

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH – KINGSTON, ON



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10:30 AM

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

“LIVING ON THE PATH OF RESPECT”

A service prepared by the Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action
Group of Chalmers UC, Edith Rankin UC, Faith UC, St. Mark
Lutheran Church, and Sydenham Street UC

<https://sydenhamstreet.ca/ssuc1/community-outreach/jtrag/>

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

Elegy - G.T. Thalden-Ball

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 our 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: God our Creator has placed each and every one of us here with purpose!
- All: Let us praise Creator God for the earth below our feet. Mother Earth sustains us, and all creation cries out for justice.**
- One: Creator has given us the eastern direction: the direction of vision, children, and the sun that rises on us each day.
- All: Creator, help us to see the world with child-like wonder, full of awe and humility. Let us be thankful for each new dawn.**
- One: God our Creator has given us the southern direction: the direction of honesty, adolescence, and growth.
- All: Creator, help us to speak only the truth, and open our hearts to hear the stories of others. Inspire us to grow in the image of Christ so we can come together in a good way, on the path of respect.**
- One: Creator has given us the western direction: the direction of adulthood, harvesting, and deep spiritual understanding.
- All: Creator God, give us the tools we need to act on the knowledge we are gathering. Guide our actions with justice.**
- One: Creator has given us the northern direction: the direction of Elders, achievement, and a deep connection to spirituality.

All: Creator God,
empower us to learn from the past, from our mistakes,
and to move forward to create a community of respect
here on Mother Earth.
Holy Spirit, give us the teachings we need to correct wrongs,
and work for a brighter future for all who share your creation. Be
with us now, Creator, as we walk together in a good way.
We worship you in awe-filled praise. Amen.

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,

Refrain:

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, **R**

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, **R**

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. **R**

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CENTERING PRAYER

Creator whose voice we hear in the winds of the four directions,
your Spirit inspires us to live with respect in creation
and to keep our covenants and treaties.
Our greed has led to disrespect for the people of this land,
and has damaged our relations for centuries.
Yet you call us, still, to seek the good path of respect and justice.
May our worship reconnect us to the truth of who you are,
and who we are,
and move us to claim our shared sacred responsibility
to care for others and care for the earth.
We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

STORY

You Belong to the Land

HYMN MV 143 *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

1 We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life in ev'ry earthly nation.

2 When bodies shiver in the night and weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and war horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labour,
that all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbour.

3 God calls humanity to join as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

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READINGS

Genesis 1, Luke 12: 22 - 31

REFLECTION

Living on the Path of Respect

Prepared by Juliet Huntly, presented by Monika Holzschuh

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Our offering today, unless dedicated otherwise, will be for the Healing Fund of the United Church of Canada (<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/indigenous-ministries/healing-fund>) which supports healing initiatives for survivors of the residential school system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts.

HYMN VU 543 *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

1 We give thee but thine own,
What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O God, from thee.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, we ask you to bless these gifts,
which have been given in love.
May our gifts be used in many ways to build good relations.
May your will be done through these gifts and through us
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- One: Let us be present here and now and offer praise and thanks!
Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled in gratitude for this
amazing gift of your creation, and for the teachings of Indigenous
neighbours that reconnect us to the land, to creatures of all kinds
and to you. The wisdom of your creation's balance and harmony is
astounding, and we pray that such wisdom will both unite us and
drive us to action.
- All: Creator God, in thanksgiving inspire us. With your Spirit nurture
an attitude of gratitude for all your gifts, and for the wisdom of
the Indigenous perspective toward creation.**
- One: Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled in repentance for the
arrogance of Christian churches who in greed used your name to
dehumanize others, to conquer nations, and to forcefully
expropriate land and resources in your name. Pour your love into
our hearts, so that we may build right relations of sharing and
respect and be responsible keepers of the lands and waters.
- All: Creator God, in your grace transform us. With your Spirit guide
us in living out right relations with all people based on respect
and equal rights.**
- One: Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled in seeking healing for
our churches as we move from the history of colonization and
domination to creating a future built on right relations and
respectful sharing on these lands. For the harm committed in your
name against all the First Peoples of the land we are sorry. Despite
inflicting such pain, we are aware of so much grace returned
toward us who are settlers.
- All: Creator God, in your wisdom heal us. With your Spirit
strengthen us to be agents of balance and harmony with all
nations and peoples.**
- One: Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled in our need for
encouragement within the Christian churches, that our repentance
may go beyond words to actions of solidarity and justice. For this
we ask for your wisdom and courage, to turn from a past of
violence, hate and racism, to take up the way of respect and
compassion.

- All:** Creator God, give us courage to change the churches to live in harmony with all creation and to care for all humanity.
- One:** Creator God, Holy Friend, we are humbled as we pray for ourselves and for all Christian churches around the world, that we may faithfully follow the life of Jesus, the Nazarene who showed us the good path of justice, reconciliation, and peace-building. It is the way of life he represented, the sharing of all your Earth's gifts that will enable us, together, to recreate your loving and compassionate world.
- All:** Creator God, in your love give us faith and new life. With your Spirit help us to be co-creators of a world of justice and peace. Amen.

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

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Let us go forth called to God's holy covenant.
 God continues to guide us:
 attending to our stories,
 showing us how to walk together in a good way.
 God promises to bless and encourage us on the path of respect. So go with the peace and promise of God,
 the energy of the Spirit of Love, and the passion of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN MV 209 *Go Make a Difference*

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.

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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POSTLUDE

On Dundee - C. Hubert H. Perry

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Worship Leaders	Monika Holzschuh with Gerald McGrath, Jane MacEwen and Marjorie Mason
Organist	Aurora Dokken
Hymn Singers	Members of Chalmers Choir
Media Techs	Ahmad Spierij, Brigitta Holzschuh
Counter	Jan Trites
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.

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>

About the masthead image:

- The circle has no beginning or end and encircles our global home.
- The green colour represents growth and the plant world.
- The tan colour represents the soil of this good Earth.
- The orange colour represents the sun that helps us by giving us light & strength.
- The blue colour represents the water.
- The feather represents the connection to Creator through prayer and protection to remain on the path of respect.
- Look carefully you will see a fetus (turn the image upside down and look for the head, arm, and leg.) Created by Sandra Campbell