

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, September 29th, 2024
Led by Rev. Scott Parsons/Rev. Miriam Bowlby

Praise Medley: If God Is For Us, Lord Prepare Me to Be a
Sanctuary

Acknowledging Our Kinship:

Creator, we come together today as diverse, united peoples to give thanks to you, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

We come to listen, to learn, to sing and pray, to consider our place in the order of things you have created and are creating.

It is right and good to give thanks for the land on which we stand, for this is wisdom we learn from Indigenous peoples of this land—that we are one with the earth, its waters, air, animals and plants.

Such wisdom, our interdependence with all life, is something too easy to forget in our busy lives! It is a gift and a challenge to us to remember.

And so we take time to acknowledge the lands on which we now live.

Many of us have come from other places, arriving from distant shores, our families arriving years ago or some of us more recently. When settlers came, they were met by others who were already here, already knew these lands, already lived rich and full lives based on ancient and proud cultures.

Let us take time to name the peoples of this land now:

We respectfully acknowledge the territory in which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk and the island of Newfoundland as the ancestral homelands of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk. We would also like to recognize the Inuit of Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut and the Innu of Nitassinan, and their ancestors, as the original people of Labrador.

O God, as we acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial, and their continued claims to the land, help us to become neighbours that we might live together in better ways.

For we are all kin in Christ, “All My Relations,” with each other and this earth, its waters, air, animals, and plants.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: God of the Sparrow **VU 229 vs 6**

Call to Worship:

Creator has placed each and every one of us here with purpose!

**Let us praise Creator for the earth below our feet.
For Mother Earth sustains us,
and all creation cries out for justice.**

Creator has given us the eastern direction: the direction of vision, children and the sun that rises on us each day.

Let us view the world with child-like wonder – full of awe and humility. Thankful for the new day that dawns on us each and every morning, we give thanks for God who gives us new mercies every day.

Creator has given us the southern direction: the direction of honesty, adolescence and growth.

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 who teaches us to walk the good path.

Creator has given us the western direction: the direction of adulthood, harvesting and deep spiritual understanding.

Give us the tools we need to act on the knowledge we are gathering, allowing us to act with maturity and grace.

Creator has given us the northern direction: the direction of Elders, achievement and a deep connection to spirituality.

Empower us to learn from the past and to move forward to create your beloved community here on Mother Earth. Holy Spirit, give us the teachings we need to correct any wrongs and to live lives full of love, peace and hope. Be with us now, Creator, as we worship you in awe-filled praise. Amen.

Hymn: Called by Earth and Sky

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

God's love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God. We are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER- "Stolen Words" by Melanie Florence

Hymn: God Weeps

Offertory Hymn: Grateful

Offertory Prayer

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 43:1-12

Psalm 13 **on page 734 of VU**

Mark 4:26-34

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: When Long before Time **VU 248**

Meditation

Ministry of Music

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

Hymn: In the Bulb There is a Flower **VU 703**

Commissioning and Benediction

Benediction Hymn: You Shall Go Out with Joy **VU 884**