

Order of Service
September 13, 2020
Worship Leader: Laura Sundberg
Scripture Reader and Vocal Support: Don Monk
Organist: Richard Hazel Pianist: Kristine Beer
Technician: Patty Humphreys

Season of Creation
Land Sunday

You are invited to have a leaf, stone, or something that comes directly from the earth beside you

Prelude

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Land

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota nations referred to as Treaty 4 Territory. This land is also the homeland of the Metis nation.

We respect and honour these traditional lands and pray that as we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, we will faithfully move forward in partnership as Indigenous and non-Indigenous siblings in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

We all have different languages for experiencing the holy. Feel free to change the words in hymns and prayers to suit your faith expression.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Breath Prayer

We begin with a time of centering. I invite you to close your eyes and imagine yourself in a place in nature in which you feel safe and resonate with your surroundings.

Begin to breathe deeply.

Breathe out any fear that you may be carrying and breathe in peace.

Breathe out any worries and breathe in peace.

Return to your surroundings at the sound of the singing bowl.

Silence

Ringling of the Singing Bowl

Opening Words

Earth - a planet pulsating with sacred energy-
quivering in the forests,
vibrating in the land,
pulsating in the wilderness,
shimmering in the rivers.

**Wildflowers and mysterious mushrooms,
swirling grasses and goldenrods.
wheat fields, orchards, and vineyards,
hay fields, gardens, and wetlands.
horses, sheep, and cattle,
grass snakes and grasshoppers, eagles and crows.
life-giving microbes restoring the soil,
beetles and worms preparing our food.**

**Today we celebrate the Earth, and we celebrate the land.
We give thanks for the inter-connectedness of all life.**

Hymn: VU226 For the Beauty of the Earth verses 1 & 2 (Tune VU 81)

Prayer of Renewal

*Hold your item from the land if you have one, or cup your hands
as if holding a handful of earth or leaves - something that comes from the earth*

As we take this gift of the earth in our hands, we confess:

We remember the dry land
that rose from waters in the beginning,
the plants that emerged from the soil
to cover the land with vegetation,
and the rich diversity of animal life.

**We remember the gardens
and the fields of our childhood,
the places where we played in the sand,
when we felt close to the ground,
to magic flowers, and to baby animals.**

**We regret that we have become alienated from Earth,
and treated this garden planet
as a beast to be tamed,**

**as a domain to be dominated,
and as a place to be ruled for our gain.**

**We remember and confess how we have violated and polluted the lands
of our garden planet.**

Silence

**We are sorry.
We have killed living soils with chemicals,
we have turned fertile fields into lifeless plains,
we have cleared rich lands of wildlife.
We are sorry. We are sorry.**

**O Living Presence -
teach us to love Earth as our home
and to know all living creatures as our kin.
Help us to return home to Earth.
to tend this planet with love,
to nurture the land
and to partner with the Holy in healing creation.**

Time with the Children and the Young at Heart

Song: MV 156 Dance with the Spirit

Scripture Readings: Psalm 139:7-15
Genesis 3: 14-19

A printed version of the readings are found at the end of the Order of Service

Message: Born of the Earth

Song: MV 41 O Beautiful Gia (chorus, verses, chorus)

Time of Gratitude

Prayers of the People
Musical Reflection Time – Kristine Beer

Announcements

Hymn: MV 135 Called By Earth and Sky (verses 1,3,4)

Prayer of Sending Forth – Keri Whelander adapted
**This beloved expanse of life that is our Earth,
this delicate flow of breath must be cherished to endure,
must be honoured that all may thrive. No part stands alone.**

May we cherish and uphold.

**May we move through our days mindful of all life
For no part stands alone**

Blessing: MV 220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star

Postlude

Sources Used for Today's Service

Season of Creation Liturgy, Land Sunday, USA version,

<https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies/series-a-the-spirit-series-2011/liturgies-land-sunday/> – adapted L Sundberg

Prayer by Keri Whelander in *Wisdom is Calling*, Edited by Geoffrey Duncan. An Anthology of Hope: An Agenda for Change. United Church Publishing House, 1999.

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Scripture Readings:

Psalm 139:7-15

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light around me become night,"

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth

Genesis 3: 14-19

14 The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

16 To the woman he said,

“I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

17 And to the man^[a] he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”