

WE GATHER

Welcome, Life and Work of the Church
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

Let us gather with hope

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

Let us gather with thanks

In the presence of God who has created and is creating

Let us gather with wonder and awe.

Opening Hymn: In the Quiet Curve of Evening VU#278

- 1 In the quiet curve of evening,
in the sinking of the days,
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.
In the lapses of my breathing,
in the space between my ways,
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

- 2 In the rests between the phrases,
in the cracks between the stars,
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.
In the melting down of endings,
in the cooling of the sun,
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

- 3 In the mystery of my hungers,
in the silence of my rooms,
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.
In the empty cave of grieving,
in the desert of my dreams,
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

Prayer of Approach:

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
Forgive us when we settle for less by what we do
and by what we do not do.**

**Help us to receive your healing wholeness
so that we might gain fresh courage as your people
to walk with joy in your way of peace and justice and truth,
through Jesus Christ, our Wisdom and our Way. Amen**

WE LISTEN

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: Spirit Open My Heart MV#79

Refrain:

**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. R**

**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. R

**3 May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.**

**In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. R**

Sermon: Stormy Times:

Introducing the Via Negativa with a summary of the four paths of Creation centred Spirituality from

The four paths of creation spirituality tell us what matters. We are told in Path One that awe and delight matter; in Path Two that silence, darkness, suffering, and letting go matter; in Path Three that creativity and imagination matter; and in Path Four that justice and celebration, which add up to compassion, matter. When the four paths are understood in light of the new cosmic story, then a whole civilization can be born because, while the four paths tell us what matters, the new creation story tells us why it matters—because it has taken 13.8 billion years to bring all these experiences of delight and suffering, of birth and justice-making, to this point in history. The Four Paths also address the question, Where will God, where will the experience of the divine, be found in our time? Creation spirituality responds: The divine will be found in these places: In the Via Positiva. In the awe, wonder, and mystery of nature and of all beings, each of whom is a “word of God,” a “mirror of God that glistens and glitters,” as Hildegard of Bingen put it. This is Path One. In the Via Negativa. In darkness and nothingness, in silence and emptying, in letting go and letting be; and in the pain and suffering and grief that constitute an equally real part of our spiritual journey. This is Path Two. In the Via Creativa. In our generativity we co-create with God: in our imaginative output, we trust our images enough to birth them and ride them into existence. According to Eckhart, we actually birth God or the Christ by our creative work in the world. This is Path Three. In the Via Transformativa. In the relief of suf-

fering, in the combatting of injustice, in the struggle for homeostasis, for balance in society and history, and in the celebration that happens when persons struggling for justice and trying to live in mutuality come together to praise and give thanks for the gifts of being and being together. This is Path Four. Which spirals back to Path One again.

Fox, Matthew. Matthew Fox: Essential Writings on Creation Spirituality (Modern Spiritual Masters) (pp. 77-78).

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

Prayers of the People (led by the Singing Bowl)

Jesus' Prayer

CLOSING HYMN: In the Bulb There is Flower VU#703

- 1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
- 2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

COMMISSIONING and BLESSING

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
Walk with you on the road
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
Stretch out your hands to serve
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart
Open your hearts to love
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet
And may everyone you meet
See the face of Christ in you.

SUMMER CHURCH IN MUSKOKA

August 13 **VIA NEGATIVA** Creation Spirituality 2
August 23 **VIA CREATIVA** Creation Spirituality 3
August 26 MEMORIAL SERVICE for **Vivian Stronach** 11am
August 27 **VIA TRANSFORMATIVA** Creation Spirituality 4
Sept 3 Sunday of Labour Day Weekend

Sept 10 **CHANGE OF LOB CIRCUIT SCHEDULE**
Knox United, Dorset– 9:00 a.m.
Stewart Memorial, Dwight – 10:15 a.m.
Pioneer Memorial, Hillside– 11:30 a.m.

Stewardship is participation in God's Service

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. Thank you.

Sunday Worship, August 13, 2023
Summer Series on Creation Spirituality
Path Two: VIA NEGATIVA

LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE
Pioneer, Hillside – 9:00 a.m.
Stewart Memorial, Dwight – 10:15 a.m.
Knox, Dorset – 11:30 a.m.

Minister: Rev Meg Jordan (705-789-6600) jordanm@vianet.ca
lakeofbayspastoralcharge196@gmail.com
Bookkeeper/Administrator: Linda Pinkerton
Leadership Chair: Jennifer Parker
Musician, Knox: Cynthia MacLean

