



EARTHSONG 2023:
LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF CREATION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023 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.

theredeemer.ca

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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.

Alanna Mitchell, acclaimed Canadian science journalist, author and playwright will offer the reflection this evening.

Season of Creation continues through to October 29. A full list of Sunday services is at the end of this order of service.

Officiant: Steven Mackison

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

During the Gathering Song, “The Beings” will be processed into the worship space. More information about the All Beings Confluence is available at the end of this order of service.

Gathering Song: Vegetaciones (*Mikos Theodorakis / Pablo Neruda*) *Please rise as you are able*

A las tierras sin nombres y sin números
bajaba el viento desde otros dominios,
traía la lluvia hilos celestes,
y el dios des altares impregnados
devolvía las flores y las vidas.

*To lands without names, without numbers,
the wind descended from other dominions,
the rain pulled down heavenly filaments
and the god of the anointed altars
granted flowers and life.*

En la fertilidad crecía el tiempo.

In this luxuriance time grew.

Litany from the Chinook Psalter (*adapted*)

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

First Reading: Listen ...

Please be seated

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.

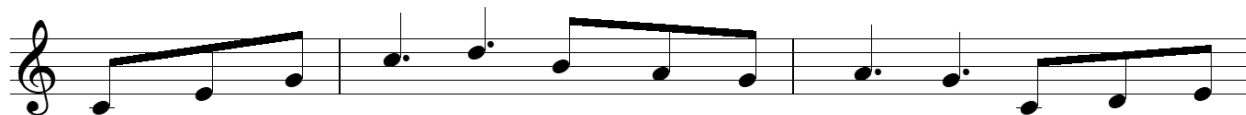
But when you give us breath, we are created; you give new life to the earth.

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

~ Job 12:7-10; Psalm 104: 27-30, 33

Hymn: God the Creator (Common Praise #445)

Please rise as you are able and sing



1. God the Cre - a - tor, you in love made me who once was
2. O Christ the Sav - iour, you in love called me who once was
3. O God the Spir - it, you in love move me who once was
4. And with the peo - ple sum - moned to - geth - er to be the



noth - ing but now have grown. I bring the best of all my life
no one lost and a - lone. I pledge to go wher - ev - er you
no - where and felt un - known. I know my need of you for com -
church in which faith is sown, I make my prom - ise to live for



of - fers; for you I share what - ev - er I own.
sum - mon, mak - ing your will and pur - pose my own.
pan - ion: all things can change when not on my own.
Je - sus and let the world know all are his own.

Text: John L. Bell (1949-). Music: BUNESSAN. Melody
Gaelic trad.; arr. The Iona Community (Scotland). Text and
arr. © 1989 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland). Used
by permission of GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive agent.

Second Reading: Praise...

Please be seated

Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,

Who is the day through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,

Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,

In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,

And fair and stormy, all weather's moods,

by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,

So useful, humble, precious and pure.

Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,

through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

...

Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned.

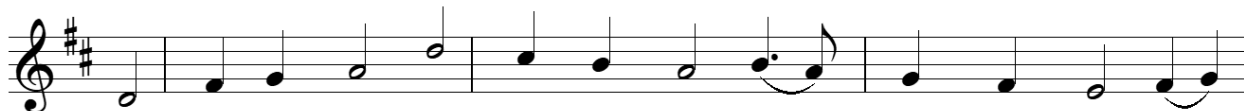
...

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks,
And serve Him with great humility.

~ From the Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon
by St. Francis of Assisi

Hymn: Let All Creation Bless our God (Common Praise #419)

Please rise as you are able and sing



1. Let all cre - a - tion bless our God, till heaven with praise is
2. All liv - ing things up - on this earth, green fer - tile hills and
3. Let all the peo - ple ev - ery - where, lift up a hymn of



ring - ing. Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord, stir
moun - tains, sing to the God who gave you birth; be
glo - ry; all you who know God's stead - fast care, tell



up the an - gels' sing - ing. Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet! Make
joy - ful, springs and foun - tains. Lithe wa - ter - life, bright air - borne birds, wild
out sal - va - tion's sto - ry. No tongue be si - lent; sing your part you



mu - sic, day, night, cold, and heat: ex - alt the God who made you.
rov - ing beasts, tame flocks and herds: ex - alt the God who made you.
hum - ble souls and meek of heart; ex - alt the God who made you.

Third Reading: Lament ...

Please be seated

This is the land.
It grows in your blood
and you grow.
If it dies in your blood
You die out.

.....

What if it doesn't die
in your blood, if it hasn't,
if you would *never let that happen*,
yet, your forest vanishes,
your insects disappear,
your favourite fruits and buds.
Your water poisoned,
Your air poisoned, beloved sunlight
Harms your skin.
There is no way to go on living—
Even with the land in your blood
still singing. What then,
You cry. what then?

~ From *Niche* by Pablo Neruda and Basma Kavanagh

Song: Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology) (*Marvin Gaye*)

Woah-oh, oh mercy, mercy me
Oh, things ain't what they used to be, no no
Where did all the blue skies go?
Poison is the wind that blows from the North and South and East

Woah-oh, mercy, mercy me
Oh, things ain't what they used to be, no no
Oil wasted on the oceans and upon our seas
Fish full of mercury

Oh oh, oh mercy, mercy me
Oh, things ain't what they used to be, no no
Radiation underground and in the sky
Animals and birds who live nearby are dying

Oh, mercy, mercy me
Oh, things ain't what they used to be
What about this overcrowded land?
How much more abuse from man can she stand?

Fourth Reading: Hope ...

In the rivers invisibly, fish regenerate:
The silver eels, the salmon, the handsome stripers,

Back from little reefs where no nets are dropped
Hatched lines on every map.

On the rocky beaches, undisturbed places
For roseate tern and piping plover broods.

Black ash seedlings tucked by hand into cool vales
Where spring streams wet their feet,

Where, nearby, strips of trees and shrubs
Buffer the water's edge, stop soil from sliding down

To cloud the pools. Wild streams ribbon
Through fallow fields hayed late so birds can fledge.

We are beginning to understand what is just
This is just
The beginning.

~ From *Niche* by Basma Kavanagh

Song: Earth Teach Me (*Rupert Lang / Ute Nation*)

Earth teach me stillness
as the grasses are stilled with light.
Earth teach me suffering
as old stones suffer with memory.
Earth teach me humility
as blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth teach me caring
as the mother who secures her young.
Earth teach me courage
as the tree which stands alone.

Earth teach me limitation
as the ant which crawls on the ground.
Earth teach me freedom
as the eagle which soars in the sky.
Earth teach me resignation
as the leaves which die in the fall.
Earth teach regeneration
as the seeds which rise in the spring.
Earth teach me to forget myself
as the melted snow forgets its life.
Earth teach me to remember kindness
as the dry fields weep with rain.
Earth teach me.

~ *Ute Nation*

Fifth Reading: Listen ...

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God^[c] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

~ Matthew 6:25-33

Reflection: Alanna Mitchell

Please support the ministries of Church of the Redeemer



Or place your gift in the offering plate as it is passed

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).

Prayer over the Gifts

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.

All: **Amen.**

Common Prayer *(St. Hilda paraphrase)*

Priest: Together we pray:

All: **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.**

The Blessing

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.

People: **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!**

SONG: Sowing the Seeds of Love (Tears for Fears)

High time we made a stand
And shook up the views of the common man
And the love train rides from coast to coast
DJ's the man we love the most
Could you be, could you be squeaky clean
And smash any hope of democracy?
As the headline says you're free to choose
There's egg on your face and mud on your shoes
One of these days they're gonna call it the blues, yeah, yeah
Sowing the seeds of love, seeds of love
Sowing the seeds

I spy tears in their eyes
They look to the skies for some kind of divine intervention
Food goes to waste
So nice to eat, so nice to taste
Politician granny with your high ideals
Have you no idea how the majority feels?
So without love and a promised land
We're fools to the rules of a government plan
Kick out the style, bring back the jam

Sowing the seeds of love, seeds of love
Sowing the seeds
The birds and the bees
My girlfriend and me
In love

Feel the pain, talk about it
If you're a worried man, then shout about it
Open hearts, feel about it
Open minds, think about it
Everyone, read about it
Everyone, scream about it
Everyone, yeah, yeah
Everyone read about it, read about it
Read it in the books, in the crannies and the nooks, there are books to read for us

Sowing the seeds of love
Sowing the seeds of love
We're sowing the seeds

Time to eat all your words
Swallow your pride
Open your eyes
Time to eat all your words
Swallow your pride
Open your eyes

High time we made a stand
And shook up the views of the common man
And the love train rides from coast to coast
Every minute of every hour
I love a sunflower
And I believe in love power
Love power

Sowing the seeds of love, seeds of love
Sowing the seeds
An end to need
And the politics of greed
With love

~Roland Orzabal, Curt Smith

All are invited to stay for refreshments and conversation at the back of the church.

The All Beings Confluence

Season of Creation 2023 sees the return of silk panels from the *All Beings Confluence* that we first experienced in 2019. As Grant Jahnke noted in an article he wrote for the Gathering that year, “*All Beings Confluence* is a community-based, interactive arts project that was directly inspired by Carolyn McDade, a composer, social activist and environmentalist whose music has sustained and nourished many over the decades. *All Beings Confluence* is an ever-expanding installation created by many individuals. It consists of a series of long, narrow sheer panels, each representing a single living Being – perhaps a grasshopper, a bird, a tree, or blue-green algae that first provided our planet with oxygen. The completed panels are installed to fill a whole area and a single panel is never seen by itself. It is always “in community” with other Beings. Everyone is invited to walk amongst them – they move gently with the air currents, merging into different patterns & combinations of colour and light. For a brief moment we can feel ourselves as part of the vast, complex and interconnected community of creation.” (From the Summer 2019 Gathering. Source: <https://allbeingsconfluence.wordpress.com/>. Used with permission.)

Last year the Church of the Redeemer was gifted with 24 of "the Beings." Some of these are present in the sanctuary throughout our Season of Creation.

WORSHIP WITH US

SEASON OF CREATION – LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF CREATION

Sunday, October 1 – 7 PM

EarthSong

Sunday, October 8 - Voices of the Land

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

Sunday, October 15 - Voices of the Sea

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

Sunday, October 22 - Voices of the Air

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

7 PM – Season of Creation Taizé

Sunday, October 29 - 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
Featuring the music of Johnny Cash**