



Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge

Sunday, September 07

Season of Creation 1

Kilbride – 9:30 a.m.

Carlisle – 11:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. M. Gayle MacDonald

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*Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.*

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land:

Kilbride, Ontario

We acknowledge the historical territory of the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

Carlisle, Ontario



Carlisle United Church is situated on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This land is covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

Together:

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked on this land, in their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives. We acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. May we honour one another and honour life itself. We are all treaty people.

The Life and Work of the Church (Announcements)

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The light of this candle reminds us that the light and love of Christ is in our midst.
May its warmth remind us of the warmth of God's unconditional love.

Gathering Song: VU 322 vv. 1 & 3 – O God, Whose First Creative Word

Words: Judith Fetter 1985; Music: John Bacchus Dykes 1861

Pianist and YouTuber rasmies provides the piano track and lyric video for this hymn. The text was written by Judith Fetter for the anniversary service of the United Church where her husband was pastor, while the familiar tune was composed by Victorian English organist, choir director, and clergy member John Bacchus Dykes.

[O God, Whose First Creative Word #322 Voices United Church Canada MELITA Judith Fetter J B Dykes](#)

- 1 O God, whose first creative word
set universes into place,
who stretched across the whirling void
infinities of time and space;
O speak to our chaotic day
a word of ordered grace, we pray.

- 3 O Spirit, ever-present word,
God's agent of transforming grace,
who seeks to enter every heart
with light its darkness to replace;
O speak within the hearts we raise
a joyful word of faith and praise.

Opening Words: *(from Job 12, Luke 21, Matthew 16, etc.)*

If we'd asked the animals, they would have taught us

what the birds in the heavens, have always sung loudly;

If we'd listened to Earth

**then Earth's voice would have taught us what fish of the sea make
continually clear.**

If we'd taken facts of the climate as 'signs'

and read 'heaven' as 'sky', and attended to trees,

then we would be wise as the creatures who teach us:

"to God belong wisdom and power!"

Hymn: MV 30 – It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

Words: Ruth Duck 1992; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1992

This text was written by Ruth C. Duck (1947-2024), an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ, a theology professor, and an internationally renowned hymnist. She is particularly upheld as a champion for and developer of inclusive language worship resources, adapting and editing many hymns to facilitate the use of gender inclusive language and writing over 150 of her own hymns. She collaborated with composer and musician Ron Klusmeier on "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker," inspired by Psalm 148. Klusmeier accompanies a pick-up choir during his 2012 tour in the following video – the music begins at 1:38.

[Its A Song Of PraiseTo The Maker](#)

- 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,
*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, R
- 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, R

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, R

Prayer of Approach and Prayer for Grace:

Creator God, deepen our kinship, face to face with Creation:
not just observing, but living and breathing it;
mountains that redefine the skyline of experience;
waters alive, whose tides dance with the moon;
lichen that colours the rocks over centuries;
mayflies that flutter, rejoice, and pass on.

God incarnate in *this* Earth

you enrich our awe and wonder as creatures
with creatures who sing out your praise
with a wonderful "YES!," yet....

How, blessed by beauty and mystery,
how, when we eat and breathe kinship,
do we still worship idols of greed?

We call you "endless"

**and worship endless growth
as if Earth's resources were limitless.**

We call you "powerful"

**– so bow down before powerful corporations
that knowingly scheme the climate's disruption,
no longer bothering to pretend to look green.**

We admire money's tyrants

**and desire similar riches for ourselves
while stones shout out in face of our duplicity.**

Humans in their quest for power and control

**hit hardest and first the most fragile
as seas rise, fires burn, ice-caps melt, and crops fail.**

We have flaunted small steps which should have been first steps,

**preached crisis as distant
when it is on our doorstep,
and pretended we can still fix it
as we destroy Earth of whom we are a part.**

ENOUGH!

Strengthen our resolve to do better,
to take steps small and large to heal the earth

and preserve this creation we love.
Forgive our corporate sins of
carelessness and aggression.
**Teach us to tell a story
of a ground that is holy!
To sing a song of wide welcome.
To create a place of healing and restoration.
Amen.**

Assurance of Grace:

Friends... we *are* forgiven
before we have fixed things.
We can be healers
before we are fit.
And though we know with honest certainty
There may be worse to come
It's Jesus who says:
***"do not fear tomorrow –
You're up to your eyes in today!"*** *[Matt 6:25]*
And Jesus who says:
"you're forgiven, you're free..." *[e.g. Luke 7:48]*
...to Change.
God will be with you on hard paths ahead.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sung Response: MV 70 – Kyrie Eleison

Rev. Soren Schmidt from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Chassell, MI) performs a 6/8-time version of this Kyrie composed in 1987 by Ghanaian Dinah Reindorf.

"Kyrie" (Dinah Reindorf version); June 28, 2020

Lord, have mercy on us. (repeat)
or: Kyrie eleison. (repeat)

Prayer for Illumination: *(based on Psalm 139)*

Loving and present God, where can we go from your spirit? Or where can we flee from your presence? You pursue us with faithfulness and grace, even as we may run or wander away.

In your word and through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, you have promised that you are with us, that you keep us close, and that you will bring us home. As we receive your word today, help us to trust you and find rest in your promises as you lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Psalm 139 (responsively with sung response) VU p. 861

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Give up your possessions

14:25 Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them,

14:26 "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.

14:27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?

14:29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,

14:30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

14:31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?

14:32 If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

14:33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Response:

Let us ponder these words from the Gospel of Luke.

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Reflection

Hymn: VU 307 – Touch the Earth Lightly

Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1991; Music: Colin Gibson 1991

Shirley Erena Murray's hymn of creation is performed by The Beyond the Walls Choir, a program of the Community of Christ Toronto congregation. Instead of Colin Gibson's tune, however, this newer arrangement features a setting by Swee Hong Lim (2005).

Touch the Earth Lightly - CCS 137 - The Beyond the Walls Choir

- 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.

Prayers of the People and Prayer of Jesus:

Sing into prayer: VU 661, v. 3 – Come to My Heart

Joe Pinson's 1979 hymn is performed by the Praise Singers of Windsor Park United Church in Winnipeg, including the lovely descant in the final verse.

["Come to My Heart"](#)

- 3 Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

Offering Prayer:

We continue our worship in the giving of our offering
as with gratitude and generosity
we pass on what has come into our hands.

**Give us joy in our giving,
wisdom in our spending
and your peace in our hearts for the Good of the Earth
in God's cycles of glory. Amen.**

Offertory: VU 537 – Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands

Thanks to Cheryl Jackson and Crystal Schau, part of the music team at Transcona Memorial United in Winnipeg, for sharing their duet in this lyric video. The 1927 hymn was written by American Presbyterian minister and hymnographer Calvin Weiss Laufer and, in *Voices United*, is set to an older 19th-century tune by Neil Dougall.

[Your Work O God Needs Many Hands](#)

- 1 Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve

unless our gifts we share.

- 2 Because we love you and your work,
our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own,
we ask for Jesus' sake.

(CARLISLE) **Communion Hymn:** MV 195 – Long Ago and Far Away

Members of the King Street Band at Grace United Church (Dartmouth, NS) perform Pat Mayberry's 2000 Communion hymn, led by Jennifer Eames and Malcolm Bradley singing in harmony. Mayberry is a Canadian folk singer-songwriter and hymnist who has released six albums of original music.

2019 02 17 "Long Ago and Far Away" - P. Mayberry

- 1 Long ago and far away
Jesus lived and worked and prayed
healed the sick and the fearful and lonely
lived his life to show us God's way.
*Stretched his arms out as he said
Fill the cup and share the bread
Remember me in love and joy and blessing.*
- 2 Jesus gathered the children around him
spoke of Love and the joy to be found
told them stories of wisdom and wonder
God's creation in all that's around. R
- 3 Jesus called all his friends to be with him
share the bread and the cup once again
life to you I will offer it gladly
love will be with you right to the end. R

(CARLISLE) **Communion Liturgy:** (see insert)

Hymn: VU 296 – This Is God's Wondrous World

Words: Maltbie Davenport Babcock 1901, alt.; Music: English trad. melody

This traditional English tune is performed on piano by Heejung Choi on the YouTube channel "Heejung's Jazz Hymns." The lovely scenery accompanying this instrumental track was filmed in the St James United Church garden in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

This is God's Wondrous World(참 아름다워라)

- 1 This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings

the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Blessing:

Remember that you are part of God's holy earth:
one with God in brokenness and blessing.

Let the people say, Amen.

Amen.

Sung Sending Forth:

Don Besig and Nancy Price's beloved anthem is performed by Hope Heralds, a Christian male chorus from West Michigan. This nearly 60-year-old choir is directed by Dan VanDyke and accompanied on piano by Karen Daling. They sing this piece "in the round," surrounding the audience with their smooth harmonies.

[Go Now In Peace Hope Heralds Concert 2019 Don Besig](#)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.

Online Postlude: For the Beauty of the Earth

This 19th-century hymn by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, set to a tune by Conrad Kocher, was inspired by a walk Pierpoint took in the English countryside by the river Avon in which he reflected on God's many gifts. The piece is performed by Stephen Nasby, a Manitoban guitarist and vocalist.

[For the Beauty of the Earth](#)

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- Prayer for Illumination written by Michelle Henrichs, p. 37

Remaining Liturgy, including communion, adapted from

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