

Visions United Spirit Gathering
April 16, 2023
Earth Sunday Service: For the Love of Creation

* *Stand as able*

Our Community Gathers

Gathering Music/Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Shawn Redden

God's Doors Are Open to All!

Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts

Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all
races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,
sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

Acknowledgement of Land

One: The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples. We acknowledge the long and painful history of relations between the Christian church, colonial settlement practices, and harm to these lands and peoples.

**All: We seek to live with respect on the land,
and in peace and friendship with its peoples.**

.Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sharing the Peace & Lighting Peace Candle

One: Peace of Christ be with you

All: And also with you

Sharing of WOW Moments

Introduction of Earth Week

Rev. Jane Aikman and Rev. Shepherd Munikwa

Gathering Prayer (*unison*)

As we gather, we give thanks for your creation:

for darkness and light;

for wind and air and sky;

for earth and sea;

for seeds and plants and harvests;

for sunlight, moonlight and starlight;

for every living creature, flying, creeping and grazing;

for our very lives.

In this time of worship we celebrate your many gifts to us,
and seek to discover how to share your gifts
in good and healing ways.

Song

VU 226 For the Beauty of the Earth

Words: Folliott Sanford Pierpoint, Public Domain

Music: Conrad Kocher, adapt. William H. Monk, desc. Alan Gray.

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Prayer of Confession

Adapted from For the Love of Creation, Faithful Climate Conversations

Creator God, we come before you
in a time of crisis, as much of your creation is struggling.
We search for causes, cures and ways we can work together
to halt actions that harm.
We ask for forgiveness where we have taken too much,
or cared too little.
Help us to be willing to listen, to change and to act.
May the knowledge of your presence]
and the assurance of your love
shape our time here today, and always. Amen

We Listen for Wisdom

Intention Cards

LEARN

Rev. Jane Aikman

Song The Garden Song: Inch by Inch

Words/Music: David Mallet 1975, 1993 ©Cherry Lane
Music Publishing

Inch by inch, row by row
Gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe
And a piece of fertile ground

Inch by inch, row by row
Someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below
'Til the rain comes tumbling down

Pullin' weeds, pickin' stones
We are made of dreams and bones
I feel a need to grow my own
For the time is close at hand

Grain for grain, sun and rain
Find my way in nature's chain
Tune my body and my brain
To the music of the land

John Foster, Vocals & Ukulele

PRAY

Linda Higgins

Song MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

Words/Music: Pat Mayberry @2005, Trans: David
Fines ©2006, Arrangement: Margaret Stubbington ©2005
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Scripture Isaiah 24:4-6 and 55:10-13

Joan Hawkes

Reflection

Rev. Jane Aikman

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Song VU 307 Touch the Earth Lightly

Words: Shirely Erena Murray, Music: Colin Gibson

ACT

John Russell and Glenna Lightfoot

M & S video Habtamu's story

Our Community at Prayer

Response: One: Together...

All: we are stronger

Invitation to Generosity

Sung Dedication: MV 191 What Can I Do? Words/Music: Paul Rumbolt & Michele McCarthy ©2005
Arrangement: Alan C. Whitmore ©2005 All rights reserved.
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The Work of the Congregation

Preparation for Earth Day - next Saturday, April 22nd

Song VU 424 May the God of Hope Go with Us Words: Alvin Schutmaat (vs.1) & Fred Kaan
(vs. 2) ©1993 Hope Publishing. Music: Argentine Folk Melody
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We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

Changing of the Light & Blessing

Postlude Music for the Journey

Thank you for joining us!

May each of us carry the Spirit into the world with us.

This service was adapted from ideas in the United Church worship resource *For the Love of Creation* for Earth Sunday.