

Refrain:

**[God] of all, to [you] we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,**

[Refrain]

How might moving through our days with an eye for recognizing goodness and blessing transform our experience of life?

**For the joy of human love,
[sibling, cousin], parent, child
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,**

[Refrain]

Being profoundly blessed.....experience of life?

**For yourself, best gift divine,
to the world so freely given,
agent of God's grand design:
peace on earth and joy in heaven.**

[Refrain]

Praying

Creating God,

**You who spun the galaxies and breathed into us the breath of life,
Open us to an awareness of the life coursing through us that is connected to all creation
so that we might become more tuned in to your life force,
feeling more vitality in our lives,
and more loving towards all.**

We praise you as the One in whom we have life and being. Amen.

Path II: Befriending the Dark Places

This second path recognizes with open hearts the pain that coexists with goodness and gratitude. We listen to the groans of the world and the Spirit helps us to grieve and to intercede on behalf of all those who suffer, letting go of our fear that can make things worse at times.

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 a mystic theologian.

“When Christ was in pain we were in pain. All creatures of God’s creation that can suffer pain suffered with him. The sky and the earth failed at the time of Christ’s dying because he too was part of nature.” - Julian of Norwich

Letting Go and Holding with Love

(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.**

Each week we will explore a 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 you is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**

Path III: Exclaiming the Divine Creative

This third path creates space to explore how God is working in and through us and all of the universe to renew each day every direction. Each moment offers opportunity to express our God-gifted creativity. We hear messages—ancient and new—that express and affirm the Divine at work and encourage us in our creative collaboration with the Divine.

Video: Visio Divina

Bringing Hebrew Scripture to Life

Dramatic Reading of Genesis 1 - 2:4 (*adapted from The Message*)

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.....This is the Hebraic story of how creation started.

This is a Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

All creation is a word of God.

All creation speaks volumes of God.

Anthem

The Awakening

Joseph M Martin

Reflection: Light of Life

Path IV: Embodying Compassion and Power

The fourth path will lead us out. We pray for movement within our own hearts to embody peace and passion—compassion and power—on behalf of spreading goodness throughout the week. We are not at the mercy of “the way it is,” we can claim our agency to be fully present and fully active in the world into which we now go.

Hymn

God's creation (Tune VU #240)

(Text by Rev. Peggy McDonagh)

**Praise the birth of God's creation,
full of wisdom, power and peace:
nature lifts the human spirit,
peace so true it shall not cease.
Celebrate creation's living,
giving hearts a glad release.**

**Praise with gladness God's creation,
Filling hearts with hope and worth:
nature calms the pain and sorrow,
gives the soul renewing birth.
Celebrate creation's goodness,
changing fears to wondrous mirth.**

**Praise with gladness God's creation,
grace to face despair and need:
love that blesses hearts in action,
joy infusing all our deeds.
Celebrate the gift of nature,
make it our most valued creed.**

Offering

I have asked people to include in their worship space a special collection or offering dish. Each Sunday during the series I invite people to put something in that offering dish and at

the end of the series to send your dedications offerings to St. David's. Thanks for your generosity.

Holding On

Announcements – Zoom Memorial service for Rodney Beatty, zoom link will be sent on Sunday.

ACTS studies: The book Study “Starlight” began last Monday and will continue to gather each Monday evening at 7:00 via zoom.

ACTS Bible study occurs on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am via Zoom.

Please check out the [Indigenous Ministry Page](#) on the Chinook Winds Region for a full list of all Season of Creation Events, Registration links as well as resources for communities of faith.

Benediction and sending out

Benediction Song 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 the trees of the fields
will clap, will clap their hands.**

**And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
While you go out with joy.**