



The United Church of Canada
Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC
Trinity and First United
Worship leader Lee Van Anandel
Reader: Robert Van Anandel
Music: Barb Goertzen

May 10, 2026

Camping Sunday

WE GATHER:

Welcome & Introduction:

Land Acknowledgement:

Lighting the Candle:

Call to Worship:

In the beginning, before there was anything - before there was beginning itself
- God said -

Let there be...Light. Matter. Life.

Life of all kinds. Plant life. Animal life. Life in ways that we can't even imagine.

And God said, "This is great!"

It was great. It is great!

In the beauty of the earth, the fire, the water, the air; with the music of the
spheres filling our hearts; with all creation living its joy!

Alleluia!

Prayer of Approach:

Opening Hymn: VU 820

Make a Joyful Noise all the Earth

Morning Prayer:

It is when we are still, that we know.

It is when we listen, that we hear.

It is when we remember, that we see your light, Loving God.

From your stillness, we come.

With your sound, all life quivers into being.

From you, the light of this moment shines.

**Grant us to remember you at the heart of each moment.
Grant us to remember. Amen.**

The Word of God:

Scripture: John 14:15–21 Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

Hymn: O God the Creator

(A hymn by Elizabeth Haile, Shinnecock, and Cecil Corbett, Nez Perce/Choctaw)

Tune: We are One in the Spirit

**Oh God the Creator the Three in One
The Creator of earth and moon and sun
You have loved and protected us since time first begun
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love, in God's love,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love**

**For the earth is our mother where all things grow
And her valleys are green where the waters flow,
Gentle deer and the eagle and the mighty buffalo
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love, in God's love,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love**

**We are one in the Spirit, In the great mystery
Walk together in beauty as we dwell in harmony,
Bringing all of God's children Into one community
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love, in God's love,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love**

**Send a sense of Your presence as we seek leadership
Pray that God will join us on our vision quest
Welcome God to come into our hearts as our guest
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love, in God's love,
And we're brothers and sisters in God's love**

Message: Rise and Renew - Return to Camp Canyon:

(Thank you to Christina Whitmire and Karen Larter, members of the Canyon Church Camp Board for the message and putting together of the slides)

Hymn MV 135

Called By Earth and Sky

Mission and Service Story: Held in Hope:

On Mother's Day, we give thanks for mothers and for all those who carry a mother's love. Those who nurture, protect, and keep going through great responsibility, often while carrying more than they can easily name.

In January 2025, in the Eastern Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine, a retreat in Tukhlya offered mothers and children a chance to step away from the pressures of daily survival and receive care. Through ACT Alliance, ACT member Hungarian Interchurch Aid welcomed families who had been displaced by war or were living near the frontlines into a space of rest and support.

Many of the mothers arrived exhausted, carrying grief, uncertainty, and the constant demands of caring for their children in difficult circumstances. At the retreat, they were offered psychological support, time in nature, and creative activities, while their children were cared for through play and art. For many, it was the first time they had been able to focus on their own wellbeing.

One mother shared that she had spent so long focused on her children's needs that she had forgotten her own. In this space, she was able to rest, reflect, and begin to regain strength for the journey ahead.

Through Mission and Service, initiatives like this become possible. Our gifts help create spaces where caregivers can receive care, where resilience can be renewed, and where hope can be strengthened even during ongoing hardship.

On this Mother's Day, we remember the strength of mothers everywhere, and the importance of supporting that strength in return.

Mission Prayer from Song of Faith:

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. Amen

Invitation for Tithes and Offering:

Offering: MV 191

What Can I Do?

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy! I'll say a prayer!
I'll bring my love! I'll do my share!

Prayer of Dedication:

Prayers of the People:

Gracious God, you are so good to us. Today we offer a prayer of thanksgiving for all of the blessings revealed to us through Christian camping and outdoor ministries. For the gifts of your good creation, which we encounter when we are camping: for forests and fields, beaches, streams and lakes, sunrises and sunsets, wind and rain,

we give you thanks, O God.

For your gift of time and the cycle of nature; for opportunities in the out-of-doors to reflect, and to feel your presence very near to us;
for rest and recreation,

we give you thanks, O God.

For the dedication of countless people who have supported this ministry through offerings of time and talent: builders, counsellors, and instructors;
for the gifts of all who create and maintain an environment of faithfulness and healing through their example at camp,

we give you thanks, O God.

For the blessings you make known to us through those who participate at camp;
for the questions and discoveries; for the friendships and fun; for the music and stories,

we give you thanks, O God.

Bless, O God, the ministry of camps and retreat centres, a ministry which is ours in Christ's name.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

*(from the First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament
by Richard Beck)*

O Great Spirit, our Father from above,
we honor your name as sacred and holy.

Bring your good road to us,
where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above
is reflected in the earth below.

Provide for us day by day--
the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.
All the things we need for each day.

Release us from the things we have done wrong,
in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.

Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road,
and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.

Aho! May it be so!

Closing Hymn VU 582

There's a Spirit in the Air

Commissioning and Blessing:

Departing MV 122

This is the Day

This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!
We will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!
We will rejoice and be glad!

Resources taken from the United Church of Canada Worship Resources.

“O God the Creator” was co-written by Elizabeth Thunderbird Haile, a Shinnecock Elder, in 1977. The song describes the Earth as our Mother, the Spirit as bringing all God’s children into one community, and asks God to join our vision quest. It was written to be sung to the melody of “They’ll Know We are Christians By Our Love,” which was composed by a Catholic priest, Peter R. Scholtes.

These words were used from the Opening Worship of Chinook Winds Regional Conference, Friday morning, May 1, 2026. It is a revision from the Dr. Rev. Cecil Corbett from the Nes Pierce Nation.

He was a Presbyterian minister, He trained Tony’s father, (Rev John Snow), and he ran the Cook Christian Training School during the 1960’s, 1970’s and was instrumental in training a lot of different indigenous people into ministry. He passed away in 2022 from covid. “A hymn by Elizabeth Haile, Shinnecock, and Cecil Corbett, Nez Perce/Choctaw.”