



April 19, 2026

Melville United Church

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Earth Sunday Service

April 19, 2026

*Presiding: Social Justice Team
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting of Christ Candle

As we light this candle we are reminded that Christ restores our vision and renews hope in our commitment to the earth. We carry this light as we grow in spirituality and as we go out into the world with daring justice.

Call to Worship

Reader: Marguerite A.

One: Whether we live near mountains or in the prairies

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether our winters are balmy or our summers are cool

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean or somewhere in the middle

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape

All: We are one in Christ.

One: In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation

All: We are one in Christ.

(Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, "[Be the Church: Protect the Environment](#)" worship service© 2016)

Opening Prayer

Our kin, the flora and fauna are calling,

The earth, the sea, and the sky join in,

Mother earth is hurting

they cry

We need you to act with us

they call

We need you to join us in the restoring Creation

So that our mother may flourish once more.

We need you, they plead.

Discerning God,

How do we faithfully respond to these calls?

[moment of silence]

What would you have us do?

How would you like us to act?

Guide us, we pray and lead us towards transformative actions.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: Each Blade of Grass MV 37

1. Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,

make full the circle of God.
Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.

2. Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry out-stretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.
3. Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.
Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace Shawna M.-D.

Creator God,

We come before you in a time of crisis.

We know that much of your creation struggles;

We see and acknowledge the changes around us;

All: We search for the causes and the cures and the collaborative ways we can commit to care for creation.

We want to do what's right

Help us learn what we must,

listening to the diverse voices of creation itself.

Help us understand and love what you have loved and called "very good."

Enliven that understanding, we ask,

to allow ourselves to be moved to act as we should and to halt actions that harm.

Guide us as we try to discern how best to truly listen to each other as well as creation and heed your call.

We ask for forgiveness where we have taken too much or cared too little, for hearts willing to listen and change and will to follow through.

May the knowledge of your presence and the assurance of your love shape our time here and always.

We pray in your name, Amen.

Hymn: Like a Rock MV 92

Like a rock, like a rock God is under our feet

Like the starry night sky God is over our head

Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before

Like the river runs to ocean our home is in god evermore x2

Children's Time: Stone Soup

Ministry of Music: For the Beauty of the Earth Setting by Wayne Oquin

Scripture: Genesis 2:15 Reader: Mardi S.

God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the God commanded the man, "You are free to eat.

Acts 14:15-17 15 "Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. 16 In the past, God let all nations go their own way. 17 Yet God has not left this without testimony: God has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; God provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

Reflection: Healing Creation with Stone Soup?

Hymn: This is God's Wondrous World VU 296

- 1 This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

- 2 This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

- 3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Mission Story Reader: Heather H.

Invitation to Offering

God gave us the gifts of creation - the land, air, water and all the animals and plants that live here with us. As we thank God for life itself, let us offer our gifts, in whatever form we can, praying, learning or acting, so that the ministry of this church and the wider church will continue to grow together, love and heal our world. Our offerings will now be received.

Offertory:

Your Work o God Needs Many Needs Many Hands VU 537

*Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve
unless our gifts we share.*

*Because we love you and your work,
our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own,
we ask for Jesus' sake.*

Dedication Prayer

God of Creation,
we are thankful for your awesome work in creation,
you have weaved all of life together,
and it is very good.

We are grateful for all that protects and cares for your good works:
the sunlight and water that sustains life,
the earth that grounds and nourishes life,
and the earth-beings that care for and protect life.

We ask your blessing on what we offer here and on the actions of those across the church and beyond during this Earth Week.

God of Creation,

All: Together we are stronger

Brenda Riley of Knox United Church's adaptation from For the Love of Creation, "Earth Sunday Service," 2023.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People Reader: Shawna M.-D.

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.
We pray all of this in the name of your Son Jesus who taught us to pray....**

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: It's a Song of Love to the Maker (MV 30)

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,

Refrain

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,

Refrain

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,

Refrain

Blessing

May we have the wisdom to discern,
The courage to act,
And the compassion to serve.
May our faithful loving actions
protect God's reaction,
reflect Christ's justice, and
share the Spirit's hope to present and future generations.
And May the abundant Grace of God
The extravagant love of Christ
And the transformational power of the Holy Spirit be with us all
As we act each day for Creation.

Postlude: The Joy of Spring by Colin Mawby

Welcomers: Mary Lloyd, Annie Denny

Counters: Mary Lloyd, Chris Hopewell

Worship Schedule

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|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| April 26 th | 4th Sunday of Easter | Rev. Dr. Karen Boivin |
| May 3 rd | 5th Sunday of Easter | Social Justice Team - <i>(Mental Health Sunday)</i> |
| May 10 th | 6 th Sunday of Easter | Rev. Tom Watson |
| May 17 th | 7 th Sunday of Easter | Rev. Linda Butler |

Council Meeting May 6, & Jun 3. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.

(Parts of this blessing are adapted from a prayer by Rev. Shepherd Munikwa) — Written by Alydia Smith. From Alydia Smith, ed., Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis (Toronto: United Church Publishing House, 2023), p. 125.