



Easter 4

Celebration of Creation

April 24 2012

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PRIEST: We acknowledge the traditional territory upon which we worship.

For many thousands of years, the Algonquin people have walked gently on this land. We acknowledge their stewardship and seek a new relationship based in honour and deep respect.

THE GRACE

PRIEST: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all

ALL: And also with you.

CREATION - OPENING RESPONSES

PRIEST: Let the light fall warm on the rock, let the birds sing their song,
And let God's people say Amen.

ALL: Amen

PRIEST: Let the tools be taken out, Let the work begin, and let God's people say Amen.

ALL: Amen

PRIEST: Let the flowers open and the sun appear, let hearts be glad and minds be calm and let God's people say Amen.

ALL: Amen

PRAYER OF THANKS - CREATION

PRIEST: Let us pray...

Thank you, God. Thank you for beauty: the twinkle in an older person's eye, a child's shout of laughter; thanks for greening trees and frozen waterfalls, stunning buildings and flowerbeds in summer.

ALL: Thanks for beauty.

PRIEST: Thank you, God, thank you for creativity: the skills of a tapestry weaver, the imagination of a web designer; thanks for bakers and dancers and crossword compilers, for spiders' webs and city murals.

ALL: Thanks for creativity.

PRIEST: Thank you, God, thank you for abundance: for seeds and raindrops,

for grains of sand and infinite galaxies; thanks for seagulls, plankton and shoals of mackerel, for wriggling worms and golden dandelions.

ALL: Thanks for abundance.

PRIEST: Thank you for your world, God, and for our part in it. Thanks that you are a maker, and that you made us makers too.

ALL: Help us to love creation as you love it, to take risks to value it as Jesus did, and draw us into the wildness and wonder of your Holy Spirit today and every day. Amen.

FIRST READING *Genesis 2: 5-15*

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING *1 John 3: 16-24*

Hear the Spirit speak to the church today

ALL: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

PRIEST: Hear a reading from the Gospel of John.

PEOPLE: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 10:11-18

This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

PRIEST: With the whole church

ALL: We affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.

PRIEST: With people everywhere

ALL: We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

PRIEST: With all creation

ALL: We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life; the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND CONCERN

PRIEST: Lord, there is no pain in our hearts or in this planet that You do not know, for You have touched the lowest places of the earth. There is no place in the heavens that cannot be touched by Your resurrection presence, for You fill all things.

ALL: Give us strength in Your victory over death to grow into Your way of love, which does not despair but keeps sowing seeds of hope and making signs of wholeness.

PRIEST: It is in the mystery of communion with Christ that we pray for the church throughout the world, praying in particular for...

We pray for the people of this diocese, praying especially for Shane our bishop and ...

We pray for the people of this parish, praying in particular for...

We pray for the people of Mississippi Mills and the surrounding communities, praying in particular for...

We pray for the sick, the bereaved, the oppressed and the homeless, praying in particular for...

We pray for the broken and torn fabric of the earth as it yearns for our healing

Teach us to know our interconnectedness with all things.

Teach us to grow with each other and all living things through love.

ALL: Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

PRIEST: Eternal God, maker of the skies above, lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth, Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters, in earth, sea and sky, You are there.

ALL: O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul behind all souls, in everything we touch, in everyone we touch, in everyone we meet, Your presence is around us, and we give You thanks.

PRIEST: But when we have not touched but trample You in creation, when we have not met but missed You in one another, when we have not received but rejected You in the poor, forgive us, and hear now our plea for mercy.

ALL: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.

PRIEST: Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives: "Your sins are forgiven, go in peace"

Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge Your costly generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries

Glory! through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

THE PEACE

PRIEST: Many grains were gathered to make the bread we use for communion; many grapes were mixed to make the wine.

So we who are many, and come from many places, are one in Christ. May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

PRIEST: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace. ...

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS - IONA

PRIEST: The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table - you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus; and you who have failed -- Come!

It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

COMMUNION

PRIEST: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

PRIEST: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

PRIEST: Let us give thanks to God.

ALL: It is right to give both thanks and praise.

PRIEST: We offer You praise dear God with hearts lifted high, for in the communion of Your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ.

Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth sea and sky, we sing to You.

With the angels of light who envelop us, with Michael and the host of heaven,

with all the saints before and beside us, with

Columba, and Brigid, Patrick, Margaret and Paul; with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to You.

And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of Your unending greatness.

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PRIEST: Blessed is our brother Jesus who walks with us on the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my body, given for you." In the same way, he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming kingdom of God."

Hear us, O Christ and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine.

May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing and making us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

Loving God, through Your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know Your presence in the sharing of this bread so that we may know Your touch in all bread, all matter...

ALL: We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

ALL: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRIEST: Look, the Body of Christ is broken for the life of the world. Here is Christ coming to us in bread and wine.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING RESPONSES

PRIEST: This we know: the earth does not belong to us...

ALL: We belong to the earth.

PRIEST: This we know: all things are connected

ALL: Like the blood that unites one family.

PRIEST: This we know: we do not weave the web of life ...

ALL: We are merely a strand in it.

PRIEST: This we know: whatever we do to the web ...

ALL: We do to ourselves.

PRIEST: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation.

ALL: Let us give thanks that all things are held together in Christ.

BLESSING

PRIEST: Bless to us, O God, the moon that is above us, the earth that is beneath us, the friends who are around us, your image deep within us.

ALL: Amen

DISMISSAL

Priest dismisses the Congregation

ALL: Thanks be to God!