



SEASON OF CREATION

Welcome to Worship!

Sunday September 26, 2021, 10:30 am
19th Sunday after Pentecost
3rd Sunday of Creation Season
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood
United Churches

Join us on Zoom or our YouTube channel: **CFG Worship**

Worship Leaders: Rev. Lionel Ketola and Pastor Steven Loweth

OneLicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Forest Sunday: 'All the trees of the forest sing for joy'. *Psalm 96:12*

Welcome!

This Sunday we worship in the forest. We celebrate among the living trees, and all of the forest life that surrounds us today in our outdoor sanctuary.

Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who brought healing and new life to all whom he met. And he said: **"I am the light of the World"**.

Acknowledgement of the Land

Video

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the history, spirituality and cultures of the First Nations who are the traditional custodians of the land where each of us is gathered today. Their relationship with the land remains central to their lives.

God of new life, ground us in love and justice so we can work toward reconciliation and fulfill our treaty obligations with Canada's First Nations peoples. Amen.

Affirmation of Baptism

Video

Call to Worship

We invite the forests to worship with us:

mountain ash and white oak;

cedar and birch, poplar and spruce

We quiver with the trees as they shake before God:

**when tempests and tornadoes hit,
and raging winds invade the forest.**
We invite tall trees to celebrate life:
**maple and ash; spruce and pine;
tall trees where squirrels and lichen find their home!**
We invite the forest night-life to sing:
**crickets and frogs;
ancient owls and swirling bats!**
We join with the fauna of the forest in praising God:
**moose and deer; bears and foxes;
chipmunks and butterflies!**
We celebrate the song of the forest!
Sing, forest, sing!
We celebrate the song of the forest!
Sing, forest, sing!

Opening Song VU 226 For the Beauty of the Earth

Prayer for the Day

**God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet,
help us to discern your vibrant presence among us,
especially in the mysteries of the forest, and all of your creation.
Help us empathise with your forest creatures who are suffering.
Lift our spirits to rejoice with the forest and all the creatures of the forest.
In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all creation. Amen.**

We Gather Around God's Word

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.

FIRE

Exodus 3:1-2

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of a bush; Moses looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

WATER

Isaiah 41:17-18

¹⁷When the poor and needy seek water,
and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the LORD will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

¹⁸I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.

Reflection: Pastor Steve

EARTH

Exodus 3:4-5

⁴...God called to Moses out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵Then God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

WIND

Genesis 2:4-14

Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

Reflection: Pastor Steve

Song: VU # 310 God who Touches Earth with Beauty *The Masked Bandits*

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed

SLIDE

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the gifts

God, our Creator, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.
Accept our offerings as an expression of our gratitude for the goodness of life,
and our care and concern for all who are in any need.
May these gifts bring healing and hope for the whole web of life;
we ask this through Jesus, our Tree of Life. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us offer our prayers for the Church, for all who are in need, and for the whole web of Life, praying: God of the Forest, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, our Tree of Life,
we come into your presence today
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

We rejoice that your presence is
dancing in the forests,
growing in the land,
pulsating in the wilderness,
shimmering in the rivers.

God, keep revealing yourself to us through the diverse web of life
and show us your face in all creation.
God of the Forest, **hear our prayer.**

Brother Jesus, friend of the poor,
teach us to empathise with the Earth.
open our hearts to the cries of creation,
and the cries for justice from the hills and the trees.

Brother Jesus, healer of the broken,
open our hearts to the groans of the Spirit,
groans from the deserts, the prairies, the mountains, the glaciers and the tundra,
and the winds.

Laughing Jesus, who celebrated with the rejoicing,
open our hearts to the songs of our kin,
songs of celebration from the sea, the land, and the air.
Teach us to protect the beauty and integrity of all creation.
God of the Forest, **hear our prayer.**

At this time, we remember all who have asked us for our prayers:
Intercessions are offered

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray; trusting in your great love, through Jesus our Tree of Life. **Amen.**

Blessing

Christ calls us to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion
and to serve Earth and care for creation.

May the Spirit of God,
who is in, with and under all things
Fill us with the knowledge of God's presence
in the hungry and the poor
in the rejoicing
in the forests, and in all creation.

We will remember the forest!
We will groan with creation!
We will sing with the trees!

And may the blessing of God
who creates, renews and sustains all creation
be with you now and always.
Amen.

Closing Song: VU # 225 We Praise You For the Sun Masked Bandits

Church News and Announcements

... See next page

Church News and Announcements

Worship News

Sunday Sept 26th 10:30 am - Zoom Worship with Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve
“Forest Sunday”

We will be broadcasting church this Sunday from Balsam Lake Provincial Park! Our Theme will be: “Forest Sunday” as we explore the experience of the Sacred in nature through the elements of fire, water, earth and wind.

Join us for this special service, during the Season of Creation in the United Church!

Thursday Sept 30th 7:30 pm - **Evening Prayer (on Zoom/YouTube)
for Orange T-shirt Day**

Goodwood United Church - Weekly Programs & Meetings

The Knit-Wits: Wednesdays at 10:00 am. This is **Goodwood United Church’s weekly ZOOM group** for Knitting, crochet and other needle craft. This group facilitates our congregation’s **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. They will keep you in stitches! To find out how to connect with this group on Zoom, contact Shirley Baster.

Thursdays at 10:30 am – Our Zoom Check-in & Bible Study is postponed until further notice.

Please send Rev. Lionel your suggestions about what you think our congregation’s needs are at this time, to support our community. For example, a Tuesday 10-11 am outside bring-your-camping-chair Coffee gathering for informal socially-distanced visiting?

Our Friday Morning Book Study will resume in the fall, **date TBA.**
See below for details of our new book.

Claremont United Church - Weekly Programs and Meetings

Wednesdays at 10:00 am – Join us for our Online Zoom Check in

Enjoy a chance to connect with our church community and share stories, laughter and support for this online gathering.

Wed Sept 22, 7:30 pm Claremont SESSION meeting

Tues Sept 28, 2:00 pm Affirming Committee

Wed Sept 29, 7:00 pm Claremont OFFICIAL BOARD meeting

Our Friday Morning Book Study will reconvene this Fall, **Date TBA**

See below for details of our new book.

DISCERNMENT PROCESS – CLAREMONT UNITED CHURCH’S FUTURE

At its last meeting, Claremont United Church’s Board has voted to begin a Discernment process which will use the “wisdom circle process” to discern what our future as a congregation could look like! This is a very exciting process to begin, as we seek the Spirit’s guidance about our future shape & ministries. ***This process will be beginning soon ... so stay tuned!***

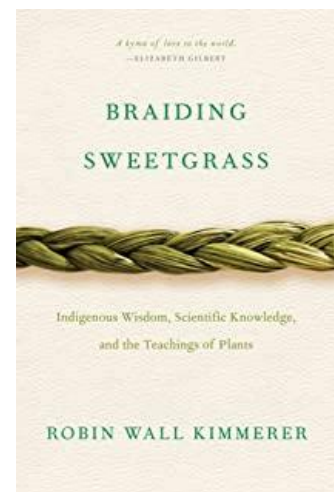
Our Friday Morning Book Study

will resume in the fall, **date TBA.**

Our New book will be:

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants,
by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

We will set a date to start our book study once everyone has had a chance to purchase their copy.





Join us for Worship on our YouTube channel - [CFG Worship](#)

- Join us for worship either on Zoom, or on YouTube, Sundays at 10:30 am
- Watch past services uploaded to our YouTube channel

Go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search [CFG Worship](#).

Continued Financial Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation's ongoing ministries during this time.

- Offerings can be **mailed to the church address** itself
- **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
- You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your online banking. **Here is where to send them:**

For **Claremont United** send to: treasurercuc@outlook.com

For **Goodwood United** send to: goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation's ministry.

THANK
YOU!