

Worship Outline
April 21, 2024
Earth Day Service

THIS WEEK AT BRECHIN

Minister: Tif Bradford-McNaughton

Music Director and Choir Leader: Tim Weger

Reader: Pauline Johnson

Greeters: Bruce & Linda Wilson

Power Point: Jim Boggs

Italics – leader; **Bold** - congregation

Today's service hosted by the Brechin4ACTION Team

Welcome & Announcements:

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to express our appreciation for being able to meet on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. May we always look for ways to confront past injustices and support Snuneymuxw governance and jurisdiction.

Affirming Statement

As an Affirming Ministry we boldly declare that we fully welcome and include the full participation of all people in the life and work of the Ministry as we journey together, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, marital status, mental or physical ability, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, or economic circumstance. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and wholeness for all God's people.

Slide presentation

Call to Worship:

ONE: *For land and soil,*

Birthing crops, grounding our steps,

Anchoring our homes and hopes

For Swy-a-Lana (Maffeo Sutton, Rathrevor Provincial Park, For Cathedral Grove, and

Buttertubs Marsh

ALL: We rejoice with God in the land

ONE: *For the outback and wilderness,*

Harboring wildness,

Restoring awe, bearing mystery --

For Tey'tuxw'tun (Mount Benson), Harewood Plains, Snake Islands, Piper's Lagoon,

Saysutshun Island (Newcastle), Wildwood in Yellow Point, and Drumbeg Park on Gabriola

ALL: We rejoice with God in the wilderness and outback

ONE: *For rivers, lakes and all manner of waters,
Quenching thirsts,
Cutting canyons, bestowing life --
For the Salish Sea, Millstone River, Nanaimo Lake and River, Departure Bay, and Westwood
Lake, For whales, salmon, herring, and all creatures of the water;*

ALL: We rejoice with God in the rivers and waters

ONE: *We praise with the forests,
Trees soaring tall or spreading wide
Bearing fruit and colouring autumn
Making space for creatures large and small
For White raccoons, eagles and ravens, deer and bears, For the cedars, Douglas fir, arbutus,
and Sitka's, For all creatures in the in forests*

ALL: We rejoice with god in the forests

(Adapted from Seasons of Creation Wood Lake Publishing Inc.)

Lighting the Christ Candle:

ONE: *God is with us; we are not alone.
God created; God came to dwell among us; God is with us still.
We light this candle as an eternal reminder of Christ's presence in our lives.*

Opening Prayer:

ONE: *Sculpting God,*
ALL: You give galaxies their form, shape granite mountains, and design butterfly wings.
ONE: *Dancing God,*
ALL: You choreograph the paths of stars, and the flight of Canadian Geese.
ONE: *Singing God,*
ALL: Your Divine song is sung by sparrows, mountain streams, and the rushing winds.
ONE: *Wonderful God,*
**ALL: We rejoice to be part of the divine world which you love and sustain.
Amen**

(From Celebrate God's Presence, United Church of Canada)

Opening Hymn: "Called by Earth and Sky" MV 135

*(Words & music: Pat Mayberry, 2005; French translation: David Fines, 2006
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**Refrain: Called by earth and sky,
 promise of hope held high.
 This is our sacred living trust,
 treasure of life sanctified,
 called by earth and sky.**

1. Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain,
the wash of love again. R
2. Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace. R
3. Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song. R
4. Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one. R

Faith Focus: Brechin4ACTION

Scripture Readings: Job 12: 7-10
Psalm 19 7-14 translation from Everyday Psalms p. 25

ONE: *These are ancient description of The Spirit's movements for the church today*

ALL: Let us give thanks!

Reflection

Hymn: "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" MV 30

(Words: Ruth Duck, 1992; Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1992, Words © 1992 by GIA Publications, Inc.

ARR. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com 800-442-01358

Music © 1992 by Ron Klusmeier, www.musiklus.com. UBP

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1. **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,**

**Refrain: And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**

2. **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, R**

3. **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, R**
4. **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, R**

Prayers of the People and disciple's prayer:

... all this we pray, remembering the prayer which Jesus taught to the disciples,

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

(From the New Zealand Book of Prayer, Anglican Church of Aetereo [New Zealand])

Hymn/Video: "Each Blade of Grass" MV 37 YouTube courtesy of Winfield United Church

*(Words: Keri K. Wehlander, 2005. Music: Anonymous, from The United States' Sacred Harmony, 1799 adapted:
arr.: Linnea Good, 2005. Words © 2005 Keri K. Wehlander, www.creativeworship.ca. UBP. Arr. © 2005
Borealis Music, www.LinneaGood.com. UBP.
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Minute for Mission

Offering:

Offering Hymn: "For the Fruit of All Creation" VU 227 (verse 1)

(Words: Fred Pratt-Green 1970; Music: Welsh folk melody ca. 1784

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**1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

Offertory Prayer:

ONE: *We join with the earth and with each other to bring new life to the land, to recreate human community, to provide justice and peace, to remember our children, to remember who we are...*

ALL: We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery, for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life. May our gifts today act for life and community, justice and peace, and for healing and renewal in the name of the One God who has brought all into being. Amen.

(adapted from UN Environmental Sabbath)

Sending Forth:

ONE: *God of new life, you have birthed this season of re-awakening, of new growth, new possibilities, transformation, and belief. As we leave this worship, may we leave mindful to be more faithful stewards in creation. Help us to sow seeds of love and hope.*

ALL: Awaken our hearts yet again so we may live as an Easter people. Alleluia and Amen!

Closing hymn: "Touch the Earth Lightly" VU 307

(Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1991; Music: Colin Gibson 1991

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**1 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.**

- 2 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!**
- 3 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.**
- 4 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.**

*(Reflection Adapted from "Take a Sacred Pause", For the Love of Creation Website.
Prayers from selected United Church resources for Earth Sunday except where noted.)*

Slide show created by Douglas Cochrane, some slides contributed by B4Action team members