



EARTHSONG 2022:
**WHAT IF THE CHURCHES TOOK THE CLIMATE CRISIS
SERIOUSLY?**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022 AT 7 P.M.

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

We are in the heart of downtown Toronto, and we gather to celebrate on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Our beautiful building connects us to the rich heritage of our city while also drawing us deeper into the roots of our Anglican tradition. Just as the streetscape around us has evolved over the years, our members have changed to reflect the growing, vibrant and progressive Christian community found at the Redeemer today. We come from a variety of faith traditions (and sometimes no faith tradition at all), and we like it that way. We are students, workers, retired, homeless, not limited by sexual orientation, gender identity or personal history. We are at the very beginning of our life with Jesus, and we are deeply steeped in a life complicated by faith. We open our doors to worship God and to learn about Jesus, and how all of this might just transform our lives.

If you would like to stay up to date with our news and events, please feel free to subscribe to our eNewsletter by going to theredeemer.ca/newsletters.

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SEASON OF CREATION

Tonight we celebrate the opening of the Season of Creation with ‘EarthSong’, a celebration of the natural world through poetry, song, and prayer. Special thanks to the Creation Matters team for constructing tonight’s service.

The Honourable **Elizabeth May**, M.P. Saanich-Gulf Islands on the territory of the W SÁNEĆ Nation will offer the reflection this evening.

Join us in person or on Zoom on **Tuesday, October 4 at 7 PM** for a panel discussion moderated by Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto. Panelists include The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, 26th Governor General of Canada and an Anglican, Paige Souter, Member, Bishop’s Committee for Creation Care, The Rev’d Alison Hari-Singh, adjunct lecturer, Trinity College and Brian Walsh, activist theologian, former pastor of the Wine Before Breakfast community, Wycliffe College. Registration is open on www.theredeemer.ca.

Season of Creation continues through to October 23. A full list of Sunday services is at the end of this order of service.

Land Acknowledgement

Jim Boyles

A soundscape sets the stage for our journey

Song: “The Beautiful Creatures” (*Bruce Cockburn*)

There's a knot in my gut
As I gaze out today
On the planes of the city
All polychrome grey
When the skin is peeled off it
What is there to say?
The beautiful creatures are going away

Like a dam on a river
My conscience is pressed
By the weight of hard feelings
Piled up in my breast
The callous and vicious things
Humans display
The beautiful creatures are going away
Why?

From the stones of the fortress
To the shapes in the air
To the ache in the spirit
We label despair
We create what destroys
Bind ourselves to betray
The beautiful creatures going away
Going away

Hymn: “Blue Green Hills”

Please rise as you are able

Verses 1 & 3



For the earth, for - ev - er turn - ing, For the skies, for ev - 'ry sea,



To our Lord we sing re - turn - ing home to our blue green hills of earth.

Verse 2

For the sun, for rain and thunder,
For the land that makes us free,
For the stars, for all the heavens,
sing we our joyful praise to Thee.

Words and music by Kim Oler. Choral Setting by Paul Halley. © 1981, 1982 by Kim Oler (Administered by Helium Music/BMI). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

First Reading: from *Great Tide Rising* by Kathleen Dean Moore *(Read by Jean Bubba)* *Please be seated*

The moral centre of the ancient cosmology that recognizes the rights of nature is the ultimate and absolute worth of nature - the source of all life, the creative genesis, the mother, Pachamama, Mother Earth.... There is no separation between nature and culture, animals and humans - we are all one interactive system, and it is a beautiful, generative and fearsome complexity with creative, and disruptive feedback loops....

There is a sort of cosmic justice in the world....Pachamama gives back as she gets. If humans live respectfully, in harmony and balance, earthquakes will still shake the mountainsides and volcanoes will continue to pour lava down the valleys. But Earth will be merciful, and the villages will not be destroyed. If humans live stupidly, cravenly, with reckless disregard for the rights of nature, nature's fury cannot be contained.....

....In a time of climate chaos, humans are beginning to feel the sting, the consequences of ignoring the rights of the Earth. Pachamama's storms and droughts and inundations demonstrate the practical wisdom and the moral wisdom of granting her the rights She merits. That means that humans are called to acknowledge new moral and legal responsibilities toward the Earth - to honor the inherent worth of life, living things, and the natural systems that support them; to restrain their own behavior in order to bring their narrowly self-regarding urges into balance with the creative urgency of the natural world;

to accept full membership in the family of living things, an interdependent whole that is beautiful and astonishing and alive.

Motet: Agnus Dei from Missa Gaia (*Paul Winter / Jim Scott*)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Second Reading: Job 12:7-10; Psalm 104: 27-30, 33, 34, 35b

(*Read by Andrew Scorer*)

But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?

In God's hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

All of us depend on you, Creator God, to give us food when we need it.

You give it to us, and we eat it; you provide food, and we are satisfied.

When you turn away, we are afraid;

when you take away your breath, we die and go back to the dust from which we came.

But when you give us breath, we are created; you give new life to the earth.

I will sing to the LORD all my life; as long as I live I will sing praises to my God.

Song: Peace (*Horace Silver*)

There's a place that I know
Where the sycamores grow
And daffodils have their fun
Where the care of the day
Seem to slowly fade away
In the glow of the evening sun
Peace when the day is done
If I go there real late
Let my mind meditate
On everything to be done

If I search deep inside
Let my conscience be my guide
Then the answers are sure to come
Don't have to worry none

When you find peace of mind
Leave your worries behind
Don't say that it can't be done
With a new point of view
Life's true meaning comes to you
And the freedom you seek is won

Peace is for everyone

Third Reading - The Peace of Wild Things (*Wendell Berry*)

(*Read by MJ Wilson*)

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the middle of the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting for their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Hymn: #92 (Sing a New Creation) “In Sacred manner may we walk” (Teague)

Please rise as you are able and sing



1. In sa-cred man-ner may we walk up - on the fair and lov-ing earth, in
2. In sa-cred man-ner may we see the lu - mi - nous and lov-ing stars, with
3. In sa-cred man-ner may we touch the sus - pi - rant and lov-ing green. Give
4. In sa-cred man-ner may we hear the pound-ing waves, the scar-ing fire, the
5. In sa-cred man-ner may we live a - mong the wise and lov-ing ones, sit
6. In sa-cred man-ner may we walk up - on the fair and lov-ing earth, in



beau-ty move, in beau-ty love the liv - ing round that brought us birth. We
won-der and with awe be - hold their ev - er new cre - a - tive pow'rs. The
hon-our and give grat - i - tude for shade, for bloom, for gift un - seen. The
rush-ing wind, the sing-ing night, the for - est hymn, the lov - ing choir. The
hum-bly, as at sa-ges' feet, by four-legged, finned, and feath-ered ones. The
beau-ty move, in beau-ty love the liv - ing round that brought us birth. We



stand on ho - ly ground. We stand on ho - ly ground.
heav - ens show us God. The heav - ens show us God.
trees shall shout for joy. The trees shall shout for joy.
morn-ing stars shall sing. The morn-ing stars shall sing.
an - i - mals will teach. The an - i - mals will teach.
stand on ho - ly ground. We stand on ho - ly ground.

Text: Susan Palo ~~Cherwin~~, 1997,
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Music: Thomas ~~Paylechko~~, 2008. ©
Augsburg Fortress.

Fourth Reading - Isaiah 35: 1-6

(Read by Peter Bennett) Please be seated

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert.

Motet: Hymne au soleil (*Lili Boulanger*)

Du soleil qui renaît bénissons la puissance.

Avec tout l'univers célébrons son retour.

Couronné de splendeur, il se lève, il s'élance.

Le réveil de la terre est un hymne d'amour.

Sept coursiers qu'en partant le Dieu contient à peine,

Enflamment l'horizon de leur brûlante haleine.

O soleil fécond, tu parais!

Avec ses champs en fleurs, ses monts, ses bois épais,

La vaste mer de tes feux embrasée,

L'univers plus jeune et plus frais,

Des vapeurs de matin sont brillants de rosée.

~Casimir Delavigne

Let us bless the power of the reborn sun.

With all the universe let us celebrate its return.

Crowned with splendor, it rises, it soars.

The waking of the earth is a hymn of love.

Seven rushing steeds that the God scarcely holds back

Ignite the horizon with their scorching breath.

Oh, vivid sun, you appear!

With its fields in bloom, its mountains, its thick forests,

The vast sea set ablaze by your fires,

The universe, younger and fresher,

With morning vapors are glistening with dew.

Fifth Reading - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 *(The First Nations Version of the NT)*

(Read by Sandra Campbell)

I'm saying that anyone who has been joined together with the Chosen One is now part of the New Creation for in the Chosen one the old creation has faded away and the new creation has come into being. It is the Great Spirit himself who has done all this! Through the Chosen One, Creator has removed the hostility between human beings and himself, bringing all creation into harmony once again. The Great Spirit has chosen us to represent him in the sacred task of helping others find and walk this path of peacemaking and healing--turning enemies into friends.

The Great Spirit was not holding people's broken ways against them. Instead he was working in the Chosen One to bring people back into harmony with himself. He has now given us the honour of bringing this message to others. So we now represent the Chosen One. It is as if Creator is speaking through us, calling out for all people to be restored back to the Great Spirit. [Jesus], the one who knew no broken ways, was chosen by the Great Spirit to bear our broken ways, so that we would become the ones who represent his right ways.

Introduction: The Very Rev'd M. Ansley Tucker, Rector of Christ Church Cathedral and Dean of Columbia

Reflection: The Honourable **Elizabeth May**, M.P. Saanich-Gulf Islands on the territory of the W SÁNEĆ Nation

If you would like to make a monetary donation to support the ministry of Church of the Redeemer, we invite you to:

- Place your gift in the offering plate
- Use the tap and give kiosk at the door
- Visit theredeemer.ca/donate
- Use this QR code



Your support allows us to be witnesses to God's love on our corner of Bloor and Avenue Road - now, and in the future.

Thank you for joining us today.

Offertory Hymn: "Abundant Life"

Please rise as you are able and sing



1. We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild flow'rs grow-ing, for
2. When bod-ies shiv-er in the night and wea-ry, wait for morn-ing, when
3. God calls hu-man-i-ty to join as part-ners in cre-a-ting a



we are part of all that is with-in life's riv-er flow-ing, with
chil-dren have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing, God
fu-ture free from want or fear, life's good-ness cel-e-bra-ting, that



o-pen hands re-ceive and share the gifts of God's cre-a-tion, that
calls hu-man-i-ty to wake, to join in com-mon la-bour, that
new world beck-ons from a-far, in-vites our shared en-dea-vour, that



all may have a-bun-dant life In ev-'ry earth-ly na-tion.
all may have a-bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bour.
all may have a-bun-dant life and peace en-dure for-ev-er.

Text: Ruth Duck (1947-). Music: Attrib. Robert Lowry (1826-1899).

Priest: Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise. **Amen.**

Litany from the Chinook Psalter *(adapted)*

*Please rise as you are able
(Led by Richard Van Delft)*

We call upon the Earth, our beloved home, with its beautiful depths and soaring heights,
its vitality and abundance of life.

Teach us, and show us the way

We call upon the waters that bring life to the earth, that fall upon our gardens and fields,
that flow in the rivers and streams of the watersheds of the Humber and Don rivers, that
fill the Great Lakes and flow to the oceans.

Teach us, and show us the way

We call upon the forests and rocks of the Canadian Shield, the great trees reaching strongly to the sky with earth in their roots and the heavens in their branches, the pine and the maple and the silver birch.

Teach us, and show us the way

We call upon the creatures of the fields and forests and lakes, our brothers and sisters the chipmunks and squirrels, the foxes and the deer, the hawks and red-winged blackbirds, the bass and the trout, who share our beautiful home.

Teach us, and show us the way

We call upon the land which grows our food, the nurturing soil the fertile fields, the abundant gardens and orchards.

Teach us, and show us the way

We call, with thanksgiving, upon all those who have lived on this earth, our ancestors and our friends, who dreamed the best for future generations, and upon whose lives our lives are built.

Teach us, and show us the way

We call upon all that we hold most sacred, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit of love and truth which flows through all the universe to be with us.

Teach us, and show us the way

Common Prayer *(St. Hilda paraphrase)*

Together we pray:

God, who cares for us,

The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe,

Let justice, kindness and love

shine in our world.

Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.

Give us the food and the hope we need for today.

Forgive us our wrongdoing

as we forgive the wrongs done to us.

Protect us from pride and from despair

and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.

In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,

while worlds come and go. Amen.

Earth Song: Down to earth (*Peter Gabriel*)

Did you think that your feet had been bound
By what gravity brings to the ground?
Did you feel you were tricked
By the future you picked?
Well, come on down

All these rules don't apply
When you're high in the sky
So come on down
Come on down

We're coming down to the ground
There's no better place to go
We've got snow up on the mountains
We've got rivers down below

We're coming down to the ground
To hear the birds sing in the trees
And the land will be looked after
We send the seeds out in the breeze

Did you think you'd escaped from routine
By changing the script and the scene?
Despite all you made of it
You're always afraid of the change

You've got a lot on your chest
Well, you can come as my guest
So come on down
Come on down

We're coming down...

Like the fish in the ocean
We felt at home in the sea
We learned to live off the good land
We learned to climb up a tree

Then we got up on two legs
But we wanted to fly

Oh, when we messed up our homeland
And set sail for the sky

We're coming down...

We're coming down
Comin' down to earth
Like babies at birth
Comin' down to earth
Redefine your priorities
These are extraordinary qualities
To find on earth
Coming down, coming down...

The Blessing

Steven Mackison

Priest: May God create in you a new heart and a new vision
that the gifts of the Spirit may work in you and renew the face of the earth
and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and life giving Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Priest: Go forth that you may step gently and live simply,
with respect and love for all that God has made. Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

WORSHIP WITH US
SUNDAY SERVICES DURING SEASON OF CREATION

Sunday, October 2 – 7 PM

EarthSong

Sunday, October 9

What if lively gratitude for the gift of Creation was paramount in every decision the church makes?

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

Sunday, October 16

What if, as followers of Jesus, we lived out our primary calling as caretakers of Creation in every decision we make?

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

7 PM – Season of Creation Bach Vespers

Sunday, October 23

Harvesting the Season of Creation

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

7 PM – Season of Creation Rock Eucharist