

Gathering Table
a Faith Community in the Anglican Church of Canada

Officiant: Kim Bienvenue
Preacher: Brenda O'Neill
Honorary Assistant: Rev. Gail Clifton
Lay Reader: Kim Bienvenue
Music: Donna and Ted Hamill and GT Singers & Djembe
Lectors: Marilyn and Al Chisholm
Greeter: Mary Ripley, John Kirchen
Altar Guild: Audrey Love

Season of Creation 2
15th Sunday of Pentecost

September 10th, 2023

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO GATHERING TABLE

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Welcome to all our visitors and newcomers. We're glad you're here! We invite you to sign our Visitors Book at the back of the church.

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of life and spirituality. We are gathered as treaty people on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg of the Fort William First Nation and acknowledge this people's stewardship of this land through the ages.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

“Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” *Isaiah 43:19*

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and sustainer of the Earth and all creatures! ***Amen***

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries know or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, Creator of all
to you be praise and glory forever
as your dawn renews the face of the Earth
bringing light and life to all creation
bring hope to your people.

May we rejoice in this day you have made
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to work for justice for all of
creation, that the world may rejoice together and give you
praise. *(Adapted from Lancelot Andrewes, 1626)*

Opening Music: CP 536
Singing Songs of Expectation

Gathering of the Community

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Please stand, as you are able, for the Gathering of the community.

Presider: Lord, open our lips,

***All:* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Presider: O God, make speed to save us.

***All:* O Lord, make haste to help us.**

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

(Please sit or kneel as you are able)

We pray to you for the forgiveness of our sins: Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Season of Creation Prayer

Creator of All,

From your communion of love life sprung forth like a mighty river and the whole cosmos came into being.

On this Earth of overflowing love, the Word was made

flesh and went forth with the life-giving waters
proclaiming peace and justice for all creation.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationship with each creature, but we failed to listen to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the most vulnerable. We broke with the flowing communion of love and sinned against you by not safeguarding the conditions for life.

We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats, we grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished, and we ache at the sight of an economy of death, war and violence that we have inflicted on ourselves and on the Earth.

Open our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the book of Scripture and the book of creation. Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that the Creator Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts and overflow into all creation.

Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's justice and peace, and to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, all creatures around us, and all creation.

Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of the living waters of God's justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading from the Book of Exodus

Exodus 12: 1 – 14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For

I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 149

Refrain: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

Refrain: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Let Israel rejoice in his maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

Let them praise his name in the dance; let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory.

Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds.

Refrain: *Sing to the Lord a new song.*

Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand;

To wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples;

Refrain: *Sing to the Lord a new song.*

To bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron;

To inflict on them the judgement decreed; this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

Refrain: *Sing to the Lord a new song.*

Psalm Prayer:

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Accept our praise, God of justice, defender of the oppressed. Give us grace to join in this your holy work, that all the world may see your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Second Reading is from John

John 7: 37 – 39

from the Season of Creation

On this Earth, our common home, the Word was made flesh and went forth with the life-giving waters proclaiming peace and justice for all creation. Let us hear the Word of the Lord: “On the last and greatest day of the

festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this Jesus meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual: **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew

ALL: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 18: 15 – 20

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in

heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

This is The Gospel of Christ
Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon: **Brenda O'Neill**
Time of Silent Reflection

The Affirmation of Faith
— *from Season of Creation*

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
God made flesh,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.
(Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book)**

Offertory: **Come, O Thou Traveller Unknown**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Prayers of the People

*Lay Reader
from Season of Creation*

Litany of Repentance

God of light, life and love,
God of land, and sea, and sky,
Who called creation into existence and wove it into a rich
tapestry, a fine mat, a web of life

Your Spirit hovered over the face of the primordial waters,
And was breathed into humankind after You made us
equally in Your image.

Your Word was made flesh and embodied Your divine
love as it took root and bore fruit in us, restoring our
relationship with You.

Yet we have not honoured this relationship with You and
the rest of Your Creation.

We have disrespected the web of life

We have devalued the fine ecological mat that You wove
with so much love

We have uprooted Your tree of life and sold it as logs.

We have forgotten that we sweat and cry saltwater and
have polluted Your oceans and rivers... oceans that cry for
Justice and rivers that call to righteousness.

Instead of everything that has breath praising You, all
creation groans in pain as trees and phytoplankton choke

on carbon belched from our desire for more, and our care for less.

All around we see the consequences of our ecological sin as we extract and exploit, as we defile and pillage our sister and brother creation:

Heatwaves and wildfires

Bitter winters

Droughts and floods

Rising sea levels and rising ocean temperatures

More extreme cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes

Yet we are blind

Creation roars in pain

Yet we are deaf

You call us in Christ, to speak truth to power and peace to this planet, our common home

Yet we are silent.

God of hope and healing

May your Rivers of Righteousness

Wash away our apathy, our greed and selfishness and reveal the deep relationships You created for us with all creation.

Nourish us with the water of life that restores, turning deserts of despair into oases of hope.

May the waves of Your embrace

Transform us back into guardians of Your creation.

May the currents of Your justice

Carry us to Your lagoon of peace

Where all creation may enjoy

Life in abundance

We pray in the name of the one who came so that the whole cosmos may have everlasting life, Jesus the Christ, **Amen.** *(Rev. James Shri Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches)*

In God there is forgiveness.

**Loving and all-seeing God,
forgive us where we have failed to support one
another
and to be what we claim to be.
Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;
and where our thoughts and actions have been
contrary to yours we ask your pardon.**

God forgives us; be at peace.

[Silence]

Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection, reconciliation for all the human race and for the whole of creation. **Amen.** *(Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book - Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)*

Intercessory Prayers – from Season of Creation

Creator and Redeemer, as we approach you in prayer, make us walk in beauty and balance. Make us open our hearts and minds. Make us speak the truth. We pray for your community, the Church, the Body of Christ. We pray for all our relatives in the circle of life throughout all Creation, for those chosen to be our leaders and teachers.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

We call upon the Earth, our planet home, with its beautiful depths, soaring heights and deep waters, its vitality and abundance of life, and together we ask:

That it may teach us and show us the way.

We call upon the mountains and deserts, the high green valleys and meadows filled with wild flowers, the snows, the summits of intense silence, and we ask:

That they may teach us and show us the way.

We call upon the land which grows our food, the nurturing soil, the fertile fields, the abundant gardens and orchards, and we ask:

That they may teach us and show us the way.

We call upon the forests, the great trees reaching strongly to the sky with earth in their roots and the heavens in their branches, the fir and the pine and the cedar and we ask:

That they may teach us and show us the way.

We call upon the creatures of the fields and forests and the seas, our brothers and sisters the wolves and deer, the eagle and dove, the great whales and the dolphin. We ask:

That they may teach us and show us the way.

We call upon all those who have lived on this earth, our ancestors and our friends, who dreamed the best for future generations, and upon whose lives our lives are built, and with thanksgiving, we call upon them too ...

That they may teach us and show us the way.

We call upon the nations of the world to hear the cry of those who have suffered loss of homes, lives and hope because of climate change. May they hear the cry of those whose schools, churches, hospitals, roads and infrastructure have been damaged. We pray for justice and

for peace:

That they may teach us and show us the way.

We pray for all victims of war and violence. We pray for countries where the greed for oil and gas are leading to war. We hold in our hearts those areas where fossil fuel projects have destabilised communities and human rights abuses have occurred. We pray for areas where climate change has led to drought and conflict over water and resources is taking place. May we respond to the cry of the Earth and those living in poverty, as peacemakers who challenge the violence that threatens us all. We ask:

That they may teach us and show us the way.

Creator, you made the world and declared it to be good: the beauty of the trees, the softness of the air, the fragrance of the grass speaks to us; the summit of the mountains, the thunder of the sky, the rhythm of the lakes speak to us; the faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning, the dewdrops on the flower speak to us. But above all, our heart soars, for you speak to us in Jesus the Christ, in whose name we offer these prayers.

Amen.

The Collect of The Day

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works, we may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
**hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing:

Announcements:

Closing Music: **All Around The World**

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !

Please note that there is a 'treasure chest' at the back of the church where offerings can be left when leaving the church.

Readings for the Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost
Season of Creation 3

Exodus 14: 19 – 31.

Psalm 114 or Canticle 1

Romans 1: 1 – 12....

Matthew 18: 21 - 35

Anglican Cycle of Prayer Please Pray for:

14th Sunday after Trinity - Season of Creation

The Church of Ireland

Anglican Lutheran Cycle of Prayer :

Please Pray for:

ACC: The Most Rev. Lynne McNaughton,
Metropolitan, and the clergy and people of the
Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and
Yukon

ELCIC The Assistant to the Bishop and staff of the
British Columbia Synod

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for:

**Pray for Christian vocations and for candidates
for ordained ministry.**

Pastoral Chaplains - The Rev. Canon Bob Elkin,
Algoma, The Rev. Heather Manuel, Muskoka, The Rev.
Rhonda Hirst, Sudbury-Manitoulin, The Ven. Linda
White, Temiskaming The Rt. Rev. Victoria Matthews,
Thunder Bay-North Shore, The Rev. Diane Hilpert-
McIlroy, Diocesan

Our Parish Cycle of Prayer

Please pray for our own church members

Bruce and Georgina Adderley, Roberta Adderley, Angela
Alberta and Ava, Katelin Anderson, Ryan Thrasher,
Brooke, Scarlett, Olivia, and Arya, Margaret Aris, Darlene
Armstrong, Errol Atkinson, Sabata Baya, Ellen Beaudry
and Clint, Richard and Lesley BeauParlant, Wendy Bell,

Ellie Bennett , Kerri and Shane Bernardi, and Samuel, Sydney Bernardi, Kim Bienvenue, Adrian Boissoneau, Jim Bolt, Margaret Boone,

Please Pray For: Our young people who are just starting, or going back to Junior High School, High School, College and University who are struggling academically, social and mentally, as well as with understanding their own identities.

A grace note from www.thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com
Whoever speaks slander is a fool....
but those who restrain their lips are wise.

We Welcome Your Prayer Requests:

If you have any needs or concerns that you would like placed on the Gathering Table prayer chain, please email the request to prayerchain@gatheringtable.ca. If you do not have access to email, please call the office or Sheila Chisholm at 787-0253 and we will get it sent out for you.

Reminder about Visitations:

Rev. Ann is continuing her Pastoral care visits. If you would like a visit, please call 807-285-9446 or email her at: rector@gatheringtable.ca



2023 Envelopes are now available at the back
A note about offerings: all information is on the shelves at the back of the Church. If you used the numbered offering envelopes in 2022 you will find a personalized box of 2023 envelopes for your use. If you wish to use weekly offering

envelopes you may take an unassigned box and add your name to the list beside the box number. If you would like to contribute using the Electronic Offering Program*, which we recommend, these forms are also available at the back of the Church fill in the information and turn it into the office. If you are already using EOP you may amend your offerings using the same form. E-transfers can also be made to Gathering Table by using: office@gatheringtable.ca and use “church” as your security answer. If you require any assistance, please consult a Warden.

The EOP is administered by the Diocese and is a pre-authorized payment plan offering a steady flow of funds to Gathering Table. It takes the worry about “catching up” if you are away or cannot attend for any reason.

EVENTS AT GATHERING TABLE

Groups or individuals wishing to use the Parish Hall, or Kitchen, may do so by filling out the Gathering Table Booking Request Form that is available by calling the office at 345-6898 or by emailing the office at (office@gatheringtable.ca).

Calendar of Events

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 19 th | Altar Guild Meeting 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 19 th | Camp Gitchigomee Meeting 7 p.m. |
| Sept. 23 rd | Come help decorate the church at 10 a.m. for the Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday service |
| Sept. 24 th | Harvest Thanksgiving Service 10 a.m. |
| Sept. 24 th | Food Cupboard |

Oct. 8th Food Cupboard Oct. 22nd Food Cupboard

Gathering Table Booking Form

Each September groups wishing to book the use of the hall, kitchen has to fill in the “Booking Request Form” each year for your groups’ activities. Please contact the office to request the form. office@gatheringtable.ca

Sunday Sermons: Sunday service can be viewed on the Gathering Table website <http://gatheringtable.ca> and on the Gathering Table Facebook page. The whole service will be live streamed at 10 a.m. Sunday at the link <http://gatheringtable.ca> **Please Note** You may be visible on the online stream

How is your “Grow A Row” Doing??

Thunder Bay North Shore Deanery Challenge



September 23rd they will be looking for produce to share for Food Cupboard clients.

Our Daily Bread is available at the back of the church
Pick up a copy today of the Sept. Oct. Nov. Issue

2023 Parishioner Parking Passes are available at the office Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Friday 8

a.m. – 12 noon or on Sun. before church.

PWRDF LAUNCHES

In-Canada Emergency Response Grant

In this year of unprecedented wildfires from coast to coast, including those currently forcing evacuations in the Northwest Territories and British Columbia, PWRDF is establishing a fund specifically for in Canada emergency response. This new fund will allow them to respond quickly to disasters such as hurricanes, floods and wildfires when a diocese asks them for support, rather than wait to raise funds for individual disasters. Dioceses can access the new In-Canada Emergency Fund by requesting short – medium – and long term support. How you can help: Donate directly to the ***In-Canada Emergency fund*** at any time online at pwrdf.org. You can also *mail a cheque* to PWRDF at 80 Hayden Street, 3rd floor, Toronto, ON, M4Y 3G2. Please indicate In-Canada Emergency in the memo field. You may also donate during business hours by calling 416-822-9083 (or leave a message toll-free at 1-866-308-7973) and they will return your call.

Linda Rintamaki (rep)

Funeral service for ***Hazel Johnson*** will be held on Thursday, September 14th, 2023 at 11 a.m. at Gathering Table.



Gathering Table

228 Pearl Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 1E4

Email: office@gatheringtable.ca

Web: <http://gatheringtable.ca>

Office: 345-6898

Hall: 345-6088

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Office Administrator: Roberta Wolfe

Treasurer: Sharon Corston: Friday from 8 a.m. to noon –

Pastor: Rev. Ann Camber, M.Div.

Phone: 807-251-7503 Email: rector@gatheringtable.ca

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.

Phone: 768-9865 Email: gailx2@shaw.ca

Lay Readers:

Frances Bennett-Sutton, Rose Jardine, Brenda O'Neill,

Richard Pepper, Jim Sutton, Kim Bienvenue,

Rector's Warden: David Reid

People's Warden: Jim Sutton

Deputy People's Warden: Sheila Chisholm

Wifi Guest Password at Gathering Table > GTGuest1

Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2023

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4: 18 - 19