



HOLY TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Minister: Rev. Cory Vermeer-Cuthbert

Music Director: Ann Foy

Order of Worship

**Creation One: Planet Earth Sunday
[Proper 18 (23)]**

Sunday, September 12th, 2021

Welcome

A warm welcome is extended to all this morning, especially those who are worshipping at Holy Trinity for the first time. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together.

We invite you into this place and time of acceptance and light, to worship and know you are beloved and held in the divine embrace, just as you are.



WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

For thousands of years First nations people have walked in this land. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the lands represented in the Robinson-Huron Treaty 61 of 1850, the Traditional Territory of the Serpent River and Mississagi people and we acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.

Call to Worship

One: I am the circling hawk dancing with joy for life.

All: God, you invite us to join in the dance!

One: I am the faithful soil nourishing each life I touch.

All: You invite us to join in the caring.

One: I am the swift stream singing my thanks for life

All: You invite us to join in the song.

One: I am the blazing star bringing wonder to life.

All: You invite us to join in the wonder,

One: I am the voice of Creation praising the God who shapes life:

All: You invite us to join in the praise.

One: Let us worship God together, in person!

Prayer of Approach

Hymn: This is God's Wondrous World

VU # 296

This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.

This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Prayer of Confession

One: For times when we have viewed Planet Earth as a source of endless resources.

All: Forgive us.

One: Earth's waters are polluted with toxins,

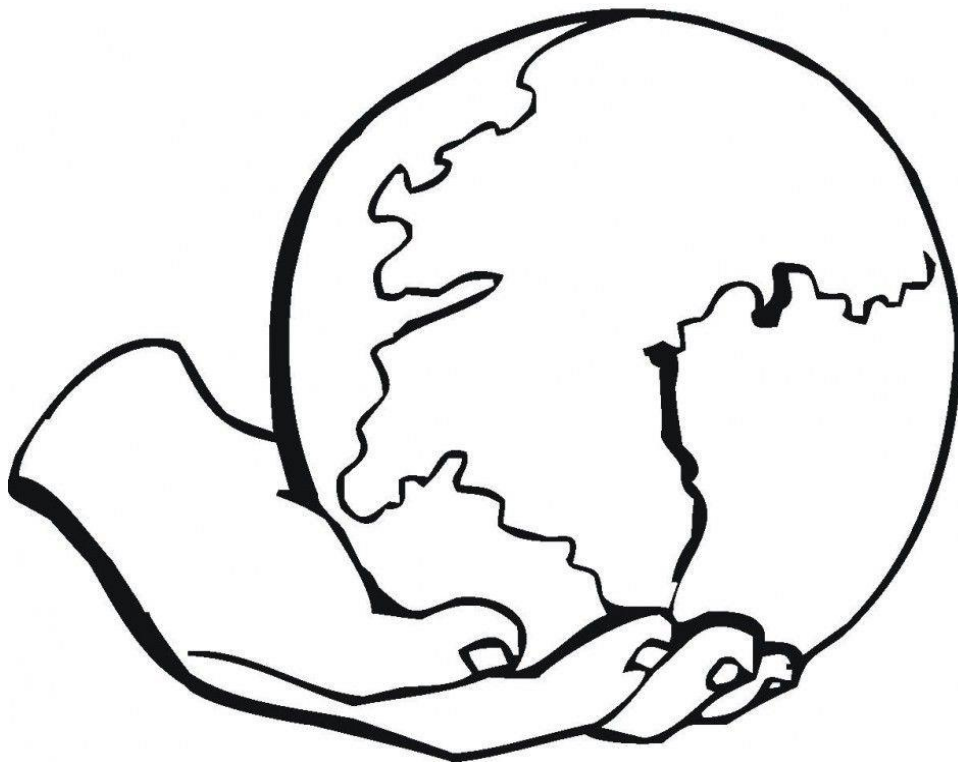
All: Forgive us.

One: For times when we have cared more about progress than Planet Earth,

All: Forgive us.

Assurance of Pardon

Sharing Peace With One Another



Hymn: Never Ending Joy

More Voices # 40

Refrain:

Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!

God of every tribe, every language, God of every river and sea,
God of every mountain and island, you bring joy to me: **R**

God of every hill, every valley, God of every leaf, every tree,
God of every cloud, every raindrop, you bring joy to me: **R**

God of every song, every story, God of every captive set free,
God of every dance, every footstep, you bring joy to me: **R**

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD SPOKEN TO US

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-25 (The Message)

Heaven and Earth

1¹⁻² First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

3-5 God spoke: "Light!"

And light appeared.

God saw that light was good

and separated light from dark.

God named the light Day,

he named the dark Night.

It was evening, it was morning—

Day One.

*6-8 God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters;
separate water from water!"*

God made sky.

*He separated the water under sky
from the water above sky.*

And there it was:

he named sky the Heavens;

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Two.

9-10 God spoke: "Separate!

*Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place;
Land, appear!"*

And there it was.

God named the land Earth.

He named the pooled water Ocean.

God saw that it was good.

*11-13 God spoke: "Earth, green up! Grow all varieties
of seed-bearing plants,*

Every sort of fruit-bearing tree."

And there it was.

*Earth produced green seed-bearing plants,
all varieties,*

And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts.

God saw that it was good.

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Three.

14-15 God spoke: "Lights! Come out!

Shine in Heaven's sky!

Separate Day from Night.

Mark seasons and days and years,



Lights in Heaven's sky to give light to Earth."

And there it was.

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ God made two big lights, the larger

to take charge of Day,

The smaller to be in charge of Night;

and he made the stars.

God placed them in the heavenly sky

to light up Earth

And oversee Day and Night,

to separate light and dark.

God saw that it was good.

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Four.

²⁰⁻²³ God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life!

Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!"

God created the huge whales,

all the swarm of life in the waters,

And every kind and species of flying birds.

God saw that it was good.

God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean!

Birds, reproduce on Earth!"

It was evening, it was morning—

Day Five.

²⁴⁻²⁵ God spoke: "Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind:

cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds."

And there it was:

wild animals of every kind,

Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug.

God saw that it was good.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 33

Voices United # 760

Refrain: A new song to our God proclaim, from age to age rejoice!

Shout to God for joy, you righteous!

Praise is fitting from loyal hearts.

Give thanks to God with the harp;

Sing praise to God with the ten-stringed lute.

Sing a new song to God; play skillfully and with shouts of joy.

For the word of God is true;

God's every deed is faithful.

R

You love what is right and just;

The earth is full of your constant love.

By your word the heavens were made,

The countless stars by the breath of your mouth.

You gathered the waters of the sea as in a goatskin;

You stored the deep in cisterns.

Let all the earth fear you, O God,

Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe.

For you spoke and it came to be; you commanded and it stood firm.

You foil the plans of the nations,

And frustrate the schemes of the peoples.

Your counsel, O God, shall stand forever,

The purposes of your heart through all generations.

Happy the nation who has you as God.

Happy the people you choose as your own.

Our heart rejoices in you, O God,

Because our hope is in your holy name.

Let your steadfast love be upon us.

As we put our trust in you.

R

Gospel: John 1: 1-14 (NRSV)

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Sermon: Let's Stand in Awe



Ministry of Music:
Soil of God, You and I (Ann Foy)
More Voices # 174

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
Seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...
Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be
Part of God's promise, for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...
Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth,
Joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found.
All stand together, this is...
Holy ground.

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord's Prayer



Hymn:
The Earth and All Who Breathe
Voices United # 295 (Tune 321)

The earth and all who breathe exist through love divine,
who formed the sea, the flowering tree, the wren, the fragrant pine.
Each woman, man, and child created from the dust
is called to share creation's care, a sacred, living trust.

The good, abundant earth is ours to tend and keep,
yet land lies waste, consumed in haste, and hungry children weep.
The nations proudly build new Babels to the sky.
Their bombs destroy creation's joy, their missiles terrify!

Creation now awaits humanity's rebirth
at last to claim one common aim: to nurture life on earth.
Awake, all humankind, the challenge now embrace, apply your
strength, your voice, your means, as stewards of God's grace.

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH THE SERVICE OF OUR LIVES

Minute for Mission

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Prayer



Hymn: Touch the Earth Lightly

VU # 307

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Benediction: When You Walk from Here

Voices United # 298

When you walk from here
When you walk from here
Walk with justice
Walk with mercy
And with God's humble Care