

April 16th
Worship Service- Earth Day and Josh Ward

Welcome / Announcements

Land and Affirming Acknowledgements

Today we gather on treaty one land, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree and Dakota peoples, and in the heart of the Red River Metis Nation. May we live in peace and friendship with the peoples of this land, honouring their relationship with the land, water, plants and animals through the many generations. For we are all treaty people.

***As we enter this time of worship,
The rainbow candle is lit
To symbolize and remind us
Of the commitment that we have made
To be an inclusive and affirming community
And that all God's people belong here.***

Call to Worship

People of God look around and see the glory of creation-
**sea and sky, earth and plants, the beautiful creatures all flowing together like
life giving water.**

People of God, look around and see the faces of those we know and love-
**Neighbours and friends, sisters and brothers-
A community of kindred hearts.**

People of God,
Look around and see the faces of those we hardly know-
**Strangers, visitors, forgotten friends-
The ones who need an outstretched hand.**

People of God,
Look around and see all the images of God assembled here.
**In me, in you, in each of us,
God's spirit shines for all to see.**

People of God, come. Let us worship together.

Hymn VU#226 For the Beauty of the Earth

Prayer seeking Wholeness and Words of Grace

Great Spirit, you created this Earth and its people and declared it was very good.

You made us stewards of your marvellous world but we, in our quest for “new and improved everything”, have failed to protect and nurture our Earth home and its inhabitants.

Help us understand and love what you have loved and called “very good”.

Creator, for decades we have stood by listening to warnings but not hearing. We have searched for causes and cures and the collaborative ways we can commit to care for creation and each other. But we need your help, Oh God.

Instill in us the courage, fortitude and conviction to act upon what we know. Help us understand and love what you have loved and called “very good”.

We thank you for your forgiving grace and for all those who work faithfully to lead your people in good stewardship of the Earth and all who live here.

We are encouraged to love what you have loved and called “very good”.

Hymn MV#135 Called by Earth and Sky

Scripture:

Genesis 1: 29-31

Isaiah 55: 10-12

Matthew 22: 36 -40

Choir Anthem **Look at the World**

Reflection - Josh Ward - Lead at 1 Just City West End site (formerly St. Matthews Maryland).

Offering : MV#191 What Can I Do?

Offering Prayer

Thank you God for the bounty in our lives: the glorious earth and the people of the earth. Thank you for the opportunity to be of use and share our gifts within this church, this community, the world.

New Creed

**We are not alone,
We live in God's World.
We believe in God:
Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus,
The word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
To celebrate God's presence,
To live with respect in Creation,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death.
God is with us.
We are not alone.**

Prayers of the People

Jesus Prayer- Paraphrase of the Prayer of Jesus. VU 916

**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 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 for ever. AMEN**

Hymn VU#510 We Have this Ministry

Commissioning and Benediction

Knowing that what God has created for the Earth and humankind is “all very good”.

Knowing that God will strengthen us as stewards of the Earth and humankind, let us be thankful and go out with Joy.

Hymn VU#884 You Shall Go Out with Joy. X3