

Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
October 04, 2026 – Season of Creation 4
World Communion Sunday
Kilbride: 9:30 am; Carlisle 11:00 am

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WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Acknowledgement of the Land

We begin this time of worship by acknowledging that we are meeting on the land of
(*Kilbride: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation*),
(*Carlisle: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation*),
who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

The Life and Work of the Church

Lighting the Christ Candle:

(All My Relations, © United Church of Canada, 2022)

We light this candle. May its light guide us to truth talking and to travelling good paths.
May we in turn share the light with those we meet until it spreads to all peoples worldwide.

Centring Music: MV 30 (v.1) – It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

Words: Ruth Duck 1992; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1992

This beautiful hymn of creation is a joyous and Spirit-filled collaboration between the late Ruth Carolyn Duck (an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, a seminary professor of worship, and a hymnist who wrote over 150 hymns with an eye to gender-inclusive language) and Ron Klusmeier (a composer, arranger, and editor of new music for worship who has lead workshops, concerts, and worship in over 2000 churches across North America). Their hymn is performed by members of Melfort United Church in Saskatchewan.

"It's a Song of Praise to 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.*

Call to Worship: (*excerpts from A Song of Faith, United Church of Canada, 2006*)

God is creative and self-giving,
generously moving
in all the near and distant corners of the universe.

Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.

Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.

We sing thanksgiving.

**Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery,
of living things, diverse and interdependent,
of complex patterns of growth and evolution,
of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls,
we sing of God the Creator,
the Maker and Source of all that is.**

Opening Prayer:

Sculpting God,
you give galaxies their form, shape granite mountains,
and design butterfly wings.

**Dancing God,
you choreograph the paths of stars
and the flight of snow geese.**

Singing God,
your divine song is sung by sparrows, mountain streams,
and the rushing winds.

**Wonderful God,
we rejoice to be a part of the divine world
which you love and sustain. Amen.**

Hymn: MV 30 (vv.2-4) – It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

Words: Ruth Duck 1992; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1992

["It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"](#)

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,
 *And by the Spirit you and I
 can join our voice to the holy cry
 and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.*

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 for Grace:

(written by Kate Crawford in Gathering, Pent2, 2026, p.35, used with permission)

There are times, O Christ, when we put you to the test:

We bargain with you for favours,

We reduce you to being a magician or miracle worker,

We question the merit of your abiding presence in our lives,

We do not render to you what is yours.

Help us to search our hearts in this moment of silence and to lift up before you our brokenness and our doubt.

(a time of silent prayer)

Amen.

Assurance of Grace:

People of God, receive this good news: God does not count our failures but rejoices in our strengths. God keeps no record of wrongs but counts every hair on our heads. God does not wait to forgive but hastens to wipe our souls clean. For this and all of God's mercies to us, thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination:

Holy and Loving God, may these words passed through the centuries and, translated faithfully, stir our hearts and our minds that we may catch a glimpse of your presence and a sense of your word for us this day. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

The commandments at Sinai

20:1 Then God spoke all these words,

20:2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

20:3 you shall have no other gods before me.

20:4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

20:7 "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the

LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

20:9 Six days you shall labour and do all your work.

20:12 "Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

20:13 "You shall not murder.

20:14 "You shall not commit adultery.

20:15 "You shall not steal.

20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour."

20:18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance

20:19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

20:20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Responsive Psalm 19: VU p.740, refrain 2

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-37

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Response:

The Word of God spoken among us.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Hymn: VU 559 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Words: Robert Robinson 1758, alt.; Music: John Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II 1813

Martin Chalk (guitar, vocals) is a worship pastor, songwriter, and musician originally from Paisley, Scotland, now living and serving in Charleston, South Carolina. In this one-take recording, he performs with Turner Merritt (mandolin, vocals) and Robert Williams (Celtic penny whistle, vocals).

[Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing | Turner Merritt, Robert Williams, Martin Chalk | Worship Session](#)

- 1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.
- 2 Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.
- 3 O, to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Offertory: VU 544 – In Gratitude and Humble Trust

Words: Frank von Christiernson 1960, alt.; Music: English traditional melody, harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1905

FOREST GREEN is an English folk tune not only used for this offertory, but also sometimes for the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem." This lovely newer arrangement by Dale Wood is performed by organist John Ferguson and the St Olaf Handbell Choir. [Forest Green "O Little Town of Bethlehem" \(Arr. D. Wood for Organ & Handbells\)](#)

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People:

Sing into prayer: VU p.865 – refrain "Hear our prayer"

Words: adapt. from Psalm 143; Music: George Whelpton 1897

Singer-songwriter, musician, private music teacher, and piano tuner Scott Schell sings this psalm refrain while accompanying himself on guitar.

"Hear Our Prayer O Lord" prayer response by George Whelpton #songsofcomfort

Hear our prayer, O God,
hear our prayer, O God;
incline your ear to us,
and grant us your peace.

Lord's Prayer: *(alternate from New Zealand)*

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn: VU 477 (vv.1-3) – I Come with Joy

Words: Brian Wren 1968, rev. 1993; Music: American folk tune from William Walker's Southern Harmony 1835, arr. Austin C. Lovelace 1977

John Leighton, Rev. Bruce McAndless-Davis, and Ashley McConnell from Peninsula United Church in BC launch into a light and energetic performance accompanied by pianist Angela Chu. The lyrics were written by Brian A. Wren (b. 1936 in England), an ordained church pastor and a hymn writer whose texts are published in several of his own publications as well as in many hymnals.

I Come With Joy - VU 477

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall

in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

Service of the Table (see insert)

Hymn: VU 477 (vv.4, 5) – I Come with Joy

Words: Brian Wren 1968, rev. 1993; Music: American folk tune from William Walker's Southern Harmony 1835, arr. Austin C. Lovelace 1977

[I Come With Joy - VU 477](#)

- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

I can't help but offer another version of this hymn, as it's one of my (many) favourites, both in terms of its gently cresting melody and its beautifully poetic phrases (e.g. "tune my heart to sing your grace"). In this performance, flautist Mark Richter and orchestra perform an arrangement by David Winkler. This video is shared by StonebriarMusic, the YouTube handle for the music ministry at Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas.

[Come Thou Fount - Flute and Orchestra](#)