Wild Church
Sunday, September 20, 2026

Paul Kane Park

Re-Earthing: Living in Season

Welcome and Announcements

Land Acknowledge

We gather in this place with humble gratitude for the wisdom and compassion of the first peoples who walked this land - those who have persisted in a commitment to remain grounded to the land, living in reciprocity with all Earth Beings. When these wise ones speak of “All my relations”, they do not speak only of blood relatives. They do no even speak only of two-legged creatures. To the Indigenous ones the plants, the four legged creatures, the fish, the birds, the rivers, the lakes and the seas, the mycelia, the bacteria and all other beings are treated with the 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, s we too gather in this sacred circle. Let us gather ourselves in silence *(significant 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.

Bringing Names into the Circle

Each person is invited to say aloud their own name, and to welcome into the circle a non-human being present among us. Following the offering of each name, all in the circle will reply:

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

Theme Reflection

We have come to the time in the Seasons of one of the strong quarter markers of Sun and time: the Autumnal Equinox. If we consider this time in view of the renewal of the activities in our calendars, we might describe it as a time to ritually welcome to the New Year. Students have returned to studies. Churches and all the other organizations to which we might belong have "started up" once more, with welcome back themes and buoyant hope expressed in creating new activities and programmes.

Markers of the change of season call for pause, for reflection, for re-assessment, for renewal of commitment and setting priorities.

In his book *Live Each Season as it Passes*, Daniel Cooperrider says "Season is not a context or background against which life happens, but a consanguinity, a participatory relationship, a response-ability that our happenings have vis-vis the happenings of everything else." The word "season" comes from the French "saison" meaning the right moment, the appropriate time. "Saison" comes from the Latin "satio" which means "to sow". There is no ariticitiality to "season". Season is always rooted and calls for action to reflect what is right at the time. This idea is a challenge for the Western mind to grasp because we have so thoroughly adopted the life of clock time and the Gregorian calendar, while season stays close to things themselves and happens as life happens.

Cooperrider suggests that, for the sake of all life, and indeed the world, we humans need to be in touch with and attend to the seasons and live each one as it passes. We are, he suggests, in need of *Re-Earthing.* We will find joy and purpose, harmony and laughter to the extent that we re-unite with Gaia and behold the beauty of belonging. This is a warm and hospitable invitation to intimacy with all life and our planet. When we understand this, we know we are standing on Holy ground and act accordingly.

Prayer

O Great Creator, maker of time and space, of night and day, of sun and moon and stars; open our awareness to the wonders of our Earth home, to the grace of the seasons and the gift of life shared in reciprocity with all beings. May we find grounding and purpose as we “live each season as it passes”. Amen.

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is an ancient contemplative prayer practice to allow Scripture to speak to our hearts and to help us discover the multiple ways that the Holy dwells there. Lectio Divina 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 in the sacred texts around us.

This is a time in our gathering when we wander solo in this place. Today as you wander, let down your guard, and at the same time pay attention. Shed the distractions of your “clock driven life”. Walk with intention, feeling the Earth beneath your feet. Allow the grace of this season to enter your heart and soul. May you be touched by joy on the journey.

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.)

A Blessing

“For Equilibrium” from *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings* by John O’Donohue Doubleday: 2008, p. 127