

Wild Church
Sunday, March 15, 2026

Picnic Site #3, Emily Murphy Park, Edmonton

Hope Springs Eternal: The Gift of the Fleeting

Welcome and Announcements

Land Acknowledgment

We gather in this place with gratitude for the wisdom and compassion of the first peoples who walked this land - those who have persisted in engaging with the Holy in the Great Conversation. When these wise ones speak of “All my relations”, they do not speak only of blood relatives. They do not even speak only of two-legged creatures, for to the Indigenous ones, the plants, the four-legged creatures, the fish and the birds are likewise treated with the reverence and respect of personhood.

With them, as members of Treaty Six, we are reminded of our Treaty responsibilities and of the call to be at one with all beings, holding reverence for place and for life.

Blessed be.

Calling the Circle

As Earth circles our star, the Sun, so we too gather in this sacred circle. Let us gather ourselves into silence (*pause*). Listen - listen so carefully that you hear the beating of your own heart. Listen to the life blood coursing through your body. Take a deep breath in (*pause*) and let a long breath out (*pause*). Feel the blessings of this place, this time, this Holy moment.

You belong here. You are welcomed here. You are 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.

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 a kindred relationship with all beings.

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 will reply:

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

Theme Reflection

Here we are at mid-March. We have “sprung forward” an hour to take advantage of the growing light at the end of day. The growing strength of the light brings a glimmer of hope that Spring will soon be here, even as we struggle through the lingering winter. The glimmer of our hope emerges from the fleeting glance back in memory of past Springs. We see and feel these fleeting signs. A sudden breeze from the south caressing the face, then as quickly gone as the wind shifts again to the north. Buds on the trees look like they may be about to burst. Then comes another icy snow. There is a word for this, a word we seldom hear or think about. The word is *evanescent*. Evanescent sounds much like the essence of what it describes: something ephemeral, fleeting, just beyond our grasp. David Whyte describes it this way: “Evanescent is a word whose beauty allows us to appreciate and touch for a moment” the coming, but not yet. Pay attention to those things that emerge for an instant, then retreat. They are signs. Spring is full of evanescent signs before it truly blooms - hints perhaps that something really good is coming. On your solo walk today, I invite you to open with micro sensitivity to the fleeting signs around you that new life will come, that possibilities will bloom into reality; that buds will burst forth into green leaves and blossoming flowers. Join with all creation in her groaning pains of labour so that you will see in this labour the hope of first fruits to come.

Prayer

O Great Creator, we pray, encourage us to persist in joining with all Creation to participate in the unfolding of your hopes for the world. May we open to an awareness that we are indeed part of this groaning in labour to bring forth new life, the beauty of the emerging Spring; wholeness in the holiness of a peace that comes when justice prevails; joy in the knowledge that we are alive. Blessed be. Amen.

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 stirrings of the Holy the sacred texts around us.

This is a time in our gathering when we wander solo in this place. As you walk today become attuned to the fleeting micro signs that hope grows in you - that persistent conviction that new life will come, that Spring will bloom again our our hearts and our lives. See what happens. Then come back to share your experience in our circle.

Wander for 20 minutes, then return to the circle. You will be invited to share your experience as you wish.

(When all have returned to the circle, invite participants to share whatever they are moved to share.)

Blessing “*For a New Beginning*” p 14, *To Bless the Space Between Us*” by John O’Donohue

With gratitude for David Whyte and his book *Consolations II: the Solace, Nourishment and Underlying Meaning of Everyday Words*. Many Rivers Press, 2025