



First Sunday in the Season of Creation

September 7 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

Welcome

Rusty Edwards

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 (v1)

The garden needs our tending now,
the water, soil, and air.

The very rocks and stones cry out
for stewardship and care.

Creation groans,
awaiting still the consummation of God's will:

Earth shall be green and new,
Eden restored.

Terra viridissima.

[*Latin for Greenest Earth*]

*Call to Worship & Season of Creation Procession: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning, God created

In a beginning, God created

In every beginning, God created

Prayer of Approach

Creating God in whose image we are formed, we begin this Season of Creation with grateful hearts. May we remember the calling of the seventh day—take time to rest, remember our goodness, notice how very good the earth is. Amen.

*Stand as you are able

*Processional Hymn

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

24 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (Bm) Dm (F#m) Am



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi -
 2 Proud - ly rise our mod - ern cit - ies, state - ly
 3 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the
 4 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it

(Em7) Gm7 (G) Bb (Bm) Dm (A) C (Bm) Dm (A) C



nite in time and place, flung the suns in burn - ing
 build - ings row on row. Yet their win - dows, blank, un -
 child - hood of our race; known the ec - sta - sy of
 chal - lenge us a - new, chil - dren of cre - a - tive

(G) Bb (F#m) Am (G) Bb (A) C (D) F



ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space,
 feel - ing, stare on can - yoned streets be - low,
 wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;
 pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.

(D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (G) Bb (Em7) Gm7 (G) Bb (F#m7) Am7



we, your chil - dren in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive
 where the lone - ly drift un - no - ticed in the cit - y's
 probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - i -
 May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or

The crux of this text comes in the second stanza: if we dare to claim God-given abilities, we need also to show God-like compassion for the human needs that confront us daily. The earthy shape note tune provides a further reminder that we must not lose our heads in the clouds.

TEXT: Catherine Cameron, 1967, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. William Moore, 1825; harm. Charles Anders, 1969

Text © 1967 Hope Publishing Company

Music Harm. © 1969 Contemporary Music I: Hymns (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

HOLY MANNA

8.7.8.7.D

(alternate harmonization, 396)

(G) (Em7) (A) (D) (Bm) (A)
 B \flat Gm7 C F Dm C

powers with you. Great Cre - a - tor, still cre -
 ebb and flow, lost to pur - pose and to
 mag - ined power, fac - ing us with life's de -
 well be - gun. Great Cre - a - tor, give us

(Em7) (F \sharp m) (G) (A) (D)
 Gm7 Am B \flat C F

at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
 mean - ing, scarce - ly car - ing where they go.
 struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
 guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-5

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

Children's Hymn

God Welcomes All 399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
 God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

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

***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.

***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 setting up recurring donations.

Spoken Reflection

Rusty Edwards

Beginnings

Anthem

Senior Choir, Emily Forest soloist

The Road Home -Paulus

Invitation to the Holy Feast

Rusty Edwards & John Dalton

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.**

Sharing the Holy Feast

***Recessional Hymn (next page)**

11 Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud



1 Source and Sov-ereign, Rock and Cloud, For-tress, Foun-tain, Shel - ter, Light,
 2 Word and Wis - dom, Root and Vine, Shep-herd, Sav-ior, Ser - vant, Lamb,
 3 Storm and Still - ness, Breath and Dove, Thun-der, Tem-pest, Whirl-wind, Fire,

Judge, De - fend-er, Mer-cy, Might, Life whose life all life en-dowed:
 Well and Wa - ter, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM:
 Com - fort, Coun-selor, Pres-ence, Love, En - er - gies that nev - er tire:

May the church at prayer re - call that no sin - gle ho - ly name

but the truth be-hind them all is the God whom we pro - claim.

These scriptural names and images of the Triune God express a theological view reinforced by the structure: the stanzas deal, in turn, with each Person of the Trinity and the refrain affirms their unity. The swirling patterns of the Welsh tune add much energy to the text.

TEXT: Thomas H. Troeger, 1986
 MUSIC: Joseph Parry, 1876
 Text © 1986 Oxford University Press

ABERYSTWYTH
 7.7.7.D

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Postlude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Adagio fr. Toccata pour Orgue -Widor

CONNECT WITH FBCH STAFF

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Special thanks to
today's worship leaders:

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fbchalifax.ca 

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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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