



# Covenant

*The United Church of Canada*

a safe place for all people to worship

Ministers: the people  
and Rev. Cindy Désilets

16 September 2018.

*Season of Creation 2B/Pentecost 16B. (Green).*

Acknowledgement of Land  
*(An act towards reconciliation)*

## *Gathering*

**ENTRY INTO THE CELEBRATION** *The gong is sounded three times*

With respect and gratitude, we gather together this day  
to affirm in hope and faith, that we can create a sacred  
space of welcome for all.

**So let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.**

**LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE** *The candle is lit*

Fountain of life... Pulse of life... Breath of life...  
**Earth is filled with the presentness of God.**

A planet filled with the presence of God  
**a living green blue planet,  
peoples from every corner of creation,  
the vast reaches of space above us,  
and the rocks and hills and wonders of the wild.**

Together this day,  
let us sense the face of God in all creativity.

**HYMN: JESUS, FRIEND OF LITTLE CHILDREN** **VU 340**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### OPENING SENTENCES

We invite the skies to worship with us:  
**the subtle orange skies at dawn  
and the bold red skies at sunset.**

We join the heavens in praising God:  
**proclaiming God's glory across the globe  
and hailing God's name with the evening stars.**

We join with the atmosphere in worship:  
**the air, the moisture, the oxygen,  
the wind and all the expressions of God's Spirit.**

We call the clouds to celebrate with storms:  
**to carry the life giving drops of rain,  
that give hope and healing to Earth.**

We invite the winds to join our petitions:  
**to carry our prayers to God above  
and breathe our hopes to Christ in person.**

We celebrate the song of the skies!  
**Sing! Skies! Sing!** *(Adapt. Norman Habel/soc)*

### PRAYER OF AWARENESS

**Creativity God, whose renewing breath fills our planet,  
may we discern your vibrant, creative presence among us.  
And may our spirits be lifted as we celebrate  
with the clouds, the winds, the dusk and the dawn.  
We stand in awe before the vast reaches of space above us  
and give thanks for the fragile piece of stardust we call  
Earth. May it be so.**

## *Centering*

Silence and Music of Reflection

## Exploring

### READINGS FROM OUR BROAD RELIGIOUS TRADITION

From the World Around us: "Made from this Earth..."  
By Susan Griffin. *Earth Prayers* /25.

**Psalm 19** The heavens declare the glory of God. VU 740

Gospel: **Mark 8:27-29, 31-36** <sup>(NRSV)</sup>

### CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATION

**HYMN: TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY** VU 307

## Affirming & Celebrating

### PRAYERS

#### OUR OFFERINGS: PRESENTATION

Spirit of God,  
among the streets of business  
and in places of healing and learning:

**Renew the face of the earth.**

Among the budding orchards  
and in the grassless paddocks:

**Renew the face of the earth.**

Among the tired and broken families:

**Renew the face of the earth.**

Among these people and with these gifts:  
**Renew the face of the earth.** <sup>(WCC/isit)</sup>

AMEN.

## Scattering

**HYMN: IT'S A SONG OF PRAISE TO THE MAKER** MV 30  
**HYMN: TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY** VU 307

### PARTING WORDS

Let us go in faith to ponder in our hearts  
the mystery and the wonder of this season...  
*The Community Candle is extinguished*

Hold again the fragrant symbol in your hands  
and go forth to serve.

Will you care for Planet Earth?

**We will remember our planet home!**

**We will nurture our planet!**

**We will act graciously to all humanity!**

**We will celebrate life!**

### BLESSING WORDS

Deep peace of the running wave to you...

Deep peace of the flowing air to you...

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you...

Deep peace of the shining stars to you...

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. <sup>(Adapt. Gaelic)</sup>

**AMEN. MAY IT BE SO!**

**SUNG RESPONSE: RIVER RUNNING IN YOU AND ME**

MV 163

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