

LEADER VERSION

Announcements:

Becca to welcome folks.

Gluten free elements

Introduce Sheryl and Rhiannon

Directions for communion

Acknowledging the Territory: Recognition of the Watershed (Sheryl)

Meandering Near the Don: *Tom Reynolds with sounds of the Don River*
(Recording of Don River)

Call to Worship (Rhiannon)

Come to the water, all you who are thirsty—
come drink deeply from the river of life.

Come to the water, all you who are weary—
come rest in the quiet pools of God's love.

Come to the water, all you who long for justice—
come be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.

For God is here among us,
washing away the dust and grime of our lives,
and pouring out the Spirit on all who thirst.
Let's worship God together.

Opening prayer (Rhiannon, Morgan, Saya and Matt take their place at 4 points surrounding the chapel.

(Rhiannon) God who created the heavens above,
the earth beneath, and the waters below,
we gather here in awe of your creation.

(Morgan) Cleanse our minds of distractions,
so we can sink deeper into relationship with you.
You are the source from which all blessings flow,
May we focus fully on your sustaining power.

(Saya) Open our hearts so we can feel the flow of your Spirit
in us, through us, and around us.
With your living waters, may we be refreshed and strengthened.

(Matt) Join us as streams flow into rivers, and into oceans.
Teach us to feel the pulse of creation
and know how intertwined we are.
May we be humbled by the vastness of life,
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour, AMEN.

Hymn: MV #144, "Like a Healing Stream"

Scripture Litany: (led by Alex Jebson)

Praise the Lord!

**O Lord my God, how great you are!
You placed the world on its foundation
so it would never be moved.**

You clothed the earth with floods of water—
water that covered even the mountains.

At your command, the water fled;

at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away.

Mountains rose and valleys sank to the levels you decreed.

**Then you set a firm boundary for the seas,
so they would never again cover the earth.**

You make springs pour water into the ravines,
so streams gush down from the mountains.

They provide water for all the animals—,
even the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

**The birds nest beside the streams
and sing among the branches of the trees.**

You send rain on the mountains from your heavenly home,
and you fill the earth with the fruit of your labor.

**You cause grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for people to use.**

You allow them to produce food from the earth—
wine to make them glad,

olive oil to soothe their skin,
and bread to give them strength.

**O Lord, what a variety of things you have made!
In wisdom you have made them all.**

The earth is full of your creatures.

They all depend on you to give them food as they need it.

When you supply it, they gather it.

You open your hand to feed them,
and they are richly satisfied.

May your glory continue forever!

May you O God take pleasure in all that you have made!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-13 (Marilyn Legge)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

“Rivers Run,” (*Becca, Tom and Bill*)

Sermon: “In the Wilderness”

Prayers of the People (Rhiannon)

God, Creator, Source of Life,

We forget how surrounded we are

by the beauty and power of the sacred.

Your Spirit is in every rock and every tree,

in every flowing river.

All things come from you.

Remind us that all that holds life is filled with your Spirit.

Pour out your mercy on us

Like a healing stream

Forgive us our mistreatment of creation.

We see destruction all around,

Oceans filled with toxic plastic,

Forests cleared and trampled,

Life fleeing from the work of human hands.

Pour out your mercy on us

Like a healing stream

God we feel the effects of climate change.

We mourn the loss of life, and remember the victims of extreme weather,

In the Philippines,

In the U.S.,

On the West Coast of Canada and in Ontario.

We pray for those who are struggling with drought, famine, and extreme temperatures.

We are afraid.

God keep us moving ever onward in our task of caring.

Pour out your mercy on us

Like a healing stream

God there are so many ways for creation to hurt.

We pray for all who feel unwell, unsafe,
unloved, and forgotten.

Bring your healing waters on us all.

Pour out your mercy on us

Like a healing stream

God, Creator, Source of life,

Make us healers, carers, and lovers.

Fill us with your life and Spirit

so that we may encourage life in all ways, and in all places.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our hope and our truth, AMEN.

Celebration of Communion (Sheryl) (Rhiannon, Morgan, Saya to help
serve)

Invitation to the Table

Call to Give Thanks

We say together:

The Spirit of God moves among all creation.

The Spirit of God animates all things.

We stand in awe and wonder.

Presentation Hymn: VU "She Flies On" vs 1, 4, 5

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Song of Creation

We can barely contain our praise: Please repeat after me:

All is holy.

All is holy.

Beauty is your name.

Beauty is your name.

Remembering Jesus at Table

Prayer of Self-Giving

We say together:

As Jesus broke bread

and poured out his cup for us,

may we also pour ourselves into Holy Mystery.

This we remember, this we believe:

Christ walked the earth,

was crucified on a cross.

His love would live among us.

Prayer for Transformation

Fracturing and Pouring

(Rhiannon, Morgan, Saya come forward and form two stations on either side of communion table)

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Music during communion (led by Matt)

MV 102 "Jesus, your Spirit in Us"

Jesus, your Spirit in us is a well-spring of life everlasting

Prayer after Communion

Holy One,

**We have tasted the love of God.
We have drunk from the cup of Jesus.
We have been filled at Wisdom's table.
We give you thanks.
We give you thanks.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Hymn: VU #232, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" vs 1, 2, 3

Blessing (Sheryl)

Postlude: (Deborah)

Sources:

This service is inspired by a United Church of Canada worship resource entitled "Reconciliation in the Watershed: Reflections for Creation Time," which led me to spend the Season of Creation, 2017 focused on my congregations' local watershed, (the Saugeen) in conversation with Biblical creation accounts. It was a rich and fruitful time and also led to strengthening relationships with Indigenous neighbours at Neyaashiinigiing (Cape Croker). Further resources on watershed discipleship may be found at:

www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/ecological-justice/reconciliation-in-the-watershed

www.watersheddiscipleship.org

The Big Here Quiz: <https://kk.org/cooltools/the-big-here-qu/>

Call to worship found at: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/World%20Water%20Day>

Sheryl Spencer is a graduate of Emmanuel College (M.Div., 2013) and serves the Mount Forest-Woodland Pastoral Charge in southern Ontario, on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. She completed an M.Div. thesis entitled "Worship for an Evolutionary Church," looking at how an understanding of evolutionary theology could be expressed in worship practices. She is also a member of the Visioning team for the Skylight Festival of faith, justice and arts.