

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



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10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

“TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY” JOINT TRUTH & RECONCILIATION ACTION GROUP

COVID PRECAUTIONS

1. Self-screening guidelines: If you have Covid symptoms or are isolating due to close contact, you should not attend in person. Services are also live-streamed.
2. Masking is encouraged but no longer mandatory.
Many will still choose to remain masked for their own or for others' safety. We welcome this choice and urge everyone to respect individuals' choices - each according to their own personal situation.
3. Social distancing is encouraged in the sanctuary and MacCallum Hall.

Bold Text indicates the parts that everyone reads together.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

O God you planted a Garden - Andrew Donaldson (2012)

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Steinberg

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Composed by Lynn Freeman

**On a cold starry evening, we normally look up
and wonder at the mystery of the universe.
From Canada's First Peoples,
we have learned to look down—
feel the earth beneath my feet
and recognize that it is the land that grounds us,
its bounty that supports and sustains us
and unites all of humanity in our responsibility
to care for the land and for each other.
We are humbled and inspired
by the generosity of Indigenous friends
who have taught us to remember
our connection to creation and
our responsibility to future generations.
We take joy in knowing
that we are not alone,
that we are part of creation.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Linda Steinberg

One: We light this candle to remind us that Christ is the light of the world and present in our midst.

All: **May the life and words of Jesus enlighten us on our way.**

HYMN VU 37 *Gloria*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Music: trad. Liturgical setting Music: Jacques Berthier, arr. Darryl Nixon 1987
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HYMN MV 30 *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker*

1 It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea,
and by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry and
sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

2 It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore,
and by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry and
sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

3 It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
The bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song,
and by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry and
sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

4 It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings.
and by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry and
sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

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A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

Psalm 65: 8 – 13

All

**The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.**

**⁹ You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.**

The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.
¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.
¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.
¹² The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.
¹³ The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.

READINGS

From *Canadian Geographic* January – Feb. 2024 Issue Bruce Elliott

Job 12: 7-12

Marjorie Mason

REFLECTION

My Commitment: *(see blank slip in your bulletin)*

During the Reflection, consider one action you can take to be a good steward of the land and to support reconciliation with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. We will pass a basket where you can put your slip and it will be blessed at the table.

From Land to All Our Relations Land Trust:

A dialogue between Pat Roebuck and Michael Cooke

VIDEO

All Our Relations Land Trust

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

HYMN MV 209 *Go Make a Difference*

(Commitment slips will be collected during the hymn)

Refrain:

Go, make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference.
We can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.

1 We are the salt of earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world. **R**

2 We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world. **R**

3 So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a difference in the world. **R**

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DEDICATION

Michael Cooke

All: We offer our time, talent and treasure. We commit to doing what we can to steward this land and to nurture reconciliation with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. Bless these gifts. Show us how to use them to protect this earth and to build right relations among all God's people.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pat Roebuck

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver
may your loving and awesome presence become obvious
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
but also in the common processes and beauty of the earth.
Give us what we need, day by day,
to keep body and soul together.
May we recognize that to embody reconciliation
we must live peaceable and justly
putting hate and bitterness behind us.
We are torn between our faith in the goodness of creation
and our awareness of evil perpetrated with our world.
Deliver us from the temptation to despair.
We celebrate the wonders of the universe
with all its beauty, forever and ever. Amen**

HYMN VU 307 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

1 Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2 We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3 Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

4 God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

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BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Pat Roebuck

POSTLUDE

God of the Sparrow - Carl Schalk (1983)



THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

JTRAG Leaders	Michael Cooke, Bruce Elliott, Pat Roebuck
Co-Liturgist	Linda Steinberg
Organist	Juliet Milsome
Hymn Singers	Members of Chalmers Choir
Readers	Bruce Elliott, Marjorie Mason
Media Techs	Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
Refreshments	Marjorie Mason
Counter	David Yen
After the service	you are invited to share in refreshments and fellowship at the back of the Sanctuary.



To submit materials for the bulletin please use: bulletin@chalmersunitedchurch.com and Linda Steinberg hpsesp14@gmail.com.

Please send announcements by end of day Monday, or late additions by end of day Tuesday for inclusion the following Sunday.

At 10:30 join us in person at Chalmers or watch live-streamed on Chalmers' YouTube channel. The service will also be posted later to the same channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgl1tZaiRji18sFwjzP2Q>

The link for Chalmers YouTube channel can also be found on the home page of the Chalmers website www.chalmersunitedchurch.org

Chalmers United Church

212 Barrie St. Kingston, K7L 3K3

t 613-546-3263 x 221 e office@chalmersunitedchurch.com

w www.chalmersunitedchurch.com