



**Sunday Worship Lake of Bays Pastoral Charge  
Joint Service, 10:30 a.m.  
July 30, 2023  
Seabreeze United Church**

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

All music reproduced under OneLicence #734030-A Valid until 04/05/20234

**WE GATHER**

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

**Call to Worship:**

This is our day:

a day of rest

**a day of hope**

**a day of peace and happiness.**

This is the day the Lord has made:

**a day to sing**

**a day to praise**

**a day to become one in the Spirit.**

This is the day the Lord has made.

This is my day.

**This is your day.**

**This is our day**

**Opening Hymn:** Come and Find a Quiet Centre VU #374

1     Come and find the quiet centre  
          in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
          find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
          clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
          be at peace, and simply be.

2     Silence is a friend who claims us,  
          cools the heat and slows the pace,  
it is who speaks and names us,  
          knows our being, face to face,  
making space within our thinking,  
          lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking,  
          finding scope for faith begun.

God

3     In the Spirit let us travel,  
          open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel,  
          celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming,  
          there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming  
          there is always room to spare!

**Prayer of Approach:**

We come, like Abraham, Sarah, and John the Baptist,  
**people with vision.**

We come, like Job, Thomas, and the Samaritan woman,  
**people with questions.**

We come, like Moses, Jeremiah, and Mary,  
**people with self-doubts.**

We come, like Joshua, Deborah, and Stephen,

**people with courage.**

We come, like David, Mary Magdalene, and Paul,

**people with regrets.**

We come, like Hagar, Uriah, and the Syrophoenician woman,

**people with wisdom from the margins.**

We come, like Rebekah and Samuel,

like Hosea and Esther, like Nathaniel and Martha,

like John, Mark and Priscilla,

Like Paul and Stephanie

**people with a part to play in the story of faith.**

## **WE LISTEN**

**Selected texts from** Romans 8:26-39

**Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church**

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn:** Open my Eyes that I May See VU#371

- 1    Open my eyes, that I may see  
      glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
      place in my hands the wonderful key  
      that shall unclasp and set me free.  
          Silently now I wait for thee,  
          ready, my God, thy will to see.  
      Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
  
- 2    Open my ears, that I may hear  
      voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
      and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
      everything false will disappear.  
          Silently now I wait for thee,  
          ready, my God, thy will to see.  
      Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!
  
- 3    Open my mouth, and let me bear  
      gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
      open my heart and let me prepare  
      love with thy children thus to share.  
          Silently now I wait for thee,  
          ready, my God, thy will to see.  
      Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

**Sermon: New ways of seeing**

In Our Image—God's First Creatures  
A story to help us see differently

"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And when the earth was almost done, God said, "Let Us make humans in Our image, after Our likeness." To whom was God speaking when God said this?

Who is "us"?

Who else is included in the word "our"?

God created the light and the darkness

"And the waters and the land,  
and the trees and the plants.

And the sun and the moon and the stars.

And the fish in the waters and the birds in the sky. And all the wild creatures upon the earth. And God saw that it was good. But something was missing. And God said, "Let Us make humans in Our image, after Our likeness..."

All the animals heard the words of God and they gathered together in the sunshine, among the trees and the plants and all that God had created. "Are You speaking to us?" they asked. And God said, "Yes. I am speaking to ALL that I have created. Man and woman shall be a part of nature, like each of you. And nature shall also be a part of them. Let Us give Our gifts to woman and to man, for in Our image will I make them."

The sun and the moon and the stars sparkled with excitement.  
The waters shimmered and the earth covered with anticipation.

The animals were especially excited to be involved in this important moment. The birth of humankind!

They each thought about what gift they would give so that they would always be connected to man and to woman.

"Make them brave," said the tiger.

"Make them gentle" said the lamb

'Make them loud' roared the lion.

'Make them quiet' hushed the Clam.

"Make them small" said the ant.

"Make them large" called the whale

"Make them fast" snapped the cheetah.

"Make.. them... slow" drawled the snail.

"Make them lazy" yawned the lizard

"Make them busy" buzzed the bee.

Then Swan spoke very softly, "Make them graceful just like me

One after another all of the animals shared their ideas about how to make man and woman in their image..

The chimpanzee chattered "let them always be curious"  
The ostrich bent low "let them mind their own business"  
Giraffe simply smiled as it held its head high.  
"Let them swim" said the fish.  
The birds chirped "let them fly"  
And God said "they'll have to figure that one out for them selves."  
The eagle said "let them soar on wings"  
The Nightingale sang "give them voices that can sing"  
"Have we forgotten anything?" asked the elephant  
"Good hearing" said the owl  
"Good vision" said the hawk  
"Playfulness" laughed the dolphin  
Good appetite" gulped the shark

All of creation became involved, offering their gifts to humankind.  
The moon spoke "give them guidance"  
The sun shone "give them warmth"  
The stars sparkled "give them wonder"  
The trees stood tall "give them strength"

God thanked all of creation for their gifts  
Then God said, "Behold, woman and man shall fill the earth and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air over every living thing that creeps upon the earth".

And all the living creatures gasped and fled in fright and hid behind the shuddering trees.  
"What will become of us?" they cried.

God calmed them and said "Do not be afraid for I will create man and woman in my image after my likeness. Woman and man shall be partners with me to care for you and the whole creation. In addition to your gifts I will give them the gift of goodness and kindness and love. I will bless them with the ability to understand and to reason so they can choose between right and wrong. Just as you give to them they will give to you."

The animals were no longer afraid they came out from their hiding places and waited to see what God would create and all of nature waited to see its reflection.

It was time..

A mist appeared and watered the ground out of the dust of the earth and with the breath of life God created man and woman in the image of God and in the image of all nature. God created humankind and nature lived in them and God saw that it was very good!

## **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

## CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

### **Body Prayer: You Feed My Soul (unison)**

#### CLOSING HYMN: Great is Thy Faithfulness VU#288

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R

## COMMISSIONING and BLESSING

May the grace of God,  
deeper than our imagination;  
the strength of Christ,  
stronger than our need;  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
richer than our expectations;  
guide and sustain us today  
and in all our tomorrows.  
Go forth, for the love of God is ours to share,  
the peace of Christ is ours to extend,

the power of the Holy Spirit is ours to offer.

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 5 Bake Sale at Stewart Memorial 10am to 1p.m.

August 6 On this Sunday anniversary of the bombing of  
pray for Peace on Earth

Hiroshima we will

August 8-11 CAMP AWESOME: Bees for Peace has been  
**year.** Watch for it next year.

**cancelled this**

Aug 10 Celebration of Life: Stephanie Rabjohn 11 am

Aug 12 LoveFEST

August 13 Sermon: Walking on Water

**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 [lobunitedchurches@gmail.com](mailto:lobunitedchurches@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.