



SEASON OF CREATION

Nurtured in the wild-ness of God

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Cover photo by Franklyn James

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Approach to God

Before the service, meditate and speak to God, during the service let God speak to you. After the service talk to each other and the wider community about God.

Words printed in **bold** are spoken or sung by everyone. **At places marked †, you are invited to stand, as you are able.**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome & Notices

Preparation for Worship: Spirit of life (x2) VU#381

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Candle Lighting Ceremony

▪ Joys & Concerns

Call to Worship[†]

One: Welcome! Today is Wilderness/Outback Sunday, a day we set aside to look beyond ourselves and remember the grace, wisdom, grandeur and experience of the non-human world.

People Today, we will be reminded together what the wilderness can teach us about ourselves.

One: Come then! Let us worship God whose wild-ness is instructive.

Hymn: Come, we that love (first tune) VU#714[†]

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known,
join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord,
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion
We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.
Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad. (Refrain)

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields
or walk the golden streets or walk the golden streets. (Refrain)

Then let our songs abound, and ev'ry tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. (Refrain)

Opening Prayer

Creator God,

Help us to open our minds and hearts to the grandeur of your creation. Help us remember that even when we are in solitude at the back cave or the foot of a mountain or the bottom of a silent canyon, we are not alone. We are part of this wild, grand and connected world. We are part of the wilderness and the wilderness teaches us who we are. Amen.

Preparation for Prayer: Here, O God your servants gather (vs. 1) VU #362

*Here, O God, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
Looking to our Saviour's cross, joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, Saviour, guide our steps, for you are the way.*

Prayer of Confession

One: God, we remember our thirst for more. Humans take up more and more space every year, choking the homes of our plant and animal companions. Help us to share the forests and the deserts, the oceans and the prairies, with our earthly neighbours.

Silence & personal prayer of confession

Assurance

One: We are God's creatures, in a web of creation that is nurtured by grace. We will never escape God's love, no matter how far we try to go. We are loved, supported, and held in the family of all living things.

ALL: Thank you God.

Ministry of the Word

- Special Selection
- Stories & Themes for All Ages (optional)

Scripture Readings

Psalms 105:1-11 VU pg. 828

Exodus 16:2-15 Matthew 3:13-4:4

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church today!

All: Thanks be to God.

Nurtured in the wild-ness of God

Hymn: Spirit of gentleness (1, 2 & 4) VU#375

Refrain

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through 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;
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” **(Refrain)**

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

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.

Minute 4 Mission

Sing: Here, O God your servants gather (vs. 3) VU #362

Nature’s secrets open wide, changes never cease;
Where, O where, can weary souls find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:
Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the life

Prayers of the People

God of the wilderness,
We pray that we can better aim to protect, live with, and defend the wilderness at the core
of our beings and around the world. Hear our prayers.

People: We pray for the restoration of full and flourishing life across the world.

One: in places that have seen destruction from human and natural disasters. Hear our
prayers.

**People: Help us to remember our connection to all elements of creation and embrace
that connection with exuberance, joy, and our full energy.**

One: Hear our prayers for what else we pray today

(You are invited to offer your individual prayer aloud or silently)

We thank you for all the joys we experience, the lessons from our concerns and commend these prayers to your care as we pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples then and us now.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Thank You and Commission & Benediction †

We are alive, we are whole,

And we are creatures of a vast and vibrant, wild earth.

Let us go forth, to serve, love and nourish this world of wilderness.

Passing the Peace †

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

Closing Hymn: To show by touch and word (vs. 1 & 3) VU #427 †

*To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in high regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find the good you had of old in mind.*

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face we need your guidance and your grace.

*Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have your wits about us where we live.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for participating in today's worship, I pray you have been greatly blessed.

On Piano

Lindsay Lundquist

Singer/s

Leona Harrison

Franklyn James

Scripture Reader

Louise Burton

Minute 4 Mission

Louise Burton

Cover Photo

Franklyn James

Videographer & Editor

Franklyn James

Remember to support and encourage each other and those who have any mobility or other human differences; call to buoy up their spirits and offer assistance if needed, pray for and with them and entrust them to the care of the divine.

Zion United Church is reopen for public worship as of September 20, 2020 @ 11:00 AM

St. Andrew's United Church in Enderby is open for worship Sundays 9:30 AM. If you are planning a visit kindly let us know beforehand.

Gifts & Offerings

You may also send us your gifts & offerings using the information below:

- Zion United Church @ to zionunitedarmstrongbc@gmail.com
- St. Andrew's United Church @ standrewsunitendederbybc@gmail.com
- Mission & Service Link: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/giving-opportunities>

Those of you who are on PAR and those who mailed in the gifts and offerings thank you.

We are always happy to hear your comments and queries. If you have a prayer request you may use our social media message tabs or email them to ministerfranklyn@gmail.com

MUSIC & RESOURCE

Spirit of Life – Voices United 381

Words, Music: Carolyn McDade © 1981 Carolyn McDade, 76 Everett Skinner Rd., Plainville, MA 02762, USA. Harmony: © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108-2892 USA.

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Come, We That Love - Voices United #714

Words: Isaac Watts, refrain, Robert S. Lowry.

Music: Robert S. Lowry.

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Here, O God, Your Servants Gather – Voices United 362

Words: Tokuo Yamaguchi 1958

© Estate of Tokuo Yamaguchi, c/o

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Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness – Voices United 375

Words, Music: James K. Manley © 1978 James K. Manley, 747

Plymouth Rd., Claremont, CA 91711, USA.

French Translation: © 1995 Andrew Donaldson,

Seraph Music, 14 Hambly Ave., Toronto, ON M4E 2R6.

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To Show by Touch and Word – Voices United #427

Words: Fred Kaan 1974 © 1975

Music: © 1974 Ron Klusmeier.

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Call to worship, prayers and blessing

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