



Thanksgiving Sunday October 8
Season of Creation 6
LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE
Knox, Dorset – 9:00 a.m.
Stewart Memorial, Dwight – 10:15 a.m.
Pioneer, Hillside– 11:30 a.m.

Minister: Rev Meg Jordan (705-789-6600)
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Musician, Knox: Cynthia MacLean

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WE GATHER

Welcome, Life and Work of the Church
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Acknowledgement of the Land

Call to Worship

God has given us this beautiful earth,
all that grows and lives upon it.

Thanks be to God.

God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

Thanks be to God.

God has gathered us into a community of care,
Let us worship God with love for planet Earth,
thanksgiving for the breath of life,
and praise for the constant creative presence of God.

Opening Hymn: “Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven” VU #240

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Praise the Maker all your days!

- 2 Praise God for the grace and favour
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!
- 3 Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame;
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
All within me, praise God's name!
- 4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the high eternal one.
- 5 Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy God,

**you who are the root of our being,
may we welcome your love,
your joy, and your wisdom everywhere we see them.**

**We give you thanks for your gift of life
within us and around us.**

**We ask for healing of our bodies and spirits and relationships,
that we might become part of the healing of
the world you love. Amen.**

Prayer of confession

Leader: For the times that harvests have been abundant, but our giving was scarce,

All: forgive us, O God.

Leader: For the times we have sown discontent and malice,

All: forgive us, O God.

Leader: For the times we have reaped your love but hoarded it away,

All: forgive us, O God.

Leader: For the times we have not trusted your provision and sustenance,

All: forgive us, O God.

Leader: For the times we have lost hope in your future reign,

All: **forgive us, O God.**

Leader: For the times we have been blind to your miracles in our midst,

All: **forgive us, O God.**

Assurance of Pardon

We are loved. We are forgiven. Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Let us open ourselves to receiving that love and that forgiveness.

WE LISTEN

Scripture Reading **L Psalm 19**

Gradual Hymn: Called by Earth and Sky MV#135

Refrain.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of Life, sanctified
Called by earth and sky

Precious these waters endless seas,
deep ocean's dream
Waters of healing, rivers of rain
The wash of love again R.

Precious this gift the air we breathe,
wind born and free
Breath of the Spirit blown through this place
Our gathering and our grace. R.

Precious these mountains ancient sands,
vast fragile land
Seeds of our wakening rooted and strong
Creation's faithful song R,

Precious the fire that lights the way,
bright dawning day
Fire of passion sorrows undone
Our faith and justice one R.

The Wind Comes... A Story sermon

Today we celebrate Thanksgiving. There is so much to be thankful for so much that we just take for granted. This is a story about the Wind and the different ways we experience it.

Some people live on high mountains and the Wind blows all around.

One day it comes warm and they walk out to meet it.

One day it comes cold and they put on their coats,

One day it comes rushing terribly, crashing against the windows and pulling at the trees (and they stay inside their houses).

And one day it comes dancing lightly on the leaves
and playing in the grass,
and everyone who stops to look at it is happy...

Some people live on the plains
And the Wind comes straight and steady all day long.
It never stops to think and change its mind,
But runs swiftly over the corn and the wheat,
the people and their houses and their cows
and their long straight roads.

But if the people strip the green from the prairie land
and leave it naked and dry, the earth leaps up into the Wind
flying away in the black dust clouds.

And where the Wind rests,
It lays down the dust like a blanket,
Over the wheat, over the houses,
over the people.

People blame of the Wind,
But the Wind will take anyone who will go...

Some people live deep in the valley,
So deep down that the Wind goes by without noticing.
Every thing there is quiet and still,
only the people move.

When the Rain comes, it has to slip away from the Wind
to go there all alone, falling straight down from the Sky,
And the Wind wonders where it went, but never stops to look...

Some people live by the Sea
And the Wind blows the Sea to them all day long,
throws it in waves upon the beaches and the cliffs
and carries them the salt and the seaweed smell
and the sound of the breaking waves.

When they go in a boat on the Sea
They reach up a white sail to catch at the Wind
And the Wind let's them ride wherever it's going...

And some people live in the city
which is all houses and big buildings,
and sometimes there is no grass
and sometimes there are no trees,
but there is always the Wind.

It finds its way down the avenue
And runs into the streets and into the little alleys
and plays with the garbage cans and the dirt in the gutter.
gets into peoples hair and in their clothes —

... hops in at an open window, waves the curtains,
turns the pages in a book and lifts pieces of paper off the table...

There are people who don't like the Wind,
They say it's cold
Or it's hot
Or it's damp
Or it changes,
and they shut the window.

But the Wind doesn't go away,
it stays just as long as it likes
blowing about outside,
looking all over for a crack.

And when it finds one, it sneaks in
purring like a cat...

And there are people who want to change the Wind.
In winter they heat it up and let it wander inside their houses, warming everything.
The Wind doesn't mind, it likes to be in peoples houses,
The Wind is friendly and loves everyone.

And in summer there are people who catch the wind outside and make it cold and blow it all
through their houses with a whirring noise,
and the Wind doesn't mind that either because, hot or cold,
it's always the Wind, it only likes to be moving
and going places
and never to be still...

But there are some people who close the windows,
seal up the cracks, and don't want the Wind to blow
hot or cold in their rooms, and they think
“I've shut the Wind outside!”

They smile — you can see them smile —
because at last, they think, they have escaped the Wind

But if you go very close to them
You can feel the Wind still there,
Blowing soft and warm out of their mouths.

Because the Wind is everywhere, always...

WE RESPOND

OFFERING INVITATION: DOXOLOGY VU 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

Body Prayer: You Feed My Soul

CLOSING HYMN: Deep in Our Hearts. MV 154

BLESSING

Go forth, and may the Spirit of God go with you;
Behind you, to encourage you,
Beside you, to befriend you,
above you, to watch over you,
before you, to lead you
within you, to give you peace, Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OCTOBER

For your calendars:

October 9: **Happy Thanksgiving!!**

October 10 "Sacred Nature" Book Club 1pm.

October 18: Person's Day and ZOOM conversation group 10am

October 19 Monthly Sacred Circle Dancing
Pioneer Hall 6-8:30p.m.

October 29 Joint worship at Stewart Memorial,
10:30 a.m Finger food pot luck!!

November 18: Christmas Cookie Fundraiser

Calling all bakers to help make lots and lots of cookies. For details go to our website.

Stewardship is participation in God's Work Thank you!

There are several different options for you to make your offering to Lake of Bays Pastoral Charge. 1. In person and on the plate. (Each congregation has a different practice around this but you can't miss it!) 2. Via PAR (preauthorized remittance). Then you don't have to think about it again. Money is withdrawn monthly 3. By e-transfer. The email address for donations via e-transfer is lobunit-edchurches@gmail.com In the subject line/comment please identify to which of the Churches you wish to donate, 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.