

**Wild Church
Sunday, October 16, 2022
Victoria Park**

With Thankful Hearts

Welcome

Calling Us Into a Circle of Silence

Let us gather ourselves into silence. Listen to your breath. Listen to the wind.

We are all connected through the breath of God. In Hebrew - the roach - the wind is the breath of the Holy. Our own breath literally depends upon the breath of the trees.

You belong here. You are a welcome part of this ecosystem. All beings welcome us because they have not forgotten that we are related, that we come from the same dust and will return to the same dust. Take another breath to acknowledge that our lives depend on all of life.

Friends, we are not only meeting in Nature. 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, as spiritual practice.

Acknowledging the Land

Prayer

Loving Creator, we come as we are, knowing you accept us. We come all all we have ever been, knowing that we are still being created. We pray for hearts open to all we can become. Amen.

Introducing the Theme

October is a month when we are mindful of all for which we are thankful. Many gather at Thanksgiving with family and friends to feast with gratitude on the fruits of the harvest. This is a time we think of what is most important to us and we make special offerings and gifts to support the nurture of those things. We are mindful of all that has been provided for us - all that has been given and we count our blessings. So it is today that we gather with grateful hearts open to learn anew our place in Creation and to re-member our call to be good stewards, as threads in the Great Web of Life.

For Earth is below you, above you and all around you - even inside you. Richard Rohr says “You may be used to thinking of Earth as something beneath your feet, but Earth is water, sea, sky and everything around us. We often forget that the planet where we are living has given us all the elements that make up our bodies...Earth is not just the environment we live in. We are the Earth and we are always carrying her within us.”

So let us sing: *(Sing as the Taize style, repeating until we feel finished)*

The Spirit in me greets the Spirit in you. Hallelujah

God's in us and we're in God. Hallelujah.

- Jim Strathdee

Readings

People of Corn, People of Light the Mayan Creation Story

from *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Messenger from Mary Oliver's collection *Thirst*

Sermon/Conversation

We will explore the Divine message in three parts. First, we will hear an invitation to wander in this natural setting. Then we will wander solo for 25 minutes. Finally, we will gather again to share our experiences.

Part 1:

Having gathered here and having listened to a reading, we are now invited to engage with Nature in this setting. As you prepare to wander about, listening for the wisdom of the natural world, listen first to your body. This is the place to begin. In order to wander, you need first to listen to where you are feeling drawn. This is heart listening. You are not listening with your head or your ears. Listen to what your heart is saying to you. Open up your imagination and invite your intuition to guide you. When you leave this circle to begin your solo wander, you may have an idea of where you want to meander. On your way, you may feel a nudge to stop. Life is like that. Listen to the tug or nudge if it occurs. When you come to the place to which you have been called, stop. Ask for permission be there. Acknowledge, with gratitude the beings there to greet you. Listen to what they have to teach you. Become aware of a symbol of your experience. Bring that symbol back with you to share (this can be a literal object, or the memory or a photo of the symbol you identified). Return to the circle when you hear the sound of the tingshaws.

Part 2: Solo wandering. At the end of 25 minutes, ring the tingshaws.

Part 3: Witnessing

When we are reassembled in the circle, invite the sharing of symbols and the stories behind them.

Announcements

Prayer/Commissioning/Blessing- *Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address* shared by participants around the circle

