

**Wild Church**  
**Sunday, June 18, 2023**

**Summer Solstice**

**Emily Murphy Park, Edmonton**

**Announcements**

- Wild Church meets in nature every third Sunday of the month at 1:00pm. Watch for the announcement of next month's location

**Land Acknowledgment**

**Calling a Circle on Sacred Land**

As Earth circles our star, the Sun, so too we gather in this sacred circle.

Let us gather ourselves into silence (*pause*). Listen to your heart beat. Listen to the life-blood coursing through your body. Take a deep breath in (*pause*). Let a long breath out (*pause*). Listen to the sounds around you. Feel the blessing of this moment.

You belong here. You are welcomed here. You are a part of this ecosystem. All beings welcome you here because they have not forgotten that we are all related, that we come from the same dust and will return to the same dust. Take another breath (*pause*). As we stand here, in this sacred circle, we are entering into a relationship with Nature. We are here to re-member ourselves back to where we belong. We are here to restore a loving and kindred relationship with the rest of the natural world.

**Prayer**

Thanks be to Creator for light and warmth, for the long summer days and the short summer nights. Give us the grace to see your creative work, always new, always amazing in us and in all beings. Blessed be.

**Bringing Our Names Into the Circle**

*Each person is invited to say aloud their name. Following the offering of each name, all the in the circle will reply:*

We greet the Sun in you \_\_\_\_\_. May you feel the power and radiance of the Sun's light in you at this midsummer time.

## Reading

*The Sun*, a poem by Mary Oliver found in *Mary Oliver New and Selected Poems, Volume 1 pp.50-51*

## Story

*In God's Name* by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, Illustrated by Phoebe Stone Jewish Lights Publishing, 1994

## Theme Reflection

Friends, we are close to the Summer Solstice and feel the blessings of luscious warmth and light that comes early and stays late. We embrace with joy the opportunities to be outdoors where we feel grounded, at home and alive in the beauty of the flowering time. There is so much new life to celebrate! We are energized and we feel the bounty of blessings beyond our capacity to count.

As we walk the summer path, we try to remember all the names of the plants as they flower. We are wrapped in the miracle of the fragrance of roses. The trees are in full leaf and dance joyfully along the way. We join them in their dance.

The birds nurture their young and we are filled with smiles when we are blessed to see fledgelings leaving the nest! We remember other summers, like the one when we were graced to see a pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers choose their nest home, prepare it for the eggs, and, when those eggs hatched, the scurry back and forth, back and forth, with copious morsels of food - day in and day out. And the surprise of being able to witness those babies on the very day they took flight!

Every way we turn there are new miracles to see. It all takes our breath away and we laugh with delight and sigh in awe. We are awed to silence and seek simply to be; to be here in this marvellous moment and let ourselves be touched by your grace, O God.

## Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is an ancient contemplative prayer practice used to allow scripture to speak to our hearts and to help us discover the multiple ways the Holy dwells there. It means "sacred reading" and the practice can be extended beyond the reading of scripture to that other great book of revelation - Nature. Lectio invites us to enter into silence and stillness to listen deeply to the stirring of the Holy in the sacred texts around us.

This is a time in our gathering when we are invited to wander solo in Nature, listening for the wisdom of the natural world - allowing this wisdom to inform what we have heard in the reading and theme reflection. This is heart listening. You are not listening

with your ears or with your head. Listen to what your heart is saying to you as you interact with the beings in this place.

Wander for 20 minutes, then return to the circle with the gifts you have received during this special time.

*When we are reassembled in the circle, invite participants to share insights.*

## **Blessing**

*For Light* by John O'Donohue found in *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*, pp 15 and 16