

Genesis Cooperative
of the United Church of Canada

*Consisting of the congregations of:
Cassburn, Kirk Hill, Trinity (Vankleek Hill)*

Sunday April 21, 2024
Earth Sunday
For the Love of Creation



Worship Leaders Today

Joint Service at		
Cassburn	10:30 am	Rev. B. Gazzard

*“Surely God is in this place... help me notice”
(attributed to St. Lawrence)*

We Gather to Praise God

Welcome to our worship service today.

We pray you will feel God's presence as we worship together.

*You are invited to join in reading the responses and prayers, printed in **bold**.*

♪Prelude

Greeting and Welcome

The Life and Work of the Church

Minute for Mission

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

♪Sung Introit: “Come In, Come in & Sit Down” VU 395

*(R) Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.*

*You know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain;
So, share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family. (R)*

The Call to Worship:

Whether we live near mountains or in the prairies **we are one in Christ**. Whether our winters are balmy, or our summers are cool **we are one in Christ**.

Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean or somewhere in the middle **we are one in Christ**. Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape **we are one in Christ**.

In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation **we are one in Christ**.

The Opening Prayer:

As we gather, we are thankful for your Creation: for light and darkness; for air, wind, and sky; for earth and sea; for seeds, harvests, and plant life; for sunlight, moonlight, and starlight; for every living creature, swarming, flying, creeping, and grazing; for our lives. In our actions, meditations, and prayers, may we honour and celebrate your very good Creation, as we seek wisdom on how to share our gratitude and love in good and healing ways. **AMEN.**

🎵 Hymn: *“For the Beauty of the Earth”* VU 226

The Prayer of Confession:

God of change, we want to be transformed: Where there is forgetfulness about the earth, may I be a remembrance of your love for the earth. Where there is unawareness of relationship with the earth, let me remind people, we are the earth. Where there is only talk about private property, may I remind folks that the earth belongs to you. Where there is a sense of ownership, when we think we own the earth, let me say out loud that we belong to the earth. When we only talk and preach and pray about humans, let me pray with animals and plants, trees and rivers and mountains. Where there is only talk about heaven, let me speak about the earth hurting right now. Where there is a spirituality of words only, may I touch the ground, lean on a tree, hold a plant, touch the water, breathe a long breath. and listen to the birds. **AMEN.**

Affirmation for the Earth:

God of Love, I bless the Earth with affirming words of life in fullness, I affirm the rights of animals to live in honor. I affirm the rights of rivers to be clean. I affirm alternative forms of energy. I affirm full life to the oceans. I affirm the life of Jesus to the world. In Jesus’ name, who was affirmed even when denied. AMEN.

🎵 Hymn: *“This Is God’s Wondrous World”* VU 296

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Lessons:

Acts 4: 5-12 Peter and John before the council.

Psalm 23 VU 747 The Lord's my shepherd (*sung.*)

1 John 3: 16-24 This is how we know what love is.

John 10: 11-18 I am the good shepherd.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Message:

🎵 Hymn: "For the Fruit of All Creation" VU 227

We Respond to God's Word

Offering Invitation

🎵 Response: "Your Work, O God" 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.*

The Prayer of Dedication:

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 blessings on the actions we offer here and on the actions of those across the church and beyond during this Earth Week. God of Creation, **together we are stronger. AMEN.**

The Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven ... (found at VU 960)

🎵 Hymn: “All Creatures of Our God & King” VU 217

The Closing Words

🎵 Sung Blessing: “Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above,
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

🎵 Postlude *Our Worship Ends – Our Service Begins*



Announcements

✝ *As church, we are called to pray for each other
and for our mission in the world* ✝

The People in Canada who rely more and more on
food banks to feed their families;
The People of Israel and Palestine;
The People of Ukraine;
The People of Sudan;
The People of Algeria;
St. Paul's United, Kenmore, ON



Question of the Day:

**What do you need to learn more about to be a better
advocate for climate justice?**

April 26: The United Churches of **Avonmore-Finch-Martintown** are hosting a **Spring Fling Fundraising Dinner** on **Friday April 26, 2024** at North Stormont Place (Avonmore Community Centre) Avonmore. **Menu:** roast ham, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, salad, homemade rolls, and pies. Bake table and a large silent auction selection. Cost is \$25 with advance tickets only. Choice of two seatings - **4:30 and 6:30pm**. Please contact Rev Lois at 613-346-1648, Patsy Cassleman at 613-984-2064, Diane Kerr at 613-528-0019 or Nancy Wert at 613-346-5493 for tickets.

April 27: Rideau Hill Camp Clean-up is **Saturday April 27th** starting at **9am** until it shines like new! Bring your rakes, gloves, pails, rags, and most of all your enthusiasm! Lots to do both inside cabins/buildings and outside in the field and bush. A job list will be posted for everyone to take on what they can manage. Coffee will be on hand and we will enjoy a light lunch once we get lots off the list! If you are a youth that is looking to have your volunteer hours taken care of, bring your form and that can be filled in! *Many hands make light work!*

The United Church of Canada gratefully acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

Our vital, innovative, and healing ministries are supported by generous Mission and Service donations.

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Administrative Assistant: Gabrielle Becker
“NEW” Administrative Office Hours:
Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Announcement Deadline: Wednesday @ noon



Minute for Mission

Inspired by the love and support he has received;
Jon wanted a way to give back.

We would like to share a wonderful thank-you letter we received from Bissell Centre, a Mission and Service partner located in Edmonton. We're sharing it with you with deep gratitude and thanks for your generosity.

Thank you to the wonderful people of The United Church of Canada. It's with gifts like yours that we're able to meet people facing poverty and houselessness where they're at. We look forward to collecting and sharing more stories with you, like this one about Jon:

Jon is one of the community members at Bissell Centre, and has a passion (and talent) for art. In fact, he's been named Bissell's artist in residence. His work has been commissioned by Bissell to provide an authentic, community-made element to our event advertising, our annual impact reports, and several donor thank-you gifts.

His pieces often feature powerful imagery drawn from his Indigenous heritage and always in a spirit of celebration. His art was the focal point of the event poster for Bissell's celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day [in 2022]. Inspired by the love and support he has received, Jon wanted a way to give back.

He designed, organized, and now facilitates a weekly art program called "Good Art." In the workshops he guides people to express themselves in a healthy way through art that means something to them. Folks are encouraged to share about the art they make at the end of each workshop as way to build and strengthen community.

Your support provided a space for this to happen, and your gifts are having a palpable impact in the lives of Edmontonians facing poverty and houselessness.

Thank you very much United Church of Canada.

Shared with gratitude for your gifts through Mission and Service. Thank you for your generosity.