

The graphic is intentional in design:

The Tree of Life

The blessed dove is soaring higher, urging you and I to reach up and reach out beyond our knowing.

The tree houses many creatures.

The house on the trunk is a symbol of our need to address and be part of the solution for many issues of justice and poverty in our area. Everyone deserves safe and affordable housing.

The heart in the middle of the house represents your heart and mine, **where God plants seeds of inspiration for each of us to grow.**

The rainbow colours of the leaves are a symbol of our need to be affirming to ALL those who we journey with.

Last but certainly not the least – the roots – where we are grounded in our love for God and with God for others. Today we encourage you to:

**Bloom Where You are Planted.....
Encourage, Empower and set the Spirit Free.**



BLOOM
WHERE YOU
ARE PLANTED
ENCOURAGE, EMPOWER
& SET THE SPIRIT FREE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:

One: We acknowledge the traditional Territory of the Attawandaron, Anishnaabeg, and Wendat peoples.

ALL: We give our gratitude to the tribes of the Iroquois, Huron, and Chippewa of the Thames.

One: With thankfulness and respect for their stewardship of creation, we seek to live into right relations with all.

ALL: We offer ourselves, and our HOPE and PEACE, that together we can find reconciliation.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

One: Today we light the Christ Candle as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world, and that light is within us all to share in the world. May the light of Christ shine through us all, so that new seeds of Hope might be nourished.

Candle Lighting Chorus: Voices United 224 vs 1

**Sing a happy Hallelujah, sing it out with heart and style,
We're the echo of God's laughter, we're the image of God's smile.
Hallelujah, all creation, Hallelujah everyone.
Hallelujah, all creation, Hallelujah everyone!**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: As we gather to Praise God, to Seek Forgiveness, and to Bless Neighbour, let us seek Wisdom in our prayers.

ALL: Let us journey in peace and prayer, to plant seeds of God's Grace.

One: From the first blossom, to the ripening fruit:

ALL: Our hearts delight in seeing the growth all around us, and within us.

One: Let us seek to be the vessels of faith that God would have us be, so that we can share the message of compassion, kindness and love, that is at the heart of our faith.

ALL: We offer all of the different vessels that we are. Gold and Silver, Wooden and Clay. Special and Ordinary, for we know that all are valued in God's kindom.

One: Nothing in the universe ever grew from the outside in.

ALL: We come to grow, as God's seeds planted in Hope. May we grow through prayer, action, silence, mission, justice, and service to all.

OPENING PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER:

One: Let us pray; Holy God, who called all life into being,

ALL: the earth, sea, and sky are filled with your goodness.

One: we who walk upon the earth, yearn for your justice to be done.

ALL: for every creature to be freed from all ill, for the hungry to be fed, for the captives to be released, and for Your kindom of Peace to come to the earth.

One: May we be inspired today, to Bloom where we are Planted. To Empower, Encourage, and Set the Spirit Free, as we pray together in the words of Jesus, saying: Our Father, who art in Heaven ...

HYMN: 291 All Things Bright and Beautiful

FORMING YOUNG FAITH

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 2: 20-21 (NRSV)

²⁰In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. ²¹All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned^[b] will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work.

2 Timothy 2: 20-21 (The Message)²⁰⁻²¹ In a well-furnished kitchen there are not only crystal goblets and silver platters, but waste cans and compost buckets—some containers used to serve fine meals, others to take out the garbage. Become the kind of container God can use to present any and every kind of gift to his guests for their blessing.

MESSAGE: “Bloom where you are Planted!” A Message from President Joyce Payne

HYMN: 703 In the Bulb There is A Flower

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – Selections taken from Richard Wagamese; EMBERS: One Ojibway’s Meditations

Voice 1 represents Wagamese, Voice 2 represents the one to whom he is praying, which he calls Old Woman.

1. Let us Pray: What is the best way to be spiritual?
2. Pack Light.
 1. What do you mean?
 2. Carry only what you need for the journey. Don’t tire yourself out with unnecessary stuff.
 1. Like what?
 2. Like your heart. Like your talk. Spirituality isn’t found in your head. The seeds of faith grow in your heart. It isn’t found in big important sounding words or long speeches. It is found in silence. If you travel with your heart and your quiet, you will find the way to your Spirit.

(silently pray for your personal seeds of faith)

1. Why am I alive? What is my purpose?
2. You are alive, because everything else is. Your purpose is to learn about your relatives.
 1. You mean like my family?

2. Yes your whole family. The moon, stars, rocks, trees, plants, water, insects, birds, mammals. Learn about that relationship. How you're moving through time and space together. That's why you're alive.

(silently pray for the earth and all our relations.)

1. What does it mean to believe?

2. It means to trust with your whole heart, to have faith. You have to be honest. You have to live your belief every day. To believe in something and not live it is to be dishonest.

1. What is the hardest spiritual thing that I have to do?

2. See every person as a gift. If you receive others as worthy, lovable, spiritual creations – perfect just the way that they are – you get to see the highest possible version of who you are. You get to be that. Experience that. And you become a gift to the world.

(silently pray for others)

1. What do I need to live at my best?

2. Truth and Courage! These are the roots of everything powerful and spiritual. When you keep your truth in front of you and have the courage to keep moving toward it, through anything that arises, you live at your best.

1. With all this – together we can Bloom where we are planted!

OFFERING

OFFERTORY 260 God who Gives to Life its Goodness

God who gives to life its goodness;

God creator of all joy,

God who gives to us our freedom,

God who blesses tool and toy;

Teach us now to laugh and praise You,

Deep within Your praises sing,

Till the whole creation dances for the goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty,
God who binds each friend to friend,
God who names us co-creators
God who wills that chaos end:
Grant us now creative Spirits,
Minds responsive to Your mind,
Hearts and wills Your rule extending
All our acts by Love refined.

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION

HYMN: 274 Your Hand O God Has Guided

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

SUNG COMMISSIONING: MV 209 Go Make a Difference!

POSTLUDE