



HIGHLAND HILLS PASTORAL CHARGE

Minden, Ontario

Sunday, April 21st, 2024

EARTH Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Easter

ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOCUSING MOMENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND: In Unison

On this Earth Sunday, we acknowledge, with deep thanksgiving, the wise and careful stewardship of this land through the centuries by the Anishinaabe people. Indigenous peoples shared their teachings with settler peoples. May we continue to learn from First Nations' wisdom, and care for Earth as they have done through the ages.

THE APPROACH

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Whether we live near mountains or in the prairies—

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether our winters are balmy or our summers are cool—

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean or somewhere in the middle—

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape—

All: We are one in Christ.

One: In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation—

All: We are one in Christ.

—Adapted from the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, "[Be the Church: Protect the Environment](#)" worship service. © 2016 Rev. Michelle L. Torigian.

HYMN: "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" MV #30

1. 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,

Refrain

And by the Spirit
you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

2. 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,

Refrain

And by the Spirit
you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

3. 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,
4. 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,

OPENING PRAYER: In Unison
Creator, Maker of this awesome universe where we are blessed to live, we come with open hearts into your loving presence. May all our senses experience the wonder of the world around us. May we grow ever more aware of the needs of the all the aspects of your wondrous creation. May we grow more deeply conscious of the needs of humans, near and far. May a passion for the justice Jesus lived grow in us. We pray in his name. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

TIME FOR THE YOUTHFUL

HYMN: "Touch the Earth Lightly" VU #307

- 1 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.
- 2 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!
- 3 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.

- 4 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.

THE WORD

Scripture: Psalm 23: 1 John 3:17-18

Leader: Hear and listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“Pursuing Goodness and Mercy”

OUR RESPONSE

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and
A CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER:
(from the New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book)**

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the people of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come
on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For your reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and ever.
Amen.**

HYMN: “Christ Has No Body Now but Yours” MV #171

Refrain

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

1. No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope
of the people of God.

2. No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy
of the city of God.
3. No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice.
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace
for the children of God.
4. Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need;
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with ev'ry gift a benediction, be
to the people of God.

Refrain

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

“Your Generosity Matters”

OFFERTORY PRAYER: In Unison

Holy and generous God, in gratitude for the multitude of blessings you provide through your Son and ever-present Spirit, we bring our gifts. May they be used wisely to empower your work of justice, bringing hope to our world. In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. Amen.

SUNG BLESSING: “Go, Make a Difference” MV #209

(refrain only – sing x2)

Go make a diffe'rence. We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diffe'rence. We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

SENDING FORTH In Unison

**Surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives;
and we shall dwell in the heart of the Beloved forever.
May we always know this to be true. Amen.**

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP