

**Wild Church**  
**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

**Fire and Ice**

**Fire Circle at Picnic Site #3**  
**Emily Murphy 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, for they have not forgotten that we are all related, that we come from one dust and will return to that same dust. Take another long 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**

In the heart of wintertime, we come, O Holy One, seeking the warmth of your love in the midst of a cold world. We pray for courage and for the confidence to be a blessing among all the created beings in the circle of life.

## **Bringing Our Names into the Circle**

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

Warm greetings to you \_\_\_\_\_. We give thanks for your presence here.

## **Theme Reflection**

The element of fire is usually associated with the direction of the south and summertime. The south is the place of the midday heat, the fullness of the midday Sun. We look to the South on this midwinter day at noontime where we live. We wonder where its warmth has wandered. The Sun is still in a far southerly position and remains low on the horizon. The fire we have lit in our midst becomes our sanctuary, a small comfort against the wind, and the cold. We savour its burning in our midst and huddle close as we gaze at the rise and fall of the flames, seeking warmth in the midst of this ice time when jagged, great shards emerge from the river beside us.

Creator, teach us the beauty and the strength of both fire and ice. We do not know the warmth of fire without the cold of ice. We do not know blessing without experience of blessing's opposite. May we find insight in the midst of polarities, grace is the juxtaposition of Fire and Ice.

When do you experience the inner flame of love burning most brightly inside you? How do you respond to and share the warmth of this assurance?

Where do you experience the discipline of ice, the shock of the call to be honest with yourself?

Where do you see the need for both of these things in your world?

## **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 and watching for; sensing in all aspects of our senses, the wisdom, the beauty, the mystery of the natural world, as we amble.

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 all have returned to the circle, invite participants to share insights.)*

## **Blessing**

(an adaptation from John O'Donohue)