



Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation

September 28 2025 | 10:30am



Gathering in the FBCH Sanctuary

Prayer candles are available in the north transept if you would like to light one as part of your prayer this morning.
For more information about the life of FBCH, visit our website: fbchalifax.ca or like us on social media.

*Stand as you are able

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: [youareloved](#)

Prelude

Lynette Whalstrom

Welcome

Paula Antunes

If joining on Facebook Live or YouTube we invite you to say hello to everyone by posting a comment to the live stream.

Ringling of the Trinity

We Gather in the presence of God - Creator, Christ, and Spirit

Season of Creation Introit: The garden needs our tending now (v4)

While peoples die in poverty, some lives are thick with waste.
The Prophets warn us: "Simplify!" Their challenge must be faced.
Creation groans, awaiting still
a Church responsive to God's will:
Earth shall be green and new, Eden restored.
Terra viridissima. [*Latin for Greenest Earth*]

*Call to Worship & Prayer of Approach

David Clarke

We worship the Creator of sea and sky, of the great waters and the rocky shore, of the forests and fields, the coves and harbours of this land.

The earth is God's, and all that is in it.

Here in Kijipuktuk—the "Great Harbour"—we remember with gratitude the Mi'kmaq People, who from time immemorial have received this land and water as sacred gift, and who have walked gently here as its faithful caretakers.

We give thanks for the Mi'kmaq, and we seek to learn from their wisdom, walking together as children of one Creator.

We remember the Peace and Friendship Treaties, covenants made to bind peoples together in mutual care. We confess the ways these covenants have been broken, and the deep harm done to Indigenous Peoples, including harm in which churches have been complicit.

*Stand as you are able

**Creator of justice and mercy, forgive us. Teach us to listen, to
unlearn the harms, and to walk in new ways.**

Clothed in the grace of Christ and guided by the Spirit, let us journey
toward right relationship—receiving wisdom from the Mi'kmaq, caring
for this land of sea and shore, and seeking the Creator who makes all
things new.

Thanks be to God.

***Processional Hymn**

O for a World

372

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re-spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re-lieved,
3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Text © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

AZMON
CM

8:58 Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."

Children's Hymn**God Welcomes All 399**

The musical score for 'God Welcomes All' is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, using whole and half notes. The lyrics are: 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends; God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.' The score consists of two systems of staves, each with four parts.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN

4.4.9

Children's Story**Rusty Edwards*****Blessing of the Children**

Beloved children of our church family: may God's Spirit be with you as you enter into the stories of our faith; may your imaginations be opened to encounter God's love for you and all the world; and may you be formed to care for others as you discover the Way of Jesus. Amen.

*Children going into Primary-Grade 6 are invited to go to Godly Play.
Today's formation opportunities: Doing Justice-Truth & Reconciliation.*

***Doxology - OLD HUNDREDTH**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Donations

All contributions to FBCH support our mission and ministry and are greatly appreciated. Offering boxes are located at the side doors at the back of the Sanctuary. You can also go to our website fbchalifax.ca and click on the Ways to Give link for information about how to financially support the ministries of FBCH, including e-transfers or recurring donations.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 2:23-3:15

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{2:23}After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Their cry for help rose up to God from their slavery. ²⁴God heard their groaning, and God remembered God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁵God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

^{3:1}Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶God said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

¹³But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is this God's name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I am who I am." God said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.' " ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

Reader For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Spoken Reflection

Rusty Edwards

Breathe

Anthem

Senior Choir, Emily Forest soloist

The Road Home -Stephen Paulus

Prayers Of the People

Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

***Recessional Hymn (next page)**

69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

Leader or All

G Am D G C G D

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Postlude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Piano

Here I Am, Lord -Schutte

The Week Ahead at FBCH

Today

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
12pm Youth Group; Parlour

Tuesday, September 30

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
Church Office Closed

Wednesday, October 1

7pm - Queer Spirit Church; Sanctuary

Thursday, October 2

7-9pm - Choir Practice; Sanctuary

Sunday, October 5

Anniversary Sunday/ World Communion

9am - Social Choir; Parlour
10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
12pm - Anniversary Potluck; Sanctuary

**For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes*



**WORLD COMMUNION
ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK**
OCTOBER 5 AFTER WORSHIP

CONNECT WITH FBCH STAFF

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Special thanks to
today's worship leaders:

Emily Forest
David Clarke

FIND OUT MORE

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CONNECT ONLINE

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Breaking Stereotypes Since 1827

The story of the early church in the New Testament is a story of the ever-expanding circle of those included in the community of Jesus. We believe that circle expands to include all people.

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances.

We really do want you to join us. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

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