

**April 27, 2025 Easter 2**

**More than Care for Creation  
Earth Sunday, April 27, 2025  
Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Check In: What is your favourite thing about spring?**

**Acknowledgement of the Land and Commitment to Reconciliation:**

Ahniin, We acknowledge that the land on which St. Paul's United Church is located is the traditional land of the Wendat and Anishinaabe First Nations.

**Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous People from across Turtle Island, including Metis and our neighbours on Christian Island, Beausoleil First Nation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to worship and work on this land. We are all Treaty people.**

This week, as we note the passing of Pope Francis, we remember the historic apologies he made about residential schools. For some, those apologies have been an important part of healing. The complex feelings around it are a reminder that reconciliation is not one thing, or one moment, but rather a journey of learning and respect.

**We commit ourselves to walking in a new way together: a path of healing and hope. Chi-Meegwetch**

**Call to Worship**

Say among the nations, God reigns.

**Let the heavens be glad and Earth rejoice!**

God is coming to transform the world.

**God will redeem the world with righteousness and truth.**

God offers grace and abundance.

**We will offer God our gratitude for all that God has done.**

So, let us worship in this space that God is creating,  
where all are embraced.

**Together we become beloved community.**

**Song of Praise: VU296 This is God's Wondrous World**

**Opening Prayer****Reader: Louise Leck**

Gracious and loving God  
who made all the world,  
we come before you this morning  
in worship and praise,  
in longing and anticipation.

We wait to receive your Word broken open,  
and in so doing, to be broken open, ourselves.

Incarnate God,  
please ready us now,  
so that it is you we know,  
and not our own selves projected onto you.

Holy Spirit,  
empower us now,  
to enter fully into worship,  
and to leave, later, transformed  
and ready to live out your Love and Wisdom.

**Lighting of Christ Candle****Prayer:**

As we light this Christ Candle, may it be a reminder  
that Christ is in us and in our world.

**Sung Response**

There is Room for All MV62

**Peace of Christ****Theme Conversation: A Part of Creation****Children's Song: I Can Feel You Near Me God vs1 and chorus****The Story: Luke 24:13-35****Reader: Terry MacPherson****Song for Reflection: MV41 O Beautiful Gaia****Sermon: When Our Eyes are Opened**

## **Prayer for Reconciliation and Assurance of God's Love**

**God of promise and purpose,  
You set before us a dream of your new heaven and Earth,  
And we recognize that it calls for transformation.  
But we confess that we don't want transformation;  
We want easy fixes.  
We want the change, but not to do the changing.  
Forgive us, O God,  
For asking for change but not being willing to do the work.  
Forgive us for accepting the status quo, and for our roles in holding it  
up.  
Forgive our ways of thinking and acting that avoid transformation.  
Create in us hearts made new by your mercy and love,  
and move us to work toward your vision of a new heaven and Earth.  
AMEN.**

## **Assurance of God's Love**

In the kin-dom of God, all are loved for who they are, not what they do;  
In the kin-dom of God, all are forgiven for what they do, and don't;  
In the kin-dom of God, all are welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.  
**Forgiven, loved, sent forth—we are not far from the kin-dom of God!  
Thanks be to God. AMEN.**

## **Life and Work of the Church**

### **Offering of Thanksgiving**

**Offertory Music: In the Bulb there is a Flower**

**Offertory Response: MV150 v.3**

## **Celebrations and Concerns**

### **Prayers of the People**

**Reader: Louise Leck**

Creator and creating God,  
you give life to life!  
From the beginning you have moved over the deep,  
your wind rushing, your breath filling.  
As creatures of the Earth we rejoice in life  
using our breath, our being  
to raise this hymn of praise:  
Hallelujah to the sun's hot passion

embracing the ground's great shoulders.  
Hallelujahs for the growth from seed to plant  
greening the earth; its fruit—beauty and food!  
Hallelujahs for generations of life  
tumbling one after another.  
Life creeping, swimming, flying, running,  
below, above, upon, within.  
All the world sings, calls, signals, speaks  
praise to God whose glory grows in all that breathes!  
Knowing your power, knowing your love for us, we pray:  
We pray for our neighbours, those we know,  
and those who we don't,  
those who are local and those who are global,  
those who are human and those who are flora and fauna.  
We pray for all those who are victims of cruel laws and petty laws,  
those who're subjected to prejudice  
denied opportunities, excluded, pushed to margins.  
We pray for the landless and homeless,  
the refugee and evicted, those struggling against fascism  
and all the ways that tyranny and injustice are lived out in the world.  
We pray for the overworked and the underpaid,  
for those in dangerous work and those in compassionate work,  
for those who long to work but are denied the opportunity.  
We pray for God's whole creation,  
The more-than-human world in all its mighty wonder, tender fragility,  
the broken and the beautiful,  
the damaged and the healing,  
for the crises that confront us in the climate and ecological crisis.  
We pray for those who lie close to our hearts  
those whom we worry about, those whom we miss,  
those who carry disproportionate burdens at this time,  
those named in the silence of our hearts... (moment of silence)  
Fill us, enliven us, Creator and creating God,  
to be ambassadors of life abundant,  
to be transformed and so transform the world,  
to be healed and bring about healing  
for all the Earth.  
And so we pray together to you  
You, who loves us a mother, who is  
Our Father...

**Song for the Journey: VU217 All Creatures of Our God and King**

**Extinguishing of the Candles**

**Blessing**

**Closing: Halle Halle Halle**

**Postlude**

## **Beyond Sunday: Touch Grass**

"Go touch grass!" is internet speak for you have gone too far. It usually means you have lost touch with reality, or got too angry, or just need to take a break. It can also be a gentle chiding, "you need to leave the computer and go outside."

It is also a truth. Being outside is a good way to reset. Part of the reason the winter is so hard on some people is that they are not able to go out easily. Spring is a wonderful time to be outside. It is warmer, there are little flowers coming out, mushroom hunting season begins...

Being in nature can reduce stress and ease strain on our eyes. It is good for us.

But not everyone has easy access to natural spaces. That's why camping ministries are so important. They are an opportunity for children to be outside, to explore the natural world, to challenge themselves physically, work on social skills, connect with their spirituality, and make friends. This year as we move into summer I invite you to reflect on your own camp experiences. Consider donating time or resources to United Church Camping ministries. Offer prayers for all those who will be camp leaders counsellors. Pray especially for the children who will be attending camp. That in this stressful world they will have time to be outside and simply play, get dirty, jump in the lake, and yes, touch grass.