

# First United Church

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October 2, 2022

10:30 a.m.



Purpose: Building Relationships,  
Living God's Transforming Love.

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- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

**As the earth warms, how do people of faith respond?**

Welcome Dr. Mary (Joy) Philip, Rev. Ann Anderson

And

Dr. Debbie Lou Ludolph, Congregational Song

**Prelude**

World Music for Piano by John Carter

*Holy, Holy, Holy: Be Thou My Vision:*

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love: When We Are Living*

***Listening as we Gather***

Cathie Stewart Savage, Presider

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishnawbe and Neutral peoples and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. We seek a new relationship with Original Peoples of this land, one based on honour and deep respect.

We aspire to create a safer space for everyone. We welcome you and the gifts you bring as part of your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, cultural background, or abilities.

**Welcome and Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship**

- **Introit**      God Welcomes all      Debbie Lou Ludolph  
God welcomes all, strangers and friends,  
God's love is strong and it never ends
- Procession of the Light and Word

- **Call to Worship**

One: We gather together as those with little faith and those with much;

**All: but we all gather to have our faith increased.**

One: We gather together as those who serve and those who are served;

**All: but none of us deserve special praise.**

One: We gather as those seeking wisdom in today's changing universe:

**All: but we acknowledge our gifts and our limitations.**

One: We are all God's beloved.

**All: Let us serve and praise the Creator of love.**

- **Opening Hymn** Can You Feel the Seasons Turning?

1. Can you feel the seasons turning,  
winds and waves grown wild and strange?  
Can you feel creation groaning,  
fearful of the coming change.  
ice caps melting, oceans rising.  
homes and habitations lost?  
Can you feel the seasons turning?  
can you count the bitter cost?
2. Can you hear the creatures crying –  
lynx and otter, wolf and whale?  
Can you hear the Spirit signing  
as her children grieve and fail?  
Nature's poor, the first to suffer,  
pay the price of human greed.  
Can you hear the creatures crying,  
bidding us to turn and heed?
3. Can you feel the seasons turning?  
Storm clouds gather close at hand.  
Nature's prophets sounds their warning  
to those list'ning in the land.  
Called by God to serve as stewards  
till earth's garden greens and thrives,  
can we learn in time to listen,  
changing habits, hearts, and lives.

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## *Listening to the Word*

### **Scripture Reading**

Luke 23: 54-56 (Reader: Shirley Irish)

Herein is wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon:**

Living Hope

Dr. Mary (Joy) Philip,  
Rev, Anne Anderson

# *Listening to our Hearts as we respond to the Word*

## Time of Offering

## Service of Communion

Rev. Fred Monteith

- **Communion Hymn** Come to the Table

Debbie Lou Ludolph

Come to the table, come to the table

All is now ready, come one and all.

Come, O come.

## World Wide Communion

### Invitation

Come to the table of belonging and becoming.

Come to Christ's table where everyone is welcome.

Come, you who have doubts or do not believe,

Come, you whose faith is sure, and you who believe and are asking large questions.

Come, people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome at this table.

At this table there is always room for all.

Come.

- **Hymn** Come to the Table

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**One:** God is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**One:** Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift our hearts to God.**

**One:** Let us give thanks to the one from whom all blessings flow.

**All: It is good and right to give thanks.**

**One:** These pluriverses, O Holy One, are the garb of your spirit. You flared forth in all directions, birthing space and time with fireworks beyond compare. You clothed yourself in spiral galaxies and neutron stars.

You are the longing within the atom for communion, the urge within each molecule for self-expression, the knowing within each cell of its dignity.

Your being and beauty flows freely into and through all creation and this great procession of life, which we celebrate at this feast.

**All: We give thanks for our Mother the Earth, your Spirit enfleshed, giving birth from Her oceans, carrying nutrients by Her rivers, inspiring us through the forests, feeding us from Her soil, and delighting us with beauty.**

**We join with the finned ones and the winged ones, the four-legged ones and the one that crawl upon the earth, the mycelium, the mountains and trees, clapping for joy and singing together:**

**Response**    Holy, Holy, Holy

MV 203

**One:** In the fullness of time you sent Jesus. As one of us he came, at first a tender infant, then a child, then an adult. He rejoiced with those who rejoiced and wept with those who wept. To the despairing he spoke a word of hope. To the sick he gave healing. To the rejected he was a friend. And yet he was betrayed and nailed to a cross. But he was lifted from the grave and restored to life, that he might be with us and we with him. Alive for evermore!

Through that eternal bond and the gift of your Spirit we are bold to offer our prayers for those who rejoice and those who weep; those who are despairing and those in need of healing; and the rejected ones who need a friend. Enfold each one and all in your everlasting arms.

On the night before Jesus died, he had supper with his disciples: He took bread; thanked you, as we thank you; broke the bread; and gave the bread to his friends, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body given for you. Each time you do this, remember me."

After supper he took the wine; thanked you for it, and passed the cup to his friends, saying, "This cup is the new promise God has made with you in my blood. Each time you do this and drink from this cup remember me."

Remembering his death and celebrating his resurrection we await with hope his coming again to bring peace and justice to the whole of your creation.

**All: May your ever-present Spirit bless these gifts and bless this gathering, that we may be transformed and become, by a grace beyond our understanding, sign of life and love, to all of your creation. You, O Holy One, are blessed.  
You, O Holy One, are good.  
You, O Holy One, are gracious.  
You, O Holy One, are always blessing, always birthing, always becoming.  
All praise and honour and glory are yours.**

**Response**    Amen

MV 205

Environmental Lord's Prayer:

**ALL:**

***Our God who are in pluriverses, the skies and the earth,  
Blessed be your name: life. May your pulsing life come to be seen, heard, touched and felt through the oceans, the forests, in the rocks, in the life of plants and in the sounds of animals and singing birds.  
May the atmosphere of the sky that carries our ability to breathe continue balanced as fossil presences are kept under the earth.  
Give us this day our daily bread through a variety of seeds and grains and leaves without pesticides, without monocultures, from local farms and agro-biodiverse-cultures.  
Forgive our plundering of the earth, our total lack of relation and reciprocity with the earth; as cells, mycelium, fungi and infinite processes of symbiosis forgive us daily by giving life back when we destroy it.  
And lead us not into consumerism and the devouring the earth, but deliver us from the apathy that says nothing can be changed.  
For life is kinship, relationality and reciprocity. Now and forever. Amen.***

**By Cláudio Carvalhaes**

Adapted from "Feasting with All Our Relation" in If Darwin Prayed by Bruce Sanguin

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

**Music during Communion:** Here, O My Lord  
Gallery Choir

Eleanor Daley

**Fraction and Distribution**

BREAD Jesus Christ, the bread of Life.

JUICE Jesus Christ, the true vine.

**Prayer after Communion**

**All: We thank you God of love, that you have refreshed us at your table. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, end us forth into the world united in courage and peace, that we might share in the bringing of your peace through justice to your whole created order. Amen**

• **Closing Hymn** Sent Forth by God's Blessing VU 481

• **Blessing** Rev. Fred Monteith

• **Amen** Debbie Lou Ludolph

• **Recession of the Light and Word**

**Postlude:** With Trumpets and Horns  
From "Water Music"

G.F. Handel

## BIOS

### Rev. Anne Anderson

In addition to serving as community pastor; leading the Third Space alternative worshipping community; and guest lecturing in various courses; Rev. Anderson is a candidate in Luther's [PhD in Human Relationships](#) program in the field of Pastoral Leadership.

Anne received my BA in International Development Studies from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2001 and my MDiv from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (Martin Luther University College) in 2006. Before joining Luther, Anne served as co-pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Hamburg, ON (2006-2014).

### Dr. Mary (Joy) Philip

Dr. Phiip is Full Professor of Lutheran Global Theology and Mission and director of the Master of Divinity Program at the Martin Luther University. She is the founder of **Centre for Earth Consciousness and Gender Justice** whose goal is planetary well-being and justice that works towards the common good, not just for the present but for all future living beings on the planet.

She states, “I am an Indian (from India) and was a professor of Zoology in Bangalore, India, before I took my doctorate in Systematic Theology from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. I am trained to be a zoology teacher and theologian but my journey has taken me to places that I had not planned to go, and to vocations that I had not envisioned engaging in. But to the places I go, I try to represent the place that is in me. And to the vocations I find myself called to, I try to invoke the passion that is in me, and convoke the resources that are available to me.”

### Dr. Debbie Lou Ludolph

Dr. Ludolph is Dean of Chapel; Director, Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song; Instructor, Practical Theology. She states: “I successfully defended my doctoral dissertation — as part of Martin Luther University College's PhD in Human Relationships program, field of Pastoral Leadership — in January 2021. I received my Master of Arts in Theology degree from Luther in 2009, when the school was known as Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, and my bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1982. Prior to working full-time at Luther, I performed in the musical theatre industry; taught vocal pedagogy, musical skills and voice at Laurier and in the community; and led music and worship at conferences and retreats. In addition to teaching, I co-ordinate worship in Luther's Keffer Memorial Chapel.