



First Sunday in the Season of Creation

September 6, 2026 | 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 Wahlstrom, Organ

Hymn Miniatures -R. Groom te Velde

Welcome

Hillary Raley

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**

Rusty Edwards

We come before God to sing a new song of praise!

God's Wisdom fills the earth.

By the word of God the heavens were made.

By the breath of God's mouth, the stars formed.

We are asked to co-create with God's Wisdom.

God collects the waters of the sea like a dam.

God stores away the abyss in the Divine treasure-house.

God's Wisdom fills the earth.

Let the whole earth honour God.

Let all who dwell in the world worship Holy God.

We are asked to honour God's Wisdom by how we act, think and do.

The moment God spoke, the earth came to be.

No sooner had God commanded, than there it stood!

God's Wisdom fills the earth.

***Prayer of Approach**

Eternally Creating God, whose voice whispered amidst the chaos—before the mountains were settled, when You marked out the foundations of the world—we come into Your presence today, seeking your Holy Wisdom as we co-create alongside you. **Amen.**

***Processional Hymn**

Let Us Break Bread Together 525

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me)

This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope ("rising sun") and supplication ("Lord, have mercy") speaks to many worshipers' experience.

TEXT: African American spiritual
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988
 Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

LET US BREAK BREAD
 10.10 with refrain

Lighting of the Christ Candle

First Readings: Genesis 1:1-2; Proverbs 8:22-31

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Genesis 1:1-2

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Proverbs 8:22-31

Wisdom's Part in Creation

²² "The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

²³ Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth,

²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields
or the world's first bits of soil.

²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

²⁸ when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,

²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master worker,
and I was daily his delight,

playing before him always,
³¹ playing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

*Children's Hymn

God Welcomes All

399

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). 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.'

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 activities:

*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.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-23

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Supremacy of Christ

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

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

Wisdom Amidst Chaos

Luke Dowding

Anthem

The Road Home -S. Paulus
Senior choir and soloist, Rory O'Brien

Sr. Choir

Invitation to the Holy Feast

Rusty Edwards & Luke Dowding

Prayers Of the People

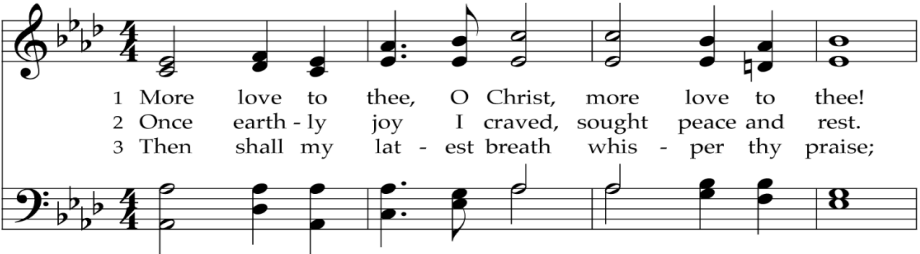
Lord's Prayer

**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

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

828 More Love to Thee, O Christ



1 More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!
2 Once earth - ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest.
3 Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per thy praise;



Hear thou the prayer I make on bend - ed knee.
Now thee a - lone I seek; give what is best.
this be the part - ing cry my heart shall raise.



This is my ear - nest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee;
This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;
This still its prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;



more love to thee, more love to thee!

Perhaps because this prayer-poem by the wife of a leading 19th-century Presbyterian minister grew out of her own physical and emotional suffering, it has continued to speak to many people in similar distress. It is set here to the tune created for its first printing in a hymnal.

TEXT: Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1856
MUSIC: William Howard Doane, 1870

MORE LOVE TO THEE
6.4.6.4.6.6.4.4

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FBCH

Sunday, September 13th

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
11:45am - Collaboration Session; Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 15th

7:00pm - Deacons Meeting; Community Room

Thursday, September 17th

7:00pm - Choir; Sanctuary

For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes

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FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
HALIFAX

BREAKING STEREOTYPES SINCE 1827

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. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

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