

“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR”
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF CREATION
September 6, 2020
10:30 A.M.

*Crescent Fort Rouge is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender expression
Our mission is to invite all who would join us, to celebrate the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, through worship, music, fellowship and outreach, to help us build a fairer and more joyful world*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY

We gather for work and worship on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota nations, and the homeland of the Metis people. Long before adventurers, colonizers, settlers, refugees, or immigrants from other places came to the place we call Manitoba, the people of Canada’s first nations held this land as a sacred trust from the Creator. They offered assistance to the first travelers to this place and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. May our relationships as settlers and Original Peoples be based in honour and deep respect.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

We light this flame to affirm that new light
is ever waiting to break through
to enlighten our ways:

That new truth is ever waiting
to break through to illumine our minds,
and that new love is ever waiting
to break through to warm our hearts.

When we are grieving or sad,
When we are challenged,
When we need help,

The flame of this candle
guides us out of the darkness.

When we are cheerful,
When we celebrate,
When we accomplish a great task,
When we return to a place that makes us happy,

The flame of this candle reminds us
to share our happiness with others

May we be open to this light,
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us.

Deep calls unto deep,
life calls unto life,
light calls unto light.

We are a rainbow people, and in all our diversity
Christ's light shines through us, making us one

Here is God's good kin-dom!

OPENING WORDS

Broken, we are made whole;
alone, we are welcomed into a family;
forgiven, we are sent to serve.

In worship and at work,
in life and in loss,
now and in every moment,
Christ is among us:
loving us, teaching us,
and hoping to lead us.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

From September 1 to October 4, the Christian family observes “Creation Time”. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common role as caretakers of God’s creation. We see that our wellbeing is interwoven with its wellbeing. We rejoice in this opportunity to care for our common home and the siblings who share it.

During the Season of Creation, the world’s 2.2 billion Christians will come together to pray and take action for our common home.

We will give gratitude to our Creator and ask for guidance as we work to change our ways and to live as God wants us to live.

Together, we will pray for creation and for our sisters and brothers, siblings all, that we all find the courage to live more in communion with creation.

This year, the theme for the season is “Jubilee for the Earth”.

This particular year, the need for just and sustainable systems has been revealed by the far-reaching effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the next few weeks we will consider the integral relationship between rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living.

In the hope born of grace, we pray that the One who is our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer will touch our hearts and that of the human family this Season of Creation.

OPENING PRAYER

Creator, as your people we are grateful
that when we behold the world,
even when times are difficult,
we find more than ample reason
to express our gratitude.

We are grateful for our magnificent creation.

We are grateful for the majesty of the mountains.

We are grateful for the vastness and beauty
of the oceans and the varied but always beautiful
coastal areas.

We are grateful for thick, tall forests.

We are grateful for the diversity of people
and the diversity of their gifts.

We are grateful for the splendour of beautiful sunsets.

We are grateful for family and friends
and a Christian community to receive us.

We are most richly blessed.

Let us praise you, O God, let all of us praise you.

Yet there are so many in our world
whose journeys provide little hope.

Be with those whose cities and countries
are punctuated with bullets, bombs, and terror.

Be with those for whom there is no justice and equity.

Be with those who suffer innocently
at the hand of brutal governments or systems.

Be also with the homeless and the helpless;
the ill and the indigent;
the discouraged and the despondent;
the lost and the lonely. Amen.

WE HEAR AND REFLECT ON THE GOOD NEWS

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE READING

Paul echoes the call of Jesus to love one another in Romans 13:8-14. All commandments are summed up in loving one's neighbour as one's self, as Jesus spoke in the Gospels. Paul calls upon these early followers of Christ to love one another, for that is the best way of God. If one has love for their neighbour, they will not do things that put themselves or others into harm's way, such as drunkenness, quarreling or jealousy. If one loves their neighbour, they seek the best for them, and they "put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

READING Romans 13:8-14 *Contemporary English Version (CEV)*

⁸Let love be your only debt! If you love others, you have done all that the Law demands. ⁹In the Law there are many commands, such as, “Be faithful in marriage. Do not murder. Do not steal. Do not want what belongs to others.” But all of these are summed up in the command that says, “Love others as much as you love yourself.” ¹⁰No one who loves others will harm them. So love is all that the Law demands.

¹¹You know what sort of times we live in, and so you should live properly. It is time to wake up. You know that the day when we will be saved is nearer now than when we first put our faith in the Lord.

¹²Night is almost over, and day will soon appear. We must stop behaving as people do in the dark and be ready to live in the light. ¹³So behave properly, as people do in the day. Don’t go to wild parties or get drunk or be vulgar or indecent. Don’t quarrel or be jealous. ¹⁴Let the Lord Jesus Christ be as near to you as the clothes you wear. Then you won’t try to satisfy your selfish desires.

WE REFLECT

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

AN INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP *(D. McRae-McMahon, adapted)*

In desert and bushland, mountain and water,
we see the signs that God is with us.

In grass that grows through cities of concrete and brick...

In the faces of people whom God so loves...

In our brokenness,
there is the hope of wholeness.

In our emptiness,
there is the hope of fullness.

In our deaths,
lies the hope of resurrection life.

Truly, this is the Word in Christ to us.

The flame of the Holy Spirit is among us and travels with us.

Thanks be to God.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION "In You Alone"

We build our house on you
We place our trust in you
Our hope is found in You alone
We build our house on you

When darkness takes our sight
And straining has made us blind
Our hope is found in You alone
When darkness takes our sight

When rulers rule by fear
Your rule of love will still be here
Our hope is found in You alone
When rulers rule by fear

And if justice doesn't come
In this life, under this sun
Our hope is found in You alone
If justice doesn't come

So justice come, justice come
Roll on down the hills, come on
Roll on through the prairies deep
Roll on o'er the mountains steep
Roll on through the deepest seas
Justice come, justice come

We build our house on you
We place our trust in you
Our hope is found in You alone
We build our house on you

I AM the inspiration that moves you,

I AM the refuge where you can grieve and let down
I AM the life force that calls you to live out
my unending Love once more
In your living, dying, and rising, I AM

PRAYER

Holy God, our world has been wracked by violence.

Things seem to be falling apart,
and all we can do sometimes is focus on our own lives,
our own homes, our own community, and move forward.

Help us to seek You,
and to turn our focus away from ourselves
and to see how we can be a difference in the world.

Guide us in Your ways of love, justice and mercy,
so that we might live the life You have set before us.

Help us to trust in You, when things are falling apart,
that You will help us move on,
and You will always lead us into new life.

Gracious God, you hear our prayers,
You strengthen our hearts
You bless, over and over.

Be with those who suffer
and bring them peace.

Be with those who hunger
and nourish them, as only you can.

Be with those who weep
and wipe away their tears.

Be with those who rejoice
and share their joy.

Be with us all, however we are this day.

And help us to be your hands and heart
loving others as we love self, and you.

Help us to pray for all:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

A VIDEO

<https://www.facebook.com/MetUnited/videos/315497346219069/>

A PRAYER—*Rev. Richard Bott*

God of all places,
God of all times,
God of the certain and
God of the paradox -
help us to know that you are with us
as we wander this circuitous path.

Some of us will move through the doors
to physical places of sanctuary;
to join with others in our community of faith,
in prayer and praise,
in song and celebration.

Others of us will gather in virtual spaces,
where our hearts reach out to one another,
as we worship together, apart.

However we come together, it will be different.
Perhaps because of the changes required for safety;
perhaps because of the changes needed for this medium;
Things will be... different.

Help us to see those changes as opportunity,
as possibility, as wonder!

Help us to touch lightly on each other's grief,
each other's frustrations,
not knowing what will be missed, one from another.

And, help us, O God,
to be people who take each other's safety seriously,
who act wisely and compassionately,
guided by your Spirit.

Where hands are washed,
and smiles are seen in peoples' whole being;

Where masks are worn,
and we sing with our hearts;

Where physical distancing is practiced,
but, socially, we are never apart...

and remind us, please, that where two or more
are gathered in your Name, you are -

Bless us, we pray;
Bless our communities, we pray;
Bless your world, we pray.

Alleluia, loving God! Alleluia, AMEN!

WORDS OF BLESSING AND SENDING

FINAL WORDS

May those who are strong
go out into the world with gentleness,

May those who are weak
go on their way with new strength.

May those who are confident by nature
walk now with humility,

May those who are anxious
step out with more certainty.

Get on with life, knowing that you are
the sisters and brothers, siblings all of Jesus,
and the children of the Most High God.