



SEASON OF CREATION

Welcome to worship!
Sunday October 10, 2021

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
5th Sun of Creation Time

***A joint online Zoom worship Service with:
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches and Guests***

Worship Leaders: Pastor Steven Loweth & Rev. Lionel Ketola
Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Announcements & Today's Worship Theme

[We Joyfully Gather in God's Presence](#)

Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who embodied God's love and compassion in such surprising ways. And he said: **I am the light of the world**

Acknowledgement of the Land

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 the First Peoples of this land. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Morning Has Broken VU 409 Fairbank Choir Video

Prayer of the Day

Creator God,

We come to celebrate the beauty and bounty

of your good earth:

glorious blue skies and blazing fall colours;

ripe fields for harvest;

gardens overflowing with goodness.

Grant us thankful hearts, we pray.

May our prayers and words and deeds overflow with gratitude.

We offer this worship with thanksgiving, now and always. Amen.

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

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.

Joel 2:21-27

²¹Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! ²²Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. ²³O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. ²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. ²⁵I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. ²⁶You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ²⁷You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Voices of Thanksgiving - Videos

Song: For the Fruit of All Creation VU 227 *The Masked Bandits & Julia Shatford*

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:25-33

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Story: The Story of St. Francis Pastor Steven & Rev. Lionel

Hymn of the Day: MV # 27 Creator God you Gave us Life

VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUMwit_YmTo

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts:

**Loving God,
we offer with joyful thanks
these gifts of your own abundance.
Help us to walk in solidarity
with all who are in need,
reaching out in love to our broken world.
We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Prayers for the People

By: Arnoldo Garcia, from: "Earth Prayers"

I breathe in rain
 I breathe out life
I breathe in wind
 I breathe out sky
I breathe in laughter
 I breathe out happiness
I breathe in the autumn colours
 I breathe out poetry
I breathe in sisters and brothers and friends
 I breathe out hope
I breathe in questions and struggles
 I breathe out clarity
I breathe in wounds
 I breathe out healing
I breathe in a still small voice
 I breathe out thanksgiving

God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, on this thanksgiving weekend,
we remember places in our world
where struggles have replaced joy,
where conflict has broken the peace,
where hunger has replaced abundance.

For all who have asked for our prayers; we remember them now:

Prayers of intercession are spoken

With our brother Jesus who walked on the earth that we might know creation's beauty,
we pray together:

"God, our Mother and Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name... Amen."

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Loving God, on this day as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis,
we ask your blessing on the animals and beloved pets who are part of our lives,
who bless us with companionship,
and fill us with delight.

Bless them
who curl themselves around our hearts
who twine themselves through our days
who call us to come and play.

Bless them
who will never be entirely tamed
who remind us that your love is wild,
and that you love what is wild,
that you rejoice
in what lives close to the earth,
and that your heart beats
in the heart of these creatures
who you have entrusted to our care.

With gratitude, we ask your blessing upon
the precious animals who are part of our lives. **Amen.**

**** We go to Gallery View to greet all the pets ****

[We Go Forth to Serve our Neighbours](#)

Hymn: We Plough the Fields and Scatter VU 520 *The Masked Bandits & Julia Shatford*

Blessing and Commissioning

May we go forth to be a thanksgiving people -

With hearts open

to the needs of our neighbours

With senses open

to the beauty of the world around us

With our lives open

to radiate autumn beauty.

And may the blessing of God

who creates, renews and sustains all of Creation

be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Sung Blessing: For All Your Goodness, God VU 549

For all your goodness, God, we give you thanks.

Thanks for the food we eat, and for the friends we meet;

For each new day we greet, we give you thanks.

Church News and Announcements

Worship News

This Sun Oct 10th , 10:30 am - **THANKSGIVING WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES with BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** on Zoom / YouTube with Rev. Lionel & Pastor Steve

Thanksgiving Sunday will be a fun intergenerational service for the whole family – children and grown-ups, as we celebrate Thanksgiving and as we also celebrate the Blessing of the Animals during our online service.

**CLAREMONT AND GOODWOOD
UNITED CHURCHES**

present a free online (Zoom) speaker series

Journeys to Justice



Wednesday October 20, 7.30-8.30 p.m.

Rev. Michael Blair

General Secretary, General Council
United Church of Canada

Being the Beloved Community

An exploration of the opportunities and
practices of a transformational community

Tuesday November 16, 7.30-8.30 p.m.

Rev. Junia Joplin

Associate Pastor,
Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto

In Front of Everybody

A trans pastor reflects on life in the pulpit
and out of the closet



Tuesday December 7, 7.30-8.30 p.m.

Dianne Saxe

Former Ontario Environmental Commissioner,
Deputy Leader, Green Party of Ontario

Climate Health and Social Justice

There can be no climate health without
social justice, and there can be no social
justice without climate health



*And there's more
a second series is being scheduled for early next year
... so stay tuned!*

Further information and to register (numbers limited)
affirmingministry@gmail.com

Goodwood United Church - Weekly Programs & Meetings

Tuesday Oct 12th, 7:00 pm **Goodwood United Church Board Meeting**

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.

Beginning Thursday October 14th, 10-11 am - "Outdoor Coffee Gathering in the church parking lot"

Join us outside the church (and bring your camping chair if you like) for a safe, socially distanced gathering as we enjoy our morning coffee & conversation outside of the church building. All COVID-19 precautions will be observed. If you are not feeling well, please join our church gatherings on Zoom instead, or feel free to be in touch with Rev. Lionel by telephone.

Our Friday Morning Book Study resumes Friday October 8th at 10:00 am.

Please read the first chapter (pages 3-10) for this week's meeting.

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.

Wednesday Oct 13, 3:00 pm **Affirming, Mission & Outreach Committee (on zoom)**

Our Friday Morning Book Study resumes Friday October 8th at 10:00 am.

Please read the first chapter (pages 3-10) for this week's meeting.

DISCERNMENT PROCESS – CLAREMONT UNITED CHURCH'S FUTURE

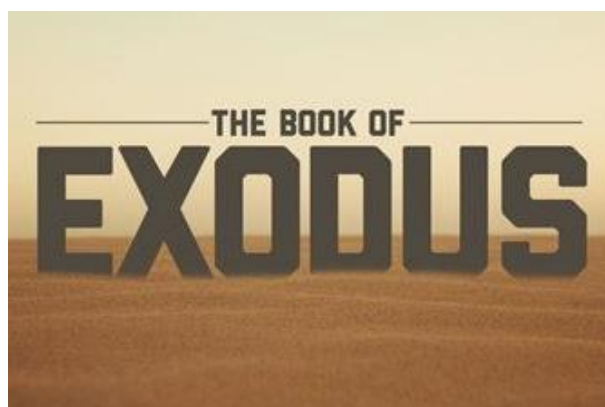
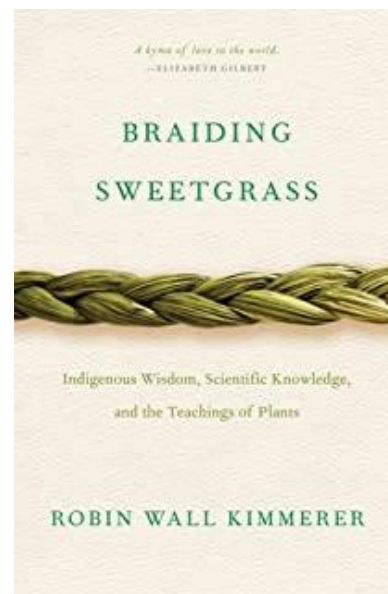
Claremont United Church's Board has voted to begin a Discernment process which will use the "wisdom circle process" to discern what our future as a congregation could look like! This is a very exciting process to begin, as we seek the Spirit's guidance about our future shape & ministries. ***This process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

Our Friday Morning Book Study

resumes Friday October 8th at 10:00 am, on Zoom.

Our New book is: **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants,** by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Please read the first chapter (pages 3-10) for our meeting. We will read the book slowly and reflectively as a group.



An Invitation to a Zoom Bible Study: The Book of Exodus, online, led by Rev. Kim at Mount Zion United Church

Rev. Kim Lawrence, serving at Mt. Zion United Church has invited Goodwood or Claremont United members who are interested to join them for their Zoom Bible study – this is a 6-week Bible Study which will explore the 2nd half of the Book of Exodus

Begins: Next Thursday October 14th
Time: 7-8 pm, on Zoom.

To join, email Rev. Kim Lawrence at: mountzionunitedchurch@gmail.com



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.

THANK
YOU!

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.