

St. James United Church

September 25, 2016/Pentecost XIX

Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Choir: Senior
Choir Director: Emma Clark
Organist: Ashley Ruby

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

Musical Prelude

Acknowledgement of Land

Welcome and Life and Work of St. James
Lighting of the Community Candle



Introit: *Creator and Poet, v.1*

Choir

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: Wisdom calls us to join the chorus and sing our praises to the God of all creation.

All: She was there from before time began, God's first blessing to the unfolding of God's creative love.

One: Wisdom invites us to join our voices with the moon and the stars, the mountains and the hills, the oceans and the rivers, animals of the earth, and all flying creatures.

All: We are all part of a universal chorus, offering praise to the One who gives us life.

One: Wisdom's song is heard in the heartbeat of all life.

All: Men and women, young and old, from the skies above to the foundations of the deep, we are united in praise to the God in whom wisdom continues to dwell.

Opening Prayer: (together) As we reflect on the mysteries of the cosmos, we celebrate our connectedness to this vast web of life. In the midst of our everyday, when life is full and we are about all those things we are about, we scarcely have time to fit it all in. And yet, here we are, squeezing into this not-so-special-anymore day, a moment to glimpse the Holy, to step out of time into a timelessness of awe. With those who have gone this way before, and those who have yet to venture forth, we travel roads of wonder and give thanks. May we connect with all living beings. May we sense the presentness of God in the stars and the planets. May we care for the oceans, the earth and the air. Amen.

Sharing The Peace:

One: The peace of God is here.....to stay.

All: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.

Hymn: *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker* MV30

Children's Time & the Circle Song

Hymn: *This Is God's Wondrous World* 296

Offering Invitation

Offering: *Creator and Poet* Choir

Offering Hymn: *Spirit of Life* 381

Prayer of Dedication: (together) God of infinite wisdom, we sing the song of all creation as we offer You our praise, not only in song, not only in word, but with our very lives. May the gifts we return to You this day be a strong measure of our longing to share in that chaos-creating, justice-making love revealed in Jesus, the head of the body in whom Your fullness is pleased to dwell. Amen.

Silence

Scripture Readings

Wisdom Literature: Proverbs 8: 22-31 Wisdom's part in Creation

Ministry of Music: *For the Beauty of the Earth* by John Rutter Choir

Gospel: John 1: 1-14 The Word became Flesh

Hymn: *Creator and Poet*
*Father and Mother, creator and poet, speaking your wisdom in forest and glade:
Telling your glory in ocean and river; pouring your pleasure on all you have made.*

*Christ of the cosmos, You sang into being galaxies spinning through measureless space;
Coming among us, and sharing our weakness; singing Your songs of redemption and grace.*

*Spirit, You danced at the dawn of creation, rising, rejoicing on jubilant wings,
Yours is the rhythm of cycle and season; yours is the heart beat of all living things.*

*God, you have made us of stardust and spirit, etching Your image on every cell.
We are your love song, Your poem and rhythm; all co-creators, your story to tell.*

Meditation

Prayers of the creation:

One: Spirit of the Cosmos, ... for people whom we neglect because they do not draw a large crowd,

All: may our praise reflect your justice.

One: Spirit of the Cosmos, ... Help us trust Your grace that we may discover the way of Your sustaining love for Earth.

All: May our praise reflect your justice.

One: Spirit of the Cosmos, ... May the hard work of true reconciliation begin with us.

All: May our praise reflect your justice.

One: We pray these things, as Christ in whom we are reconciled taught us to

pray: Creator God in the cosmos, hallowed be Your name.....

Closing Hymn: *Song of Sky*

(Tune: 'Abbot's Leigh', VU260)

*Lord of suns and star exploding galaxies and swirling skies,
Where You chose to show your glory took the heavens by surprise.
Lord of solar winds and wisdom, super stars that blow our mind,
Choosing such a fragile planet hardly seems a grand design.*

*On this piece of stardust swirling, on this spinning spot in space,
Life itself was born like music, when you showed Your hidden face.
What an honour to be chosen, silent planet blue and green,
Filled with glory, grace and gardens, where the breath of God is seen.*

*What is even more amazing, we have poisoned Earth like fools.
Help us change our way of living, love the Earth and love her rules.
Help us stem the tide of traders leaving Earth an empty store;
Join us now Creator Spirit, come renew Your Earth once more. © NHabel*

Parting Words

Blessing

Musical Postlude

Ushering this week is provided by:

Usher in Charge: Dave Hapgood

Greeter: Jennifer Tremblett

Ushers: Dot Hapgood, Jim Inder, Eric King, May King

