



SEASON OF CREATION

Welcome to worship!
Sunday October 4, 2020,
World Communion Sunday / 4th 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 Gather to in Joyful Celebration

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 traditional custodians of the land where each of us are gathered today. We pay my respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways. Amen.

Call to Worship – Rev. Nora Vedress – Calvary United Church Mt. Albert SK

One: Listen!

What do you hear?

The buzz of an airplane?

The whoosh of a car?

The hammering of nails?
The ticking of a clock?

All: People sounds. Every moment of every day.

One: Listen—deeper!
What do you hear?
The whoosh of the wind?
The rustle of the leaves?
The song of a bird?
The buzz of a fly?

All: Nature sounds.

There, but hidden under our noise.

One: Listen—even deeper!
What do you hear?
The wash of the waves on a distant shore?
The grinding of rocks as tectonic plates shift?
The roar of a glacier as it calves off an iceberg?
The vibration of light as it travels the cosmos?

All: Creation sounds.

Sounds of life in all of it's diversity.

One: If we listen—

**All: we hear creation speaking,
we hear creation shouting,
we hear creation crying.**

May our worship help attune our hearts and ears
to what Creation is saying to us.

May we learn to hear and share creation's urgent message!

Opening Hymn: River

VIDEO

River, rush-a-down to the ocean blue,
River from a mountain high.
River, as you do what rivers do,
River, draw the Spirit nigh.

Spirit, come-a-down to the river-side,
Spirit, spark of wondrous thought.
Spirit, I am free for you to guide,
Spirit, pray that I may be taught!

Water, let me drink of your healing pow'r.
Water, strength and life you give.
Water, as I travel with each hour,
Water, help my body live.

River, flow-a-down where you ran before,
River, source of clearer view.
River, as I walk your rocky shore,
River, see my journey through.

Prayer of the Day

God of sea and sky,

**of rock and tree and creature—
Creation is filled with your wonder!**

Bless us with the knowledge

**in our bodies, our hearts, and our minds,
that you are with us in this moment,
and in every moment.**

Bless us

**with your delight for all creation,
with your desire for Creation's wholeness,
with your yearning for Creation's renewal.**

**In the dance of the Spirit,
in the name of Christ, we pray. 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.

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

¹⁸When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." ²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

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

Reflection: Rev. Lionel Ketola

Great is Thy faithfulness, " God our Creator,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus: "Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Ever to me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Chorus: "Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Ever to me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Chorus: "Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Ever to me!

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and

beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Reflection: Pastor Steven Loweth

Communion Song: One Bread, One Body

VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kOw9u4mUTY>

[Prayers for the People](#)

Holy Healer of every hurt,
you hold all things together in love.

Still, we often feel lost and alone,
yearning for your love,
looking for you even in the broken places of our lives.
Even in our deepest wounds and heartache,
we pray for healing, wholeness
and for the strength to forgive.

As you open our hearts to the pain of others,
we pray for all who suffer from want or fear,
and for all who offer them comfort and shelter.
We pray for all who live with grief and regret,
and for all who offer them solace and understanding.
We pray for all whose minds or bodies are broken,
and for all who bind up their wounds.

We pray for an end to violence,
for an end to poverty,
for an end to all that stands in the way of your love.

we pray for parents, teachers and students,
for health care workers, and front line workers;
for health officials and elected leaders
as they struggle to offer leadership in this difficult time.
God in your love, **hear our prayer.**

Healing One, we take this time to lift up our prayer concerns to you:

Prayers of intercessions are spoken

All of these prayers entrust to your love;
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

**Everything that is, is yours, God.
You created it in love.
Everything we have, God, we offer back to you in love.
May these gifts help us to touch Earth lightly,
and to heal and mend your beloved creation.
We ask this for your love's sake. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts:

**For the blessing of this and all our days, we thank you, Gracious God.
Accept, we pray not just our offerings of financial support,
but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all that you have done for us.
May these gifts bring wholeness and joy to our world. Amen.**

Worldwide Communion Sunday Liturgy

Adapted, from a liturgy by Alydia Smith

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God!

It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

Though creation sometimes weeps,

we wait lovingly for you, God.

For you created the heavens, earth, and all that is in them:

you cast sunbeams, open flowers, and feed insects.

You are beyond the galaxies, under the oceans, and inside each grain of wheat.

You could sustain all of your creation,

but you will not, without us.

Thank-you for the wonders of creation and for your great trust in us.

Though humanity sometimes weeps,

we wait lovingly for you, God.

For you smiled on an outcasted Hagar, blessing her descendants,

you guided the doubtful Israelites, leading them to freedom,

you spoke through the Judges and the Prophets, providing words of wisdom,

you lived among us as a teacher, healer, and friend, giving us a sacred path to follow.

You could have made us self-sustaining,

but you did not, your love sustains us.

Thank you for the worldwide fellowship of disciples,

who faithfully attempt to share your love with all of creation.

And so with your whole creation, we join in their cosmic song of praise:

SANCTUS: VU page 942 (Setting E)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and night;

holy Holy, holy Lord, God of power and night.

Heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

In Jesus, love incarnate,
you provide us all we need for each day:
his words comfort the weary;
his actions challenge the contented;
his touch heals the sick;
his presence feeds the deepest hunger in our souls.
In Jesus and in his feast
you provide for us the sustenance we need to respond to the cries of creation.

The bread of life,
nourishes our deprived bodies.

The cup of blessings,
revives our thirsty souls.

The gathered community,
strengthens our growing faith.

We join with the Church around the world by remembering that
on the night in which Jesus was betrayed
he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
“Take eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Pour out your life-giving Spirit upon us,
and upon these gifts of bread and cup:
Make this broken bread whole in our taking.
Make this full cup overflow in our sharing.

We praise you for Jesus’ Risen presence among us at this table.
May all that we say and do proclaim the mystery of our faith:
Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.

Through this feast, nourish and sustain us,
our way, our truth, our life;
our Creator, our Redemer, our Sustainer.
Praise be to you, now, and always.
Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

**For these gifts of bread and cup,
For these gifts of the earth that we have shared
we offer you our thanks, loving God.
Empower us through this meal
to lend our voice and our efforts in caring for Earth.
Help us to see the birds of the air,
the fish of the water,
the plants and animals
as part of our communion with all creation.
We ask this for your love's sake. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Sent Forth By God's Blessing

VU 481

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.**

**The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us,
God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, of each tribe and race.**

**With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and the name that we bear.**

Blessing and Commissioning

(based on Matthew 21: 23-32)

May we go forth from this time of worship
with our hearts and ears open to listen –
to the cries and songs of creation,
to the moving Spirit of God.
We need to speak up—
to give voice to the voiceless,
to call out for healing and harmony for all.
We need to act—
filled with the love of the Creator,
filled with the peace of the Christ,
filled with the passion of the Holy Spirit.
And as we go forth,
may the blessing of
God who created the wildflowers,
Jesus, who walks beside us,
and the Spirit who fills us with passion for justice
be with us now and always. Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH RE-OPENING SURVERY – (Claremont & Goodwood)

This Survey has been postponed until a more appropriate time.
Your church Board will be meeting shortly to discern next steps.

Upcoming Official Board Meetings:

Goodwood United Church - Wednesday Sept 14, 7:00 PM (on zoom)

Claremont United Church – Thursday Sept 15, 7:00 PM (on zoom)

New Book Study Series: Beginning Friday October 9th 10:30 am: Book Study Group:
21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act, by Bob Joseph. After this book we will read Bob Joseph's second book: **Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips and Suggestions to make Reconciliation a Reality.** This group is open to all members of Claremont, Fairbank and Goodwood United Churches, and friends. So please order your copy of both books now!

Next Joint Church Re-Opening Committee: Thurs October 8th, 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Goodwood United Church: New time: Online Check-in: Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Once our check in time has come to a conclusion, the group will proceed with our weekly Bible Study / "Conversations about Life", so feel free to join us for this as well.

Claremont United Church: Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon - Join us for a Zoom "drop-in" meeting Everyone is invited to join us for these "Virtual Brock Café" Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community.

Past Services are being uploaded to Youtube

We are now live streaming to our YouTube Channel. The service will also be available for watching later. Please use this link to visit the uploaded services site.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HPD2ai10bo-qbNaXvNVtw>

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 bank.
next page.



Send e-transfers for **Claremont United** to: **treasureruc@outlook.com**

Send e-transfers for **Goodwood United** to:

goodwoodtreasurer@gmail.com

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



Find us online! Check out our websites!

Check out our church websites for **new updates** during this time, including Sunday devotions, and information about coping with stress during COVID-19.

www.claremontunitedchurch.com

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