

Wild Church
Sunday, October 15, 2023

Learning from the Animal People

Paul Kane Park, Edmonton

Announcements

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 because they have not forgotten that we are all related, that we come from the same dust and will return to that same dust. Take another breath (*pause*). As we gather 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

Creator, we are awed by the power and beauty of all you have created. We are touched beyond words by the sacredness of this place. We pray, encircle us, receive us, bless us, that we may be a blessing.

Bringing Our Names into the Circle

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

We greet the Spirit in you _____, and are grateful for your presence here.

Some Storytelling

“Waboose and the Search for the Best Leader” adapted from Richard Wagamese

(Watch our telling of this story [here](#).)

Theme Reflection Reading

“Everything begins with humility” from [One Drum: Stories and Ceremonies for a](#) by Richard Wagamese, Douglas and McIntyre, 2019 pp.62-64

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 wander solo in Nature, listening for the wisdom of the natural world as we amble - allowing this wisdom to inform what we have heard in the storytelling and theme reflection. This is heart listening. You are not listening with your ears only, 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. You will be invited to share these gifts in the circle if you wish.

When we are re-assembled in the circle, participants are invited to share insights.

Blessing

“To Learn from Animal Being” from [To Bless the Space Between Us](#) by John O'Donohue, Doubleday, 2008, pp.73&74