

Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster of the
United Churches of Canada
Season of Creation: Rivers, Humanity, Cosmos
October 4th, 2020

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

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

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership included

Preacher: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Presiding: The Rev. Tim Bowman

The Rev. Bill Booth

The Rev. Michael Collison

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: Bill

We invite the cosmos to worship with us.

We invite glittering galaxies high in the sky to radiate the splendour of God's presence.

We call distant domains of space to celebrate with us.

We invite nebula, nova, and black holes to thank God for their fascinating formation.

We summon that piece of stardust called Earth,

to pulse with the rhythm of God's presence and celebrate God's glory in this planet garden.

We invite millions of living species to dance with life,

the turtle, the toad, and the elephant, the earthworm, the ant and the dragonfly.

We invite every creature in the web of creation

to consciously connect with others in this community called the cosmos.

Dance, creation, dance!

Dance with cosmic energy!

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**

Verse 4: And when God saw what she had made, the forests and the streams
The valleys and the thunder clouds were just like in her dreams
But there was one thing missing -- a witness who could see
all the wonders she'd created -- so she made Humanity. **Chorus**

Learning With Our Children: Bill

Song: "Inch by Inch" The Garden Song

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
'Till the rain comes tumblin' down

Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones, Man is made of dreams and bones
Feel the need to grow my own 'Cause 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 from the land

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

Plant your rows straight and long Temper them with prayer and song
Mother Earth will make you strong If you give her loving care

An old crow watching hungrily From his perch in yonder tree
In my garden I'm as free As that feathered thief up there

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

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scripture Readings:

Genesis, 8:20 - 22, & 9:12 - 17.

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

"As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

Revelation 22: 1- 5.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Cosmic Connection Tracy

Hymn: VU 264 - "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise; in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render. O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayer of Confession: Michael

Let us confess the truth about our lives.

We find it too easy to pollute the river of our common life.

We dump industrial waste; we throw away plastics; we consume more than necessary.

The river bears it away, out of sight, out of mind.

We find it too easy to pollute the river of our common life.

We dump indifference; we throw away casual insults; we move too quickly to anger.

The river bears it away, out of sight, out of mind.

We all live by the river.

We drink its polluted water; we bathe in polluted streams; our food and bodies are contaminated.

Our food is contaminated, and our bodies and souls diminished by the cruelties and indifference of others and the systems of oppression.

Victim and victimizer, sinned and sinned against, we are one in this river.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace: Michael

The God of the Covenant is faithful.

We are healed, forgiven and made one
in the river of new life.

Thanks be to God!

Sung Response: "Day After Day" MV 123

Day after day, night after night,

You speak through everything. 3x

Prayers of the People: From Chat shared prayers. Tracy

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God: Tracy

"Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it."

And God made a covenant with Noah and set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant.

We bring these to you, God:

our time, our money, our passion, our skill, our selves.

They are sign and celebration of your covenant with us.

Prayer of Dedication: Tracy

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

Thanks be to God!

We Come to the Table of Welcome

The Creator be with you and all creation. **Bill**

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to the Creator.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to join the cosmos in thanking God.

God our Creator, source of everything in the universe, we bring before you this day, bread and cup and with it we bring before you the whole cosmos to say:

Thank you, God, thank you!

Thank you for joining the web of creation for living and dying among us to redeem us and all creation:

Thank you God, thank you!

Thank you for rising to life permeating the cosmos with your Spirit to sustain and heal all things:

Thank you, God, thank you!

Therefore with voices of thanks echoing through the cosmos, from the first day of creation until this very moment in time, we praise and thank you saying:

Sung Sanctus:

Holy, Holy, Holy. VU 951

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words:

You are holy, God! X2

Santo, santo, santo.

Mi corazón, te adora!

Mi corazón tesabe decir;

Santo evres Dios! X2

With our sisters and brothers around the world, those who profess faith in Christ, and those who live others paths, we celebrate Life!

For us, who follow the Way of Jesus, this is a day we remember all who gather to eat the bread and drink from the cup. With those who call this *bread, pa, pain, matosh, psomi*, -- and more! With those who call this *wine, vin, vere, krasee* – and more! We come together to remember that we are Christ's people, all around the world. We are Christ's people – no matter what!

We shout ALLELUIA! We sing AMEN!

Michael

Generous God, we give you thanks for Jesus, who came to live with us. We remember how he called his disciples to follow him and become fishers of all people. We thank you that he loved eating and drinking around tables where strangers became friends and outcasts – tax collectors, gentiles, women – were included.

He told stories about banquets and barns and vineyards, and taught us to pray for Jubilee, a time of cosmic liberation when no one will be hungry. On the hillside, in the fields of grains, by the seashore, and in villages and towns and cities. He reminded us of the importance of food for our bodies and for our spirits.

Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried, but you raised him from the dead; and like his disciples, we meet him again in the breaking of bread as we gather around his table. We remember that on the night he was betrayed, Jesus sat at table with his beloved friends sharing the fruit of the vine and the harvest of the fields in the village outside the city. We remember that after he had given thanks he took bread, broke it and shared it, reminding his disciples that he would always be with them. In the same way, he took the cup and spoke of a new covenant, a new relationship with them.

Tim

Great Spirit enter now our hearts and these simple gifts of bread and wine. Transform us and them so that we know your presence in wine and bread and in communion of the body of Christ. Unite us from home and church, from living room and sanctuary by the power of your Spirit.

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.

The bread we break is Christ's gift of life. **Tim**
The cup we bless is Christ's sustaining love for us.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

We all consume our bread and wine.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION **Tim**

Let us pray.

O Sacred First Light of the cosmos, shine within us at this new beginning. Enlighten the way from this place through the shadows. Enlighten our hearts, that, in turn, our burdens may be lightened, and our own small lights may glow in reflection of you, who dwells among us. We pray in the name of the Christ, who is blessing and bread, wonder and wine, light and life. Amen.

Hymn: MV 4 - "All Who Are Thirsty."

All who are thirsty, all who are weak come to the fountain.
Dip your heart in the stream of life let the pain and
the sorrow be washed away

In the waves of His mercy, as deep cries out to deep
We sing:
Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come

All who are thirsty, all who are weak. Come to the fountain.
Dip your heart in the stream of life let the pain and the sorrow be washed away

In the waves of His mercy, as deep cries out to deep
We sing:
Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come

Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come
Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come

As deep cries out to deep
We sing:
Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come

Commissioning: Tim

You are the sign of the covenant.
You are the bow in the sky;
you are the river of God's love in the world;
you are the tree of life for the healing of the nations.
Go forth to be a blessing.

Benediction: Tim

As you bless, may you be blessed;
as you love, may you be loved;
as you walk,
may you know the presence of God,
Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer.
Amen.

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:

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