

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster of the
United Churches of Canada
Season of Creation: Wilderness
Sept 20th, 2020**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Words of Welcome, Announcements
from Each Congregation and Land Acknowledgement**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership included

Preacher: The Rev. Michael Collison

Presiding: The Rev. Tim Bowman &

The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Musician: Jacob Greenan

Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Julia Rohan

Lighting the Christ Candle for Each Congregation

People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation: Tracy & Tim

Tracy: Let us come together in community, acknowledging the presence of Spirit in all creation.

Tim: To you, O God, we cry, for the fire has devoured the pastures of this wilderness. Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words

Tracy: The whole creation waits for eager longing. Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Tim: Just as Jesus came up from the water of baptism, the heavens were opened. Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Tracy: Jesus was driven out into the wilderness. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Tim: if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Tracy: In our weakness we do not know how to pray as we ought. Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Tim: For God so loved the world... Amen.

Hymn: "This Paradise" - Julia Rohan

Verse 1: Before the universe was born God slept and had a vision,
fueled by boundless energy his dream became his mission
He raised his arms and spread them wide to all eternity
and from his hands Creation sprang in all its mystery.

CHORUS:

**We're all part of the miracle, God's dream still coming true
A world created out of love, a gift to me and you
Arranged in changing seasons, life to death and back again
Oh, thank you Lord, for Mother Earth, this Paradise we're in!**

Verse 2: God separated light from dark, She made the night and day
So we could have our time to sleep, our time to work and play
She separated sea from land, so grasses could grow green
Made tiny seeds and towering trees and fruits that we could eat. **Chorus**

Verse 3: God made the stars and galaxies, the glittering Milky Way
He made the sun to warm us and the moon to guide our way
He filled the sea with swimming fish, the sky with flying birds
On land he placed the walking things, from ants to elephant herds. **Chorus**

Invocation Prayer: Tim

Loving God, we thank you for the wild, beautiful, eternally changing world that is always beyond our understanding. In the wilderness, help us to find wonder and awe, to mourn when the land calls us to mourn, and to rejoice when it calls us to rejoice. Amen.

Hymn: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" VU 291

Chorus) All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours, God made their tiny wings. **Chorus)***

*The purple headed mountains, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky; **Chorus)***

*The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one. **Chorus)***

*The rocky mountain splendor, the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall; **Chorus)***

Learning With Our Children: Tim

Song: "Praise God for This Holy Ground" MV 42

Praise God for this holy ground, Place and people, sight and sound.

Refrain after each verse:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal!

Praise God in whose word we find Food for body, soul, and mind. **R)**

Praise God who through Christ makes known All are loved and called God's own. **R)**

Praise God's Spirit who befriends, Raises, humbles, breaks, and mends. **R)**

Though praise ends, praise is begun Where God's will is gladly done. **R)**

Wilderness Talk - Kathie Vander Helm

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scripture Reading:

Romans 8: 18 – 27

Future Glory

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Groaning in Hope for Creation's Liberation" **Michael**

Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" VU 375

***R)Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.***

*You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. R)*

*You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes. R)*

*You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. R)*

*You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise. R)*

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayer of Confession: Tim

Trusting that you do not keep record of our wrongs, we offer prayers of confession, to ease our hearts and minds of the heaviness that we sometimes bear. We consume without gratitude. We take without asking. We fail to plan for the seventh generation. We think as individuals not as a community, as part of humanity, on this earth. We hurt each other and ourselves. We long for the wilderness to heal and be an oasis for all creatures great and small. Hear our prayers as we confess to you in the silence of our hearts now:

(a time of silence)

Assurance: Tim

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26) **Amen.** *(adapted from the Lutheran World Federation)*

Sung Response: “Day After Day”

MV 123

Day after day, night after night,
You speak through everything. 3x

Prayers for the World and for All of the Creation: Tim

Prayers of the People: From Chat shared prayers. Tim

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we sing/say together the words that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer - Adapted [Sung]

“Ground of All Being” by David Poole
Taught and Sung by Deborah Handley

Ground of all being, Mother of life, Father of the universe.
May we know your presence here, seeking your will upon earth.
Grant all your creatures food for today, and strength for our families.
Pardon our falseness as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us in our need, but lead us to new birth.
For the glory of life and the light of life are your forever.

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God: Tim

You give us food,
 that we might have bread for all.
You give us strength,
 that we might strengthen others.
You give us truth,
 that we might speak the truth of your love for all.
You give us all these gifts,
 that we might return them in money, in time, in passion and skill.
We are all your gifts:
 you give us; you receive us; you use us. Thank you.

Prayer of Dedication: Tim

These are the gifts of God, given for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn: “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker” MV 30

*It’s a song of praise to the Maker, the thrush sings high in the tree.
It’s a song of praise to the Maker, the gray whale sings in the sea,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.*

*It’s a call of life to the Giver when waves and waterfalls roar.
It’s a call of life to the Giver when high tides break on the shore,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.*

*It’s a hymn of love to the Lover; the bumblebees hum along.
It’s a hymn of love to the Lover; the summer breeze joins the song
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.*

*It’s the chorus of all creation; it’s sung by all living things.
It’s the chorus of all creation; a song the universe sings,
And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.*

Commissioning and Benediction: Tim

Go out from this gathering with hope.

We go out with hope, for we are the children of God.

Go out from this gathering with eagerness.

We go out with eager longing to share the good news of God's creation.

Go out from this gathering with confidence.

We go out with confidence, for the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

Go out from this gathering with joy.

We go out with joy, for God is with us.

God is with us, indeed!

Thanks be to God!

Sung Response: “Isaiah 55: You Shall Go Out With Joy” VU 884

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills Will break forth before you;
There’ll be shouts of joy, And all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands!
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap, clap*)
The trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap, clap*)
The trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap clap*)
While you go out with joy. Repeat X3

Postlude:

Thank you for Connecting for Worship
Today’s Leadership included:
Preacher: The Rev. Michael Collison
Presiding: The Rev. Tim Bowman
The Rev. Tracy Fairfield
Musician – Jacob Greenan
Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley
Julia Rohan