



LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE
Pioneer Memorial United Church 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship and Annual Meeting
April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Easter

Minister: Rev Meg Jordan (705-789-6600) jordanm@vianet.ca
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Bookkeeper/Administrator: Linda Pinkerton
Leadership Chair: Jennifer Parker
Musician, Knox: Cynthia MacLean

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WE GATHER

Welcome

Family Life and Work

Family Celebrations

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgement of the Land

Call to Worship:

In the presence of God who works in us and others by the Spirit

We are called to gather with hope

In the presence of God who has come in Jesus to reconcile and make new

We are called to gather with courage

In the presence of God who has created and is creating

We are called to gather with wonder and awe.

Holy One,

we come before you with all of who we are—

**our joys and sorrows,
our achievements and mistakes,
our hopes and fears.
We come seeking the fullness of life you offer
Through your wisdom and our way Jesus Christ Amen**

Opening Hymn: Spirit, Open My Heart MV79

Chorus:

Spirit open my heart
To the joy and pain of living
As you love may I love
In receiving and in giving Spirit,
open my heart

1 God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.

2 Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.

3 May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.

WE LISTEN

A Creation story based on Genesis 1

In the beginning — about 15 billion years ago — there was nothing. At least, nothing that we would call something.

No grass, no trees, no rivers, no lakes; no earth, no sun, no stars, no galaxies; no matter, no energy, no space, no time. Nothing except presence— the presence of God.

Then God said, “Let there be.” And there was.

The Universe came into being all at once, in an instant, a great flaring forth. At first, the Universe was hot and dense and so tiny that you couldn't have seen it even if you could have been there to watch. In fact, the Universe was so hot and so dense and so tiny that there was no room for differences, and everything was all the same.

And then God said, **“I am going to do something remarkable. I am going to create a Universe that is able to participate in creating itself. I will make the Universe so that it is able to bring forth differences, and the differences will enter into relationships, and the relationships will make new things. I will create in the Universe by empowering the Universe to co-create with me.”** And it was so.

God empowered the Universe and the Universe grew. And there was difference, and there was relationship, and God saw that it was good.

Hymn for Reflection: God of the Bible MV#28

**God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our center, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.**

**Refrain: Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.**

**God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empower us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.**

Refrain: Fresh as the morning....

**Those without status, those who are nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.**

Refrain: Fresh as the morning....

Not by your finger, not by your anger

**will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.**

Refrain: Fresh as the morning....

**Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other.
till our world changes, facing the Cross.**

Refrain: Fresh as the morning....

Children's Story with Rev Meg

WHOEVER YOU ARE by Mem Fox

Video of Mem Fox reading. https://youtu.be/VSCbCuGxkVc?si=qFNB_2pNAYoczGC

WE RESPOND

Call for Offering

Offertory Hymn "We Give You But Your Own" VU# 542

We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.
Amen

Prayers of the People: You feed my soul

With the whole earth.You feed my soul.

With all the creatures of the earth.You feed my soul.

With the wind and the rain.You feed my soul.

With the stars in the heaven.You feed my soul.

With bread from your table...You feed my soul.

And I grow strong in heart and mind and spirit...with your food.

Closing Hymn: Like a Healing Stream MV#144.

1. Like a healing stream in a barren desert, Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth, Good is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding, promising revival and re-birth... like a healing stream.

2. Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden, Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed, God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation, yearning for an end to want and need... like a gentle rain.

3. Like a river strong with a restless current, Spirit water rushing on to distant shore, God is carving out a channel in a new direction, calling for an end to hate and war... like a river strong.

4. Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons, Spirit water with a love both deep and wide, God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow: God will always challenge and provide!

Like a mighty sea, like a river strong, like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

ANNUAL MEETING

Children and their caregivers are invited to move to Pioneer Hall while the adults stay to have a meeting.

Commissioning and Benediction:

**Loving God,
Bless us with spirituality as deep as the ocean
Call us to a discipleship as bold as the sun
Compel us to a justice as daring as the love of Jesus,
Fill us with gratitude for all the ways you feed us
With food for our bodies and fellowship for our souls.
Amen**

ENJOY LUNCH WITH ONE ANOTHER!!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS

April 14	TODAY Worship 10:30 Annual Meeting-following worship Barbecue Luncheon after meeting hosted by	Anne Marie
Switzer and	Jennifer Parker	
April 17	LOB Coffee and Conversation Zoom 10 a.m.	
April 18	Healing Prayer Service online 6:30-8.00pm	
April 21	Easter 4 Earth Sunday 10:30 a.m.	
April 25	Circle Dance in Pioneer Hall 6:30-800p.m.	
April 28	Easter 5 10:30 a.m. Worship Team Meeting	

May 5 Hike for Hospice and Red Dress day
Last shared service at Pioneer.
May 12 Mother's Day. Knox Re-opens.
May 19 Pentecost: The fulfilment of Easter
May 26 Trinity Sunday—The Mystery we call God
June 2-June 30 Rev Meg's holiday— holy time for rest
Schedule of Guest ministers TBA
July 7th Summer Sermon Series: Earth Connections
August 12-19. CAMP AWESOME WEEK: Bees for Peace

Spread the word.

Ongoing Stewardship Options:

1. In person and on the plate.

2. Via PAR (preauthorized remittance). Money is withdrawn monthly from your bank account.

3. By e-transfer. The email address for donations via e-transfer is

lobunitedchurches@gmail.com In the subject line/comment please identify to which of the Churches you wish to donate, Pioneer in Hillside, Stewart in Dwight or Knox in Dorset.

4. By cheque: If you send a cheque, please make it out to Lake of Bays Pastoral Charge and mail it to: LOB United Churches, P.O. Box 196, Dwight, ON, P0A 1H0, specifying for which church the donation is intended. Thank you.