



SEASON OF CREATION

The Land - Relationship & Responsibility

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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

We worship this Sunday with the land. We celebrate with the grasses, the soils, the vines and the creatures of the land.

Preparation for Worship: All who are thirsty MV #4

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.

Candle Lighting Ceremony

▪ Joys & Concerns

Call to Worship †

One: Today, we come to worship the Creator, the fountain of life. We come in the name of Christ, the liberator of all creation, and we come in power the Holy Spirit, who gives authenticity to life.

People Holy! Holy! Holy! All creation is filled with God's presence.

One: We come to worship our boundless God in this sanctuary called Earth.

People: A place filled with your presence that is alive in the forests, reverberating in the land, pulsing in the wilderness and sparkling in the rivers.

One: Yes! Our loving God is ubiquitous and so we join creation in praising God.

Hymn: Morning has broken VU#409 †

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the One Light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Opening Prayer

Holy One,

As we come into your boundless presence, we know that you see us, here us and know us. Help us we pray, to recognize the sacredness of the land as signs of your wondrous love. In this worship experience and in our daily lives give us the grace to grow deeper in our respect and care for the land and each other. This is all we ask at this moment. 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 (Responsively)

One: In holy presence, we gather: We come with the land –
Pebbles strewn,
Sweeping fields,
Craggy mountains,
Time-worn valleys as those who draw life from God.

We lift our voice with the land: Seeking from God what makes for life, crying out for the violence that has been done, longing and working for creation's redemption. We listen with the land for vibrations of God's presence, grounding all in deep assurance that God is and will be in this place.

Minister: What does God hear when listening to the land? I am land, crying out, soiled by pollution stained by the shedding of blood.

People: What have we done to the land, O God, what have we done to you?

Minister: I am land, crying out, torn apart by hatreds; used up and discarded without thought for the future.

People: What have we done to the land, O God, what have we done to you?

Minister: what do we hear when listening to the land?

Instruction: You are invited to complete the statement below either aloud or silently!

People: I am land crying out....

Sing: Here, O God your servants gather (vs. 2) VU #362

*Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands;
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.
Even in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the truth.*

Assurance

One: God hears the cry of the land - and God hears the cries we raise.

People: Let us cry out for an end to violence – done to earth, done to one another.

One Let us cry out – and let us work for – a renewed commitment to Earth's healing.

ALL: God forgive us

God empower us

God help us for the sake of the land.

ALL: Thank you God. Amen

Ministry of the Word

▪ Scripture Readings

- ✓ First Reading: Psalm 139:7-12 (from the Bible)
- ✓ Second Reading: Genesis 3:14-19 & Genesis 4:8-16

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church today!
All: Thanks be to God.

The Land - Relationship & Responsibility By Rev. Franklyn James

Hymn: Love us into fullness MV #81[†]

Love us into fullness,
touch us with your grace;
Jesus, in your mercy,
draw us to your face.

Love us into fullness,
hold us in your care,
cheer us with your presence
here and everywhere.

Love us into fullness,
and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us,
fill our hearts with song.

Minute 4 Mission

Prayers of the People (Psalm 113)

God of creation, we thank God for this extraordinary land we call home and which we celebrate with all creation. Today, we ask you to teach us how to empathize with land.

We ask that you make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation; the cries for justice from the earth, the waters and the atmospheres

Remind us how to use our spirit to connect and to be sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, its groans of longing for recreation, for new birth.

Teach our hearts to be sensitive to the songs of all people and all creation, songs of celebration from the sea, the forest and the air.

(You are invited to a time of personal prayer)

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.... Amen.

Thank You and Commission & Benediction[†]

(Hold up container of soil)

May we walk gently and be close enough to hear when you speak.
May you drink in the rain and be nurtured by the critters within you.
May the sun and the wind befriend you and may you be held forever in God.

*And now go with the grace of Christ, the love of God,
and the invigorating power of the Holy Spirit.*

Passing the Peace[†]

One: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

Closing Hymn: What can I do? (x 2) MV #191[†]

What can I do?

What can I do?

What can I bring?

What can I bring?

What can I say?

What can I say?

What can I sing?

What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy.

I'll sing with joy.

I'll say a prayer.

I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love.

I'll bring my love.

I'll do my share.

I'll do my share.

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

Penny Kirk

Scripture Reader

Louise Burton

Ed Murdock

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 will reopen for public worship On 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 @ standrewsunitenderbybc@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

All Who Are Thirsty – More Voices #4

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

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Love Us Into Fullness – More Voices #81

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What Can I Do? – More Voices #191

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Call to Worship & Opening Prayers of the People – Rev. Franklyn James

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