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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:

Come, faithful people, and find your heart centre
where God may enter in.

We gather as God's people:
hungry for holy presence,
ready for God's Word to us.

Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn: "God We Praise You for the Morning" VU 415

1 God, we praise you for the morning;
hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise,
joy in work and in play.

2 God, we praise you for creation,
mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
in your bountiful hand.

3 God, we praise you for compassion,
all the loving that you show;

human touching, tears, and laughter,
help your children to grow.

4 God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher,
strength and courage you send.

5 God, we praise you for the Saviour,
come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.

6 Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Christ is Lord of our days!

Prayer of Approach:

O Holy One,

We hunger for wholeness.

**You burn within us as a desire for greater freedom,
deeper meaning,
a brighter future.**

Fill our hearts with new hope

Open our minds to fresh possibilities. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (unison) Paraphrase VU p.916

WE LISTEN

Scripture: Reader 1 Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Reader 2 Matthew 15: 21-28

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: "Come to My Heart Lord Jesus." VU#661

1 Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;

come to my heart today.
Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

2 Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
fill me with love today.
Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

3 Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
Answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;
give me a song to sing.

Sermon: Co-creators with God

The following is the culmination of a new re-telling of Genesis 1. We will be touching upon what this means for being human today.

...God empowered the Universe, and four million years ago in Africa, the ancestors of human beings stood up on two legs. And they began to use their hands to pick things up and examine them, to gather food, to hold a tool, to reach out and groom each other. The complex relations of brain and body, social structure and environment, gave these creatures new qualities of feeling and emotion, intelligence and thought,

questioning and wonder. Two million years ago they made tools; one and a half million years ago they harnessed fire; thirty-five thousand years ago they made clothing, and cave paintings, and storytelling, and funeral rites; twenty thousand years ago they domesticated grain crops and started farming; ten thousand years ago they flourished in language, mythology, art, and culture; five thousand years ago they invented cities and ways of bringing large numbers of people into complex social relations. Human beings were able to look at the Universe that brought them forth, and ask how it works, and why it's here, and what it means. **Human beings were able to look at the Universe and see in it the creative hand of God. They were also able to recognize that they were created to be co-creators of the world with God. That is human beings' greatest gift, and that is human beings' greatest risk. And there is difference, and there is relationship, and God sees that it is good. The important question is "do we?"**

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:

CLOSING HYMN: "May the God of Hope Go with Us" VU#424

- 1 May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

- 2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R

BLESSING:

As you leave this place
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
and within you, to give you peace,
now and always. Amen

August 20 **VIA CREATIVA** Creation Spirituality 3
August 23 Leadership Team Meeting 1 pm
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 Creativity

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 20, 2023
Summer Series on Creation Spirituality
Path Three: VIA CREATIVA

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